

Public Document Pack

Chief Executive

**THE CIVIC MAYOR, CHAIR OF
COUNCIL BUSINESS AND ALL
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Steven Pleasant, Chief Executive
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Our Ref	rl/Council
Ask for	Robert Landon
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Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend an **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council to be held on **Tuesday, 4th December, 2018 at 5.00 pm** in the **Conference Room, Guardsman Tony Downes House, Droylsden** when the undermentioned business is to be transacted.

Yours faithfully,



**Steven Pleasant
Chief Executive**

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Robert Landon, Head of Democratic Services, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	<p>CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>The Civic Mayor to make any appropriate announcements.</p> <p>At this juncture the Civic Mayor will retire from the Chair and the Chair of Council Business shall assume the Chair for the remaining business.</p>	
2.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of Council held on 9 October 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair of Council Business (or other person presiding) (Minutes attached).</p>	1 - 10
3.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>To receive any declarations of interest from Members of the Council.</p>	
4.	<p>COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>To receive any announcements or communications from the Chair of Council Business, the Executive Leader, Members of the Executive Cabinet or the Chief Executive.</p>	
5.	<p>COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION</p> <p>To consider any questions submitted by Members of the public in accordance with Standing Orders 31.12 and 31.13.</p>	
6.	<p>EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNUAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS</p> <p>The Chair of Council Business to invite the Executive Leader. Councillor Brenda Warrington, to give her annual keynote address, following which the Leader of the Opposition Group will be entitled to respond with a final right of reply reserved for the Executive Leader.</p>	
7.	<p>MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET</p> <p>To receive the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 24 October 2018 and 28 November 2018 (to follow) and the following recommendations to be agreed:</p> <p><u>24 October 2018</u></p> <p>PROPOSAL FOR A FORM OF INDEMNITY TO BE GRANTED TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>That approval be given to refresh the existing indemnity and adopt a form of indemnity as detailed in appendix of the submitted report.</p> <p>(Link to Cabinet report: http://tameside.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s40920/Item%20c%20-%20Indemnity%20Report%20FINAL.pdf)</p>	11 - 16

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Robert Landon, Head of Democratic Services, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

28 November 2018

COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNT FOR CARE LEAVERS AGED BETWEEN 21 AND 25

Recommendation:

That Council agree to amend the Council Policy to reflect the AGMA protocols to:

- (i) Award a Council Tax discount of up to 100% of the Council Tax due up to a care leavers 25th birthday.**
- (ii) If the care leaver is joint and severally liable for the Council Tax that is due or becomes a member of a household where a previous exemption or disregard is in place, such as a Single Person Discount or Student Exemption, the care leaver should be ignored for the purposes of retaining the Council Tax exemption/disregard.**
- (iii) Care leavers up to aged 25 to be included as a specific vulnerable group in the Council's discretionary financial support policies including the Welfare Provision Scheme, the Discretionary Council Tax Support Scheme and the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme.**
- (iv) For the purposes of this report a care leaver is defined as an individual whom a Council has Corporate Parent responsibilities for. This includes a person who is currently resident in the Greater Manchester area and has been in the care of a local authority (looked after) for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14 and who was in care on their 16th birthday.**
- (v) If approved this decision would be effective from the beginning of the 2018/19 financial year and, as such, any awards would be backdated to 1 April 2018 where appropriate.**

(Link to Cabinet report:

<http://tameside.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s43914/ITEM%206c%20-%20GM%20Care%20leaver%20FINAL.pdf>)

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| 8. MEETING OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE | 17 - 20 |
| To receive the minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Committee held on 6 November 2018. | |
| 9. MEETING OF OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL | 21 - 22 |
| To receive the minutes of the Meeting of the Overview (Audit) Panel held on:12 November 2018. | |
| 10. MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES | |
| To consider any changes to the membership of Council bodies. | |

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Robert Landon, Head of Democratic Services, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

11. HONORARY ALDERMAN

To agree that, in recognition of his eminent service he has rendered to the Borough of Tameside, Councillor John Bell be made an Honorary Alderman of the Borough at the Annual Meeting of Council on 21 May 2019.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion in the name of Councillor Feeley

That the Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1950, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.

This Council notes that hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little/no/personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.

Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same age. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving women with no time to make alternative arrangements.

The Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6 April 1950, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.

13. QUESTIONS

To answer questions (if any) asked under Standing Order 17.2, for which due notice has been given by a Member of the Council.

14. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any other items which the Chair of Council Business (or other person presiding) is of the opinion shall be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

COUNCIL

9 October 2018

Present: Councillor Kitchen (Chair), Councillors: Affleck, Billington Bowden, Bowerman, L Boyle, Bray, Buglass, Cartey, Chadwick, Choksi, Cooney, Cooper, Dickinson, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, Fowler, Glover, Gosling, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, Hollinshead J Homer, S Homer, Jackson, D Lane, J Lane, Lewis, Mills, Newton, Patrick, Pearce, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Robinson, Ryan, Sharif, Sidebottom, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, Warrington, Welsh, Wild and Wills

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bailey, Bell, McNally, Peet, Ward and Whitehead

Councillor Drennan, Deputy Civic Mayor, in the Chair

41 CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Deputy Civic Mayor was delighted to report three Tameside based organisations, had recently received the very prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. The Civic Mayor was fortunate to join representatives of these groups the Grafton Centre, Cash Box Credit Union and the East Manchester Community Boat Project, at a special award's ceremony at Gorton Monastery hosted by the Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester.

The Civic Mayor reported on attending Hilda Eden's 100th birthday celebration which was held at Pendle House in Denton where she got to meet Hilda and her lovely family and friends.

Members were updated on the Civic Mayor's Charity Curry Night fundraiser which was held on the 1 October, which raised £4,020 for the Civic Mayor's chosen charities.

Councillor Kitchen, Chair of Council Business, in the Chair

42 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 24 July 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair of Council Business as a correct record.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Members of the Council.

44 COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader took the opportunity to update those in attendance on the progress made on the Council's key priorities including updating Members on the latest feedback letter from Ofsted, following their monitoring visit of our services for looked after children.

The Executive Leader expressed her gratitude to Officers in Children's Service who had made progression to where real and lasting change was possible whilst acknowledging the significant work to be done to ensure that children in Tameside were supported in the best way possible. One of the most important steps towards delivering on this was to recruit and retain permanent staff with the relevant skills and experiences. Difficulties in recruitment were a regional and national

challenge, as opposed to a challenge that was unique to Tameside. However, it was recognised that the Council was making every effort in this area, and that the positive results of that effort were beginning to be felt.

The Executive Leader made reference to two new Directors taking posts since the last meeting of Council, with Richard Hancock starting as the Director of Children's Services and Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy as the Director of Population Health.

Council were informed that around 25,000 more people nationally died over the course of each winter compared to other times of the year most of which were caused by cold weather exacerbating existing conditions such as dementia or circulatory and respiratory diseases. For every drop of one degree centigrade below five degrees, there was more than a 10% increase in older people visiting their GP for breathing problems, a 0.8% increase in emergency hospital admissions and a 3.4% increase in deaths. The Executive Leader highlighted the support that was in place for elderly and vulnerable in Tameside through the coming winter months. Hand-in-hand with this was one of the Council's key objectives for the next twelve months, improving the quality of care homes in Tameside. A range of teams, including the members of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Panel, were spearheading this work.

The Executive Leader referred to a number of Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) initiatives of which Tameside Borough would be at the forefront, including the C40 Fossil Fuel-Free Streets Declaration, which aimed to increase the number of zero-emissions vehicles on the roads and increase the rates of cycling, walking and public transport. Further progress was being made in Stalybridge with the Greater Manchester Town Centre Challenge. As the Age Friendly Greater Manchester and Equalities Lead for GMCA, the Leader had helped launch the new "Please Offer Me a Seat" scheme to widen access to public transport for disabled or elderly residents. Furthermore, in close partnership with Carl Austin-Behan and the GM LGBT Advisory Panel, the Council was also protecting and expanding the rights of the 215,000 LGBT individuals who today call Greater Manchester their home.

The Executive Leader referred to plans within the Borough to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. Tameside would be playing its part in this national commemoration. A number of events had been confirmed, including 10 figures of British soldiers as part of the national "There But Not There" campaign.

Councillor Ryan provided details of the sixth Children's Services monitoring visit by Ofsted. The monitoring visit focused upon services to Looked After Children following the previous two monitoring visits at which Ofsted commented upon "the early signs of success" in January with a focus upon the Hub and Duty, and an accelerated pace of improvement and positive outcomes for children in April with a focus upon Early Help. It was reported that Ofsted found all children were appropriately safeguarded, that all were appropriately in care and that the Council had significantly strengthened its' corporate parenting.

45 COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION

The Chair reported that there were no questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with Standing Orders 31.12 and 31.13.

46 MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 29 August 2018 and 19 September 2018.

It was moved by Councillor Warrington and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull that the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 29 August 2018 and 19 September 2018 be received.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 29 August 2018 and 19 September 2018 be received.

47 MEETING OF OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Overview (Audit) Panel meetings held on 30 July 2018 and 10 September 2018.

It was proposed by Councillor Ricci and seconded by Councillor J. Homer that the minutes of the Overview (Audit) Panel meetings held on 30 July 2018 and 10 September 2018, be received.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Overview (Audit) Panel meetings held on 30 July 2018 and 10 September 2018, be received.

48 MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Democratic Processes Working Group held on 1 October 2018. It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Warrington that the Minutes of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 1 October 2018 be received.

In considering the minutes, Member of Council referred to previously issued guidance on Councillors use of social media.

RESOLVED

1. **That the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 1 October 2018 be received.**
2. **That the Standards Committee give consideration to cross party guidance on the use of social media.**

49 MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES

The Chair reported that there were no changes to membership of Council bodies.

50 NOTICES OF MOTION

a Definition of anti-Semitism

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, proposed by Councillor Warrington and seconded by Councillor Ryan

That this Council believes that:

- *Everyone is equal irrespective of their race or religion;*
- *That all forms of hate crime must be condemned; and*
- *Cross-party support for combating anti-Semitism in all its forms is to be welcomed;*

Council subsequently notes with great concern the rise in anti-Semitism in recent years across the UK.

In recognising that anti-Semitism continues to be a problem in our Country, Council agrees to formally adopt the working definition of anti-Semitism agreed by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and adopted by the UK Government, the Labour Party, Scottish and Welsh Governments, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and numerous other Councils across the country.

This Council therefore agrees to adopt the following definition of anti-Semitism:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was carried and it was therefore –

RESOLVED

That this Council believes that:

- **Everyone is equal irrespective of their race or religion;**
- **That all forms of hate crime must be condemned; and**
- **Cross-party support for combating anti-Semitism in all its forms is to be welcomed;**

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b Modern Slavery

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was proposed by Councillor Cartey and seconded by Councillor Choksi.

That this Council notes although Slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour. There were 3805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.

Modern Slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhuman treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.

This Council believes that action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK. That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government. That Councils have an important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.

Tameside Council will:

- 1. Ensure those involved in corporate procurement understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.*
- 2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.*
- 3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.*
- 4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.*
- 5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.*
- 6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.*
- 7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.*
- 8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.*
- 9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.*
- 10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.*

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was carried and it was therefore –

RESOLVED

That this Council notes although Slavery was abolished in the UK in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour. There were 3805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.

Modern Slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhuman treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.

This Council believes that action needs to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK. That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government. That Councils have an

important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.

The Council resolves to:

1. Ensure those involved in corporate procurement understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

c Use of Plastic

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was proposed by Councillor Buglass and seconded by Councillor Mills.

That this Council resolves to:

1. *Incorporate the issue of use of plastics by contractors, suppliers and third parties, into existing environmental considerations for the decision making process regarding the granting or renewing of contracts, in particular working with Authorities involved in the STAR procurement scheme to incorporate that consideration into that procurement policy.*
2. *Pledge to end council use of single use and non-recyclable plastics by identifying existing plastic use and switching to alternatives either as soon as possible or when contracts come up for renewal.*
3. *Work with and lobby local manufacturers, retailers and supermarkets with a view to encouraging them to reduce and ideally eliminate their use of single use and non-recyclable plastics including with a media campaign, working closely with the Artisan markets and promoting a water bottle refill scheme.*
4. *Promote an education drive for residents that promotes the primacy of individual responsibility for reducing residual (in particular plastic) waste including:*
 - a. *The pivotal role and effectiveness of consumer power and advice on changing purchasing habits to reduce household plastic waste and put pressure on manufacturers/retailers.*
 - b. *The importance to the environment of reducing plastic waste.*
 - c. *The importance to council taxpayers of reducing residual/plastic waste*
 - d. *Tips for reducing the volume of household residual waste (reduce,*

reuse, crush etc.) to help families who find it harder to fit their waste into the residual bin.

5. *Write to the Environment Secretary acknowledging policy changes in regard to banning microbeads in cosmetics, proposals to ban plastic straws and the creation of the UK Plastics Pact as steps forward, but stating that much more must be done including:*
 - a. *introducing a nationwide ban on single use plastics and non-recyclable packaging by 2025.*
 - b. *further commitments to tackle microplastic pollution in UK waterways including:*
 - i. *Regular monitoring of microplastic levels in UK waterways.*
 - ii. *New regulation to end microplastics in effluent from industrial sources.*
 - iii. *Action to reduce microfibrils from clothing entering waterways including improving wastewater treatment, introducing filters on washing machines and banning clothing materials that generate the most plastic fibres.*
 - iv. *Using new technology to clean up existing microplastic pollution in UK waterways.*
 - v. *Exploring ways to reduce the generation of microplastics from vehicle tyres.*

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was carried and it was therefore –

RESOLVED

That this council resolves to:

1. **Incorporate the issue of use of plastics by contractors, suppliers and third parties, into existing environmental considerations for the decision making process regarding the granting or renewing of contracts, in particular working with Authorities involved in the STAR procurement scheme to incorporate that consideration into that procurement policy.**
2. **Pledge to end council use of single use and non-recyclable plastics by identifying existing plastic use and switching to alternatives either as soon as possible or when contracts come up for renewal.**
3. **Work with and lobby local manufacturers, retailers and supermarkets with a view to encouraging them to reduce and ideally eliminate their use of single use and non-recyclable plastics including with a media campaign, working closely with the Artisan markets and promoting a water bottle refill scheme.**
4. **Promote an education drive for residents that promotes the primacy of individual responsibility for reducing residual (in particular plastic) waste including:**
 - a. **The pivotal role and effectiveness of consumer power and advice on changing purchasing habits to reduce household plastic waste and put pressure on manufacturers/retailers.**
 - b. **The importance to the environment of reducing plastic waste.**
 - c. **The importance to council taxpayers of reducing residual/plastic waste**
 - d. **Tips for reducing the volume of household residual waste (reduce, reuse, crush etc.) to help families who find it harder to fit their waste into the residual bin.**
5. **Write to the Environment Secretary acknowledging policy changes in regard to banning microbeads in cosmetics, proposals to ban plastic straws and the creation of the UK Plastics Pact as steps forward, but stating that much more must be done including:**
 - a. **introducing a nationwide ban on single use plastics and non-**

recyclable packaging by 2025.

b. further commitments to tackle microplastic pollution in UK waterways including:

- i. Regular monitoring of microplastic levels in UK waterways.**
- ii. New regulation to end microplastics in effluent from industrial sources.**
- iii. Action to reduce microfibrils from clothing entering waterways including improving wastewater treatment, introducing filters on washing machines and banning clothing materials that generate the most plastic fibres.**
- iv. Using new technology to clean up existing microplastic pollution in UK waterways.**
- v. Exploring ways to reduce the generation of microplastics from vehicle tyres.**

d Closure of High Street Banks

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was proposed by Councillor A. Holland and seconded by Councillor Boyle.

That this Council states its opposition to the closure of high-street banks throughout the UK and especially in Tameside. Last month, the Royal Bank of Scotland announced the closure of 54 branches in January, 2019, with the loss of 258 jobs. This news came only months after RBS said it would shut 162 banks and shed 792 jobs. In Tameside, it means there will be no RBS presence on our high streets after the Droylsden branch closes next year. Across the country, nearly 3,000 banks and building society branches have shut since 2015 – a rate of almost 60 a month.

The banking corporations need to understand the importance banks play within our communities. It is unrealistic to ask traders to travel to neighbouring towns to deposit their takings. Many people, especially the elderly, are uncomfortable with internet banking. There are times when face-to-face meetings are necessary for advice or to carry out business.

This Council calls on the banks to end their programme of branch closures and to reinvest in the communities they are supposed to serve. It also calls on them to recognise the limitations of online banking, especially in light of scams and well-publicised systems failures.

Upon being put to the vote, the Motion was carried and it was therefore –

RESOLVED

That this Council states its opposition to the closure of high-street banks throughout the UK and especially in Tameside. Last month, the Royal Bank of Scotland announced the closure of 54 branches in January, 2019, with the loss of 258 jobs. This news came only months after RBS said it would shut 162 banks and shed 792 jobs. In Tameside, it means there will be no RBS presence on our high streets after the Droylsden branch closes next year. Across the country, nearly 3,000 banks and building society branches have shut since 2015 – a rate of almost 60 a month.

The banking corporations need to understand the importance banks play within our communities. It is unrealistic to ask traders to travel to neighbouring towns to deposit their takings. Many people, especially the elderly, are uncomfortable with internet banking. There are times when

face-to-face meetings are necessary for advice or to carry out business.

This Council calls on the banks to end their programme of branch closures and to reinvest in the communities they are supposed to serve. It also calls on them to recognise the limitations of online banking, especially in light of scams and well-publicised systems failures.

11 QUESTIONS

The Chair reported no questions had been received in accordance with Standing Order 17.2.

12 URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR

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EXECUTIVE CABINET

24 October 2018

- Present:** Councillors Warrington (in the Chair)
Councillors Fairfoull, Gwynne, Kitchen, Bray, Feeley and Ryan
- In Attendance:**
- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 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:** Councillor Cooney
- In attendance:** Alan Dow
Chair of NHS CCG Tameside & Glossop

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

29. MINUTES

a) Meeting of Executive Cabinet

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 19 September 2018

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 19 September 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 19 September 2018.

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 19 September 2018 be received.

30. REVENUE MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Performance and Finance) / Director Finance providing 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 is currently forecasting that expenditure for the Integrated Commissioning Fund will exceed budget by £3.916 million by the end of 2018/19 due to a combination of non-delivery savings and cost pressures.

It was reported that there is a clear urgency to implement associated strategies to ensure the projected funding gap in the current financial year is 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 are sustained, this will inevitably lead to an increase in the level of savings required in future years to balance the budget.

Executive Cabinet were 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.**

31. PROPOSAL FOR A FORM OF INDEMNITY TO BE GRANTED TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Governance and Pensions, seeking support to refresh the existing indemnity and adopt a revised form of indemnity to be granted to Members and Officers of Tameside MBC.

The Local Government (Indemnity of Members and Officers) Order 2004 allows local authorities to provide an indemnity to protect Members and Officers when acting on behalf of the authority, which goes beyond the long-standing indemnity provisions that are in place. Given the wide range of council activities, the complexity of issues Councillors and Officers' face, and the demands made on their time, it was considered appropriate for the Council to provide an indemnity where a Councillor / Officer inadvertently acts outside the powers given, whilst believing s/he is acting in the interests of the Council. The existing indemnity has been in place since 1999 and it was considered appropriate that it be refreshed.

Members could determine to not approve the indemnity but this would leave both Members and Officers without protection against personal liability for the matters covered by the Order.

RESOLVED

That Council be recommended to approve to refresh the existing indemnity and adopt a form of indemnity as detailed in appendix of the submitted report.

32. LED STREET LIGHTING

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services / Assistant Director of Operations & Neighbourhoods, which sought approval for a wholesale LED lantern replacement programme should be considered for the remaining main road traffic routes

over two years at a cost of £3.6M that would deliver revenue savings of £274,375 per year based on current prices.

It was estimated that an initial capital outlay of £3.6M on the main roads would payback over a period of 13 years. The LED lanterns installed would be expected to be operational for a total of 25 years under the manufacturer's guarantee.

The report identified alternative options including to continue with existing cyclic bulk change and clean and general maintenance of main road columns. However, there would be a gradual deterioration of the lighting provision across the main road network and energy savings would not be achieved.

RESOLVED

That the outlay of £3.6M be approved for a two year programme for the replacement of LED lanterns on main traffic routes.

33. REPLACEMENT OF CREMATORS AND MERCURY ABATEMENT FILTRATION PLANT AND HEAT RECOVERY FACILITIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods Services / Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, which sought approval for the replacement of the cremators, mercury abatement and all auxiliary equipment at Dukinfield Crematorium in order to meet statutory requirements.

The proposed works to replace the cremators, abatement equipment and heat recovery equipment at Dukinfield Crematorium were considered essential in order to be able to continue to provide a cremation service for the residents of the borough, to ensure staff were working in a safe environment, to meet the Council's statutory obligations with regard to the Environmental Protection Act and the Cremation Regulations, to improve air quality in the Borough and control the emissions of harmful pollutants in the environment and to adhere to the Council's Environmental Health regulators permit. The project would also allow the Council to continue receiving a significant, income stream; provide an improved facility and asset and could potentially support local business.

Members could determine to only install two cremators however, this would put a pressure on meeting the demands of funerals should there be any down time on one of the cremators. There was not considered to be sufficient space to install four cremators.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the proposed works to replace the 3 cremators at Dukinfield Crematorium, install a new heat recovery system and auxiliary equipment and to carry out minor building works as required including with the 100% mercury abatement or partial abatement as considered to be required be approved from Capital allocation.**
- (ii) That a lifecycle fund is created from income collected for service delivery to enable the cremators to be replaced at the end of their life without it being an unplanned call on the capital programme.**

34. REPAIR AND RESTORATION OF CEMETERY BOUNDARY WALLS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods Services / Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, which sought approval an increase of £0.060m from the Capital programme to repair cemetery boundary walls that has been identified following an inspection by structural engineers.

A total of £0.200m was earmarked in the Capital programme in October 2017 for the Repair and Restoration of Cemetery Boundary Walls. Subsequently all of the Council's eight cemeteries had been inspected by structural engineers and a detailed analysis of the work required had been obtained. The analysis identified high and medium risk concerns at Ashton, Dukinfield, Hyde, Mossley and Mottram Cemeteries as well as limited masonry work on identified defects on alternative boundary protection such as metal railings and fencing at Audenshaw, Denton and Droylsden Cemeteries.

Members could identify specific schemes to support or determine to not approve the additional Capital spend however, this could jeopardising the safety of residents and aesthetics of the cemetery.

RESOLVED

That the additional Capital spend to repair cemetery boundary walls be approved.

35. REPLACEMENT OF COUNCIL FLEET VEHICLES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods Services / Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, which sought approval for the replacement of sixteen vehicles within the Council's fleet.

It was reported that following a programme of vehicle replacement there remained sixteen vehicles that required replacing on the grounds that they had been kept on fleet for an additional 1-2 years past their original replacement due dates due to condition and mileage. Two of the vehicles were provided under contract hire arrangements due to expire July 2018.

In light of the government's statement to ban the sale of diesel cars from 2040 and the current failings of UK cities to meet its air quality targets, it was considered prudent for the Council to consider these requirements within its fleet replacement programme. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) together with the Greater Manchester Mayor had produced an Air Quality Action Plan as part of the GM Strategy in order to meet Air Quality targets, to which the Council was required to be a participant. As such all Services within the Council would consider the use of electric vehicles to meet the requirements.

The report set out detailed alternative options for replacing vehicles within the fleet, however, alternatives were not considered to provide the same level of value for money nor the environmental benefits for the Borough.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the procurement of fourteen vehicles via a competitive EU tendering process, replacing nine diesel engine small vans with Ultra Low Emission Vehicles electric vans, be approved.**
- (ii) The procurement of the necessary electric charging facilities as part of the fleet replacement exercise be approved.**
- (iii) That the 14 vehicles be purchased via an ear-marked reserve, and to tender for a new contract hire arrangement for the 2 vehicles remaining.**
- (iv) A further report detailing a Medium Term Strategic Fleet Replacement Strategy be brought to a future meeting of Executive Cabinet.**

36. ENGINEERING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2018/19 UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods Services / Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, which sought approval to the virement of existing Growth Deal grants from Engineering Schemes to a single Vision Tameside scheme.

The schemes within the 2018/19 Engineering Capital Programme sought to provide an improved and sustainable highway related asset for the residents and businesses of Tameside, thereby contributing to a safe environment, continuing economic regeneration and contributing to a low carbon economy; key priorities within the 2012-22 Tameside Sustainable Community Strategy. The proposed funding allocation supported the Council's Corporate Plan priorities around the Sustainable Community Strategy. It also supported the objectives of the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan and associated strategies, thereby underpinning its aims and objectives at a regional and local level, including walking and cycling strategies, reducing congestion and improving air quality.

RESOLVED

That the virement of existing Growth Deal grants from Engineering Schemes to a single Vision Tameside scheme, be approved.

37. CORPORATE PARENTING UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Children's Services / Assistant Director of Children's Services updating Members on improvements and progress in strengthening Corporate Parenting arrangements.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

Chair

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

6 November 2018

Commenced: 4.00 pm

Terminated: 5.40 pm

Present: Mrs Bracken (Chair)
Councillors Bell, Kitchen, J Lane, Quinn, M Smith, Town Councillor Brett and Mrs Barnes

In Attendance: Steven Pleasant Chief Executive
Sandra Stewart Director of Governance and Pensions

1 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted by members of the Standards Committee.

2 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Standards Committee held on 7 November 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct record.

3 **RESPONSIBLE SOCIAL MEDIA USE**

The Monitoring Officer stated that the use of social media was an effective method for Councillors to engage and communicate and to support local democracy. It had grown substantially over recent years as a means of communicating and sharing information including websites, emails, online forums and communities such as Facebook and Twitter. She made reference to the Council's Social Media Use Responsible Conduct Policy, which had been recommended by Standards Committee and approved by Council a year ago for employees and commended to Councillors together with an explanation of the Cabinet Office consultation on proposed changes to electoral law aimed at improving political debate, which had recently been considered at the Democratic Processes Working Group and discussed at Council.

A discussion took place about concerns about email Facebook comments that had taken place between some elected members and the role of the Standards Committee.

The Monitoring Officer reminded members of the role of the Standards Committee, the Independent Person, who chaired the Committee and that of the Monitoring Officer.

The Monitoring Officer's role is set out section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, which was amended by Schedule 5 of the Local Government Act 2000. Additional responsibilities relating to standards and conduct can be found in Part III of the 2000 Act.

The Monitoring Officer has three principal responsibilities:

- (a) To report on matters they believe are, or may be, illegal or amount of maladministration. There is particular provision in the 1989 Act as to how these reports should be framed, and how they should be responded to. These are slightly different for authorities operating executive arrangements, and other authorities;
- (b) To be responsible for the conduct of councillors and officers with the Statutory Code of Conduct;

- (c) To be responsible for the operation, review and updating of the constitution. This includes providing advice on the interpretation of the constitution, and making determinations where necessary.

The Members Code of Conduct, which applies to all elected members, can be found on the website at:

<http://tameside.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s13987/Standards%20of%20Conduct%20and%20Ethics.pdf>

In 2012, the then Government significantly reduced the role of Standards Committee and Monitoring Officer to deal and consider complaints and abolished the Standards Board for England taking the view that the electorate should determine who the representative was and sanction their behaviour through the ballot box unless the elected member's behaviour was criminal.

Criminality was refined and narrowed to failures to declare interests.

Clearly all elected members are subject to the laws of the land and any such complaints would be investigated by the Police in the usual way.

The complaints process does not apply to complaints that are about:

- any conduct where the Councillor is not acting as a councillor for example in their private life
- Incidents that happened before a member was elected or chosen to serve.
- Incidents that generally happened more than 12 months ago
- The way a council conducts or records its meetings.
- The way a council as a whole has or has not done something. This may be a matter for the Local Government Ombudsman if the council has not dealt with the matter properly and it has not been resolved locally.
- Decisions of the council or which are about one of the services it provides. In this case, you should ask how to complain using the relevant council's own complaints system.
- Any matters relating to elections

Any complaints are considered by the statutory section 5 Monitoring Officer usually in consultation with the Independent Person appointed under the Localism Act 2012.

The options available include:

- Informal resolution through, for example, seeking an apology from the member who is the subject of the complaint or attempts at conciliation.
- Formal investigation to the Standards Sub-Committee
- No further action.

Depending on the nature of the complaint, the Monitoring Officer may refer the matter for formal investigation to the Standards Committee.

If the complaint identifies criminal conduct or breach of other regulations by any person, the monitoring Officer had the power to call in the Police and other regulatory agencies.

There is no right of appeal against the decision as to what steps, if any, the Council intends to take in relation to a complaint.

If a complainant feels that the authority has failed to deal with their complaint properly, they may make a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman.

The High Court concluded that where the Councillor was doing something in an entirely private capacity, where his conduct had nothing to do with his position as a Councillor, he will not be covered by the Code of Conduct.

By way of illustration, the High Court referred to a Councillor who was caught shoplifting or found guilty of drunken driving and said that, if it had been the intention of Parliament to subject a Councillor to a Code of Conduct, which extended to conduct in his private life, Parliament should have spelled out what was to be covered.

Accordingly, where a Councillor did something quite outside his functions as a Councillor, even where that action clearly reflected upon his/her credibility to act as a Councillor such as a criminal offence of dishonesty, the only way in which the law could prevent that Councillor from continuing to act as a Councillor was where the Councillor was disqualified under Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972 as a result of being convicted of a criminal offence and given a custodial sentence of 3 months or more (whether or not suspended).

Additionally, some matters don't breach the very strict framework for councillors when undertaking their duties but it may in fact be in breach of their party political code of conduct and this may be an avenue that complainants wanted to follow.

Should it be determined that the matter was a complaint falling within the jurisdiction set out by the Localism Act, the Independent Person, who is the Chair of Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer would make a decision as to the most appropriate course of action for dealing with the complaint, which may include consideration by the Standards Committee and the imposition of an appropriate sanction.

The Standards Committee acknowledged that the use of social media provided an opportunity for interaction but it was recognised that as local leaders, there were some additional points that Councillors should keep in mind.

Aspects of the Members Code of Conduct would apply to online activity in the same way as it did for other written or verbal communication and Members should be particularly aware of the following:

- Treating others with respect;
- Refraining from publishing anything received in confidence and;
- Ensuring the Council, or the councillor role, was not brought into disrepute.

The Standards Committee discussed at length the differences / balances between communicating as a Councillor or as a private individual. It would be safest to recognise that members of the public would naturally assume that any online activity could be attributed to a Councillor role and would more likely to be seen to be acting in an official capacity. Sometimes it could be difficult not to post an immediate response to something that was inflammatory or provoked an instinctive reaction.

Members also identified that there were occasions that the actions of councillors towards each other may place councillors potentially in conflict with the Code of Conduct. The Code was not intended to deter from robust political debate but did expect that all councillors conducted themselves with honesty, integrity and respect in dealings with others and certainly avoiding any behaviours which could be deemed as abusive or discriminatory in any way.

In addition, reference was made to the Conservative Party Respect Pledge and Labour Party Code of Conduct: Social Media Policy setting out the code of conduct expected by both parties of all their members.

Given that these sought to ensure such inappropriate behaviours were not tolerated, the Standards Committee discussed the possible introduction of a cross party pledge seeking members to sign up to in setting standards for acceptable behaviour online. The Standards Committee felt this was important to set an example whilst asking individuals to behave responsibly online, treating others with respect and appreciating others' views and opinions. A process for dealing with a Member found to be in breach of the pledge and possible sanctions that could be imposed were also discussed.

The Standards Committee requested the Monitoring Officer to produce a draft pledge for consideration at a future meeting of the Standards Committee with a view to its introduction in May 2019 subject to a training event on responsible social media use be included in the Members Training and Development Programme which would discuss and agree a cross party pledge together with agreeing a process for infringements and sanctions.

The Monitoring Officer explained this would need to be agreed by Council and each individual Councillor and the parties to enable enforcement which was additional to that set out in the Code.

RESOLVED

That the Monitoring Officer produce a draft cross party pledge setting out the conduct expected from Members to ensure responsible use of social media and process for dealing with infringements for consideration at a future Member Training and Development event on responsible social media use be arranged with a view to such being agreed by Council for introduction in the forthcoming Municipal Year.

4 REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

The Register of Interests and Register of Gifts and Hospitality was presented for inspection.

5 DISCUSSION PERIOD FOR MEMBERS TO RAISE ISSUES (IF ANY)

The Chair noted there were no issues raised by Members.

6 URGENT ITEMS

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

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Standards Committee will be held on 2 April 2019.

OVERVIEW (AUDIT) PANEL

12 November 2018

Commenced: 2.00 pm

Terminated: 2.25 pm

Present: Councillors Ricci (Chair), J Homer (Deputy Chair), Bailey, Bell, Buglass, Fairfoull, Glover, Kitchen, Peet and Warrington

In Attendance:

Steven Pleasant	Chief Executive
Sandra Stewart	Director of Governance and Pensions
Tom Wilkinson	Assistant Director of Finance
Simon Brunet	Policy Manager

Apologies for Absence: Councillor T Smith

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Overview (Audit) Panel held on 10 September 2018 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

21. SCRUTINY UPDATE

The Assistant Director (Policy, Performance and Communications) submitted a report that summarised the work that had been undertaken by the Council's two Scrutiny Panels for the period September to November 2018, which was outlined as follows:-

- The Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel had signed off a formal response to the consultation for Over the Counter Medicines, as appended to the report, and received information on the Quality of Tameside Care Homes during the September meeting. Councillor Ryan, Executive Member (Children's Services), and Richard Hancock, Director of Children's Services, had attended the November meeting to present information on the Ofsted monitoring visit. A Children's Working Group was established for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year to consider matters relevant to Children's Services and Education and the membership and terms of reference was appended to the report. The Scrutiny Panel received a presentation on Welfare Reform and it was confirmed that the review of Suicide Prevention had concluded and the report would be brought to the next meeting of the Overview (Audit) Panel.
- The Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel had received a presentation from David Moore, Director of Growth and Ade Alao, Head of Investment and Development, on Business Growth, and had also received a follow-up on Air Quality at the September meeting. During the November meeting the Panel met with Councillor Bill Fairfoull, Deputy Executive Leader, and Tom Wilkinson, Assistant Director of Finance, to receive information on Tameside procurement arrangements and a presentation was delivered on Welfare Reform. Plans were confirmed for activity to be undertaken in relation to air quality in Tameside and local ambitions, to complement the work of the GMCA and TfGM.

The Panel were informed that Members of the Scrutiny Panels were sent monthly emails to raise awareness to a variety of materials to support their scrutiny role and ensure they had the opportunity to contribute and share any open consultations and engagement exercises. The emails also contained links to Greater Manchester Priorities and the work of the Combined Authority Scrutiny Panels. The September and October email were appended to the report and considered by the Panel. Members commented that the emails were useful and informative and were proving to be an invaluable tool for scrutiny.

It was confirmed that in relation to the external training sessions delivered by North West Employers for Scrutiny Panel members in August and September, the two Chairs of the Scrutiny Panels had held a further session to update those Councillors who had been unable to attend either training session. The Chair and Panel Members expressed their disappointment that only three of the seven Councillors had attended this additional session and reiterated the importance of all Scrutiny Panel members being trained in order to undertake their role and fulfil their responsibilities.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

22. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.