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Chief Executive

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

Sandra Stewart, Chief Executive
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Our Ref	rl/Council
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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, 6th December, 2022 at 5.00 pm** in the **Jubilee Hall, Dukinfield Town Hall** when the undermentioned business is to be transacted.

Yours faithfully,



**Sandra Stewart
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.	CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS The Civic Mayor to make any appropriate announcements. 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.	
2.	MINUTES That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Meeting of Council held on 4 October 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair of Council Business (or other person presiding) (Minutes attached).	1 - 10
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest from Members of the Council.	
4.	COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS To receive any announcements or communications from the Chair of Council Business, the Executive Leader, Members of the Executive Cabinet or the Chief Executive.	
5.	COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION To consider any questions submitted by Members of the public in accordance with Standing Orders 31.12 and 31.13.	
6.	MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 26 October 2022 and 23 November 2022.	11 - 30
7.	MEETING OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE To receive the minutes of the Meeting of the Standards Committee held on 1 November 2022.	31 - 36
8.	MEETING OF OVERVIEW PANEL To receive the minutes of the Meeting of the Overview Panel held on 21 November 2022.	37 - 40
9.	MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP To consider the minutes of the meeting of Democratic Processes Working Group held on 29 November 2022 and to agree the recommendations contained therein.	41 - 44
10.	ENFORCEMENT PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE To consider the attached report of the Executive Member (Climate Emergency and Environmental Services)/Assistant Director (Operations and Neighbourhoods).	45 - 50

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. AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION RELATING TO STRATEGIC PLANNING & CAPITAL MONITORING 51 - 52

To consider the attached report of the Executive Leader/Director of Place.

12. MEETING OF HEAD OF PAID SERVICE APPOINTMENTS PANEL 53 - 54

To consider the minutes of the meeting of the Head of Paid Service Appointments Panel held on 28 November 2022 and to agree the recommendations contained therein.

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.

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COUNCIL

4 October 2022

Commenced: 5.00pm

Terminated: 6.05pm

Present: Councillors Affleck, Alam, Billington, Bowden, Boyle, Bray, Cartey, Chadwick, Choksi, Colbourne, Cooney, Cooper, Costello, Dickinson, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, Glover, Gosling, Gwynne, B Holland, J Homer, S Homer, Huntbach, Jackson, Jones, Lane, Martin, McNally, Mills, Naylor, Newton, North, Owen, Patel, Patrick, Pearce, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Robinson, Roderick, Ryan, N Sharif, T Sharif, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, Turner, Ward, Warrington, Welsh and Wills

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bowerman, A Holland and Kitchen

37. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor began by saying that since the last meeting of Council in July, the Borough, the country and world, had been through significant times but there was one event that had overshadowed these, which was the death of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022 at the remarkable age of 96. She had served more than 70 years on the Throne and had dedicated her life to this country and the commonwealth.

On Sunday 11 September 2022, the Civic Mayor became the first and so far only Mayor of Tameside to read out a royal proclamation announcing the accession of the new King, Charles III, from the steps of Dukinfield Town Hall. The last time this event took place was 1952. The Civic Mayor expressed their deep honour to perform the role and to see so many people gathered on the town hall plateau to witness the event, lay flowers and declare their loyalty to the new sovereign. The Civic Mayor signed the book of condolence at Dukinfield Town Hall, one of nine that had been available in Tameside, which would be combined into one volume and deposited with the local studies and archives service to be preserved for future generations.

The Civic Mayor had attended a service at the Parish Church of St Michael and All Angels to mark the centenary of Ashton War Memorial, which was dedicated on 16 September 1922, and laid a wreath at the memorial. All of the war memorials in Tameside had recently reached their centenary. The Local Authority had made the public aware of these landmarks and many efforts were made to preserve Tameside's war memorials, and to pay tribute to all those who made the supreme sacrifice, not only in the two world wars but all the other conflicts such as Korea, the Gulf and Afghanistan.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Tafheen Sharif, had represented the Civic Mayor and the Borough at a recent event in Hattersley to mark the murder of police constables Nicola Hughes and Fiona Bone, two unarmed young women, aged 23 and 32 respectively, who were cruelly robbed of their lives while doing their duty attending what appeared to be a routine burglary call. They too, made the supreme sacrifice.

Best wishes were extended to Councillors Joyce Bowerman and Ann Holland, both of whom had suffered falls recently and they were wished a speedy return to full health.

The Mayor concluded by thanking the Mayoress and the Deputy Mayor for their continued support.

Councillor Naylor in the Chair

38. MINUTES

RESOLVED

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull that the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 19 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

40. COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader began by saying that as the days get colder and the nights start drawing in, preparations needed to begin for difficult months ahead. Since the beginning of the year, local authorities, charities and many other organisations and individuals had sounded the alarm over the worst cost of living crisis in a generation. That crisis had now arrived and had been made immeasurably worse by the recent decisions of the new government. With surging inflation eating into public sector finances, and rumours about November's economic and fiscal forecast suggesting a return to the darkest days of austerity, it was likely that difficult decisions would continue to be made as consideration for the Council's Budget for the next financial year began.

Local government finances, which were already under severe strain before any of the events mentioned above had begun, were now in a crisis, meaning councils across the country were having to plan even more unpalatable service reductions in a bid to balance the books. The inequalities within, and between, different groups of people and places was growing. Food bank usage, debt cases and the number of council tax arrears were all rising. The day-to-day financial pressures all households were facing were undoubtedly having a disproportionate impact on the most deprived and vulnerable as they had fewer places to cut back without hitting living standards. At times like this demand for council services increased, which placed even more pressure on the ailing finances and challenged workforces. Council officers and volunteers were hard at work rolling out assistance to some of the most vulnerable in Tameside communities.

Included in that assistance was Helping Hand Tameside, a one-stop shop, bringing together local support services and organisations in one easy to navigate place. Last month, the second successful Helping Hand Cost of Living Support Fair had taken place, which saw officers from Council Tax, Welfare Rights, Adult Social Care and Employment and Skills attend Tameside One to provide face-to-face advice to residents. Representatives of external organisations and charities such as Action Together, Jigsaw Housing, Mind and Kooth also supported their efforts.

It was reported that there were £5million pension credits not being claimed annually and everything was being done to help residents connect to the money they were entitled to. The Council was working alongside the NHS to make sure that all who were eligible to receive their winter flu and Covid-19 vaccinations did so as quickly and as smoothly as possible.

It was highlighted that efforts to keep Tameside's streets clean and safe continued to see real progress. August saw the launch of the "Our Streets" campaign with a Day of Action in Ashton town centre, which brought together the Council's Community Safety Team, police and volunteers to patrol fly tipping hotspots, engage with residents and businesses, and launch enforcement action where necessary. Since then, a further Day of Action had taken place in Droylsden, complemented by a focused Road Safety Day of Action in Denton and the re-launch of Litter Hubs across the Borough with regular litter picks and vegetation maintenance in all of Tameside's towns.

There had been major developments in improving the built environment with work commencing on the long-awaited restoration and repurposing of Ashton Town Hall. While significant investments in resources and time would still be required, the first steps had been taken in bringing the historic building back to its former glory.

Tributes were paid to one of Tameside's most dedicated public servants, Mike Gurney, Head of Environment Services, who had been honoured with the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management's inaugural outstanding and significant award in recognition of his contribution to Bereavement Services. His dedication and sensitivity in helping Tameside's residents through the emotional process of bereavement and mourning had been witnessed by many and he was congratulated on the excellent job he has done on this, and in making Tameside Bereavement Services respected and admired across the UK.

41. COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION

The Chair reported that in accordance with Standing Orders 31.12 and 31.13 two questions had been submitted by members of the public. Councillors Ward and Cooney provided responses to the questions.

Question 1

"At the full council meeting of 22 February 2022 I put forward a question concerning progress on the assessment and development of Tameside MBC's estate with respect to its potential for the production and use of renewable energy. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority target for the completion of this was the end of 2021. In response Cllr Ryan confirmed that the 2021 target had not been met, that the assessment and development were a work in progress and that it would be completed by the unbelievably unambitious target date of 2033; unambitious even in comparison to Keir Starmer's Liverpool promise of "100% clean power by 2030".

Would the Councillor agree that the previously mentioned target date of 2033 should be moved forward to 2024 to demonstrate Tameside MBC's seriousness in tackling climate change?"

Response from Councillor Ward, (Executive Member for Climate Emergency & Environmental Services)

"Work has been happening around this area and will continue to happen as opportunities allow. Funding from PSDS rounds 1 and 2 has both identified a number of buildings across the corporate estate including schools and sports trust buildings for renewable technologies to be installed. Furthermore, there is ongoing partnership work with GMCA to look at opportunities for Solar PV across the corporate estate and schools via their Go Neutral framework. A solar on schools workshop has recently been set up to look at the possibilities there and will include representation from TMBC staff. As the estate rationalisation programme is realised we will be in a better situation to further understand the scope of the buildings within the estate that will require renewable intervention."

Question 2

"After 3 UN conferences looking into the humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN) write this brief outline of the findings - "A single nuclear weapon can destroy a city and kill most of its people. Several nuclear explosions over modern cities would kill tens of millions of people.*

The extreme destruction caused by nuclear weapons cannot be limited to military targets or to combatants.

Nuclear weapons produce ionizing radiation, which kills or sickens those exposed, contaminates the environment, and has long-term health consequences, including cancer and genetic damage.

Less than one percent of the nuclear weapons in the world could disrupt the global climate and threaten as many as two billion people with starvation in a nuclear famine.

Physicians and first responders would be unable to work in devastated, radioactively contaminated areas. Even a single nuclear detonation in a modern city would strain existing disaster relief resources to the breaking point; a nuclear war would overwhelm any relief system we could build in

advance”.

Cities are the main targets of nuclear weapons, and as major cities are so interconnected any attack would be widely felt - including devastation to medical facilities, transport, communication, emergency services etc. The International Committee of the Red Cross note, out of 300 doctors in Hiroshima 270 were reported dead, of 1780 nurses 1654 were dead and of 140 pharmacists 122 were dead. 42 out of 45 hospitals were rendered non-functional.

In 2013, Article 36 predicted the effects should a 100 kt warhead be dropped over central Manchester. At a distance of 5-8km from ground zero (parts of Tameside), people could suffer 2nd or 1st degree burns, flash blindness and damage to buildings.

What are the responsibilities of Local Authorities in the event of their residents being affected by nuclear war, terrorist incident or accident?”

Response from Councillor Cooney, Executive Leader

“In the event of Nuclear War, a terrorist incident or an accident, central government will establish a Civil Contingencies Committee (commonly referred to as COBRA). As a local authority we work with multi-agency colleagues across the region as part of the Greater Manchester Resilience Forum.

Each public agency will fulfil their responsibility to ensure the safety and recovery of the community. As a local authority we have a responsibility for civic leadership, a humanitarian response, supporting communication and assisting in recovery.

We regularly work with our partners to plan and train for various emergency scenarios to ensure that in the event of an incident, we would be in the best possible position to provide a swift and effective response to support our local community.”

42. MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 27 July, 24 August and 29 September 2022.

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and it was:

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 27 July, 24 August and 29 September.2022 be received.

43. MEETING OF OVERVIEW PANEL

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meetings of the Overview Panel held on 25 July and 26 September 2022.

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Mike Smith and it was:

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Overview Panel held on 25 July and 26 September 2022 be received.

44. DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 26 September 2022.

The Executive Leader asked Members to note that the statutory review of polling stations and polling districts would commence after the Council meeting with a view to completing the review before the new register of electors, based on new wards, was published in December. He also asked Members to note that a cross party review of Neighbourhood Forums would begin shortly with a view to implementing new arrangements for the next Municipal Year. Neighbourhood Forums would continue in their current guise for the remainder of Municipal Year.

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and it was:

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 26 September 2022 be received;**
- (ii) That Members note that the statutory review of polling stations and polling districts would commence after the Council meeting with a view to completing the review before the new register of electors, based on new wards, was published in December; and**
- (iii) That Members note that a cross party review of Neighbourhood Forums would begin shortly with a view to implementing new arrangements for the next Municipal Year. Neighbourhood Forums would continue in their current guise for the remainder of Municipal Year.**

45. CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation), which provided details of a review of the current Contract Procedure Rules ("CPRs") and proposed the adoption of a new set of CPRs by each of the STAR Authorities.

It was reported that CPRs were standing orders made pursuant to s135 of the Local Government Act 1972 that included provision for securing and regulating competition for contracts entered into and also included exemptions to such provisions under certain thresholds specified within the CPRs. Since the establishment of STAR Procurement, it had been considered essential that all partner authorities had a single set of CPRs in order to harmonise procurement processes and enable the shared service vehicle to deliver an effective and consistent procurement process. The Council's current CPRs had been harmonised and adopted into the Constitution of each of the STAR Authorities ("Stockport, Trafford, Tameside and Rochdale").

It was important that the STAR Authorities continued to have an agreed set of harmonised CPRs in order to support STAR Procurement as a shared service vehicle. It was appropriate to have a review of the CPRs at this time due to legislative changes following the UK's exit from the European Union. It provided a useful opportunity to pause and reflect on practices and approach to procurement to ensure that efficiencies and quality could be reflected. Interim reviews had taken place in 2016 and 2017 with some minor amendments. The 2018/2019 review was postponed due to a range of factors, including the pandemic, and recommenced in 2021. Representatives from the legal teams of the STAR Councils, and STAR Procurement, had worked together over the last 12/18 months to complete a robust and substantial review of the CPRs. The proposed new CPRs had been agreed by legal teams at each of the STAR Authorities and were summarised in the report and detailed in a table appended to the report. Each STAR Authority was progressing the proposed new CPRs through its own governance procedures to be incorporated into the Constitution of each Council. STAR Procurement would undertake a programme of updating the Procurement Handbook to provide additional guidance as necessary.

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and it was:

RESOLVED

That Council approve the amendments to the Contract Procedure Rules, namely:

- (i) To reflect updated legislation due to the UK's exit from the European Union;**
- (ii) To rationalise the CPRs and, where possible, remove those parts which relate to procedural aspects in order for these to be dealt with in the Procurement Handbook;**
- (iii) To increase the threshold trigger for a one quote exercise for both Supplies, Services and Concessions and Works and Public Works Concessions from £4,999 to £9,999;**
- (iv) To permit the modification of a contract where there are "any other exceptional circumstances as agreed by the SRO for Legal" (9.3.1(g)). The additional ground will offer some flexibility in exceptional circumstances whilst requiring the approval of the SRO for Legal will allow for any risk to be minimised; and**
- (v) To implement a simplified process where the modification is in respect of an extension to the term of a contract, which was provided for in the initial procurement documents and the contract.**

46. GODLEY GREEN PLANNING APPLICATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader, which stated that in accordance with the Constitution, the Godley Green Planning application be determined by Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel unless determined otherwise by Full Council. The report recommended that the matter be referred for determination to Speakers Panel (Planning) to avoid allegations of bias or predetermination as the application was being promoted by the Council and Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel had a number of Members who were part of the Executive Cabinet.

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and it was:

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Council's Speakers Panel (Planning) consider the Godley Green planning application instead of Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring because the Council is promoting the application and it would be preferable to have a separation of roles to avoid either an appearance or challenge of bias and/or predetermination; and**
- (ii) That the meeting of Speakers Panel (Planning) scheduled for 14 December 2022 be moved to 21 December 2022.**

47. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader, which sought to establish the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership as a joint committee and to agree the terms of reference for the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership.

It was reported that a Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership was one of two statutory components of an Integrated Care System, alongside the Integrated Care Board. The minimum core membership would consist of ten representatives from the ten districts and a member of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board. The Partnership would have a statutory duty to create an integrated care strategy to address the assessed needs, such as health and care needs of the population within the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board's area, including determinants of health and wellbeing such as employment, environment, and housing. In preparing the integrated care strategy, each Integrated Care Partnership must have regard to guidance that had been issued by the Secretary of State. The legal duties of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership were appended to the report.

Further guidance issued by Government confirmed that the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership would be subject to local government Health Scrutiny arrangements and that the Care

Quality Commission would review Integrated Care systems including the functioning of the system as a whole, which included the role of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership. It was proposed that the GM Integrated Care System be scrutinised by the GM Joint Health Scrutiny Committee and at place level, as appropriate. It was expected that all Health and Wellbeing Boards in an area be involved in the preparation of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Strategy. Guidance also stated that Integrated Care Partnerships would need to be aware of the work already undertaken at Place and build upon it. They should not override or replace existing place-based plans. It was anticipated that Locality Boards would input into the Greater Manchester Strategy.

Council was informed that a paper had been circulated to local authorities and NHS Bodies on the role and potential makeup of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership earlier in the year. There had been a number of responses and the paper had been refined and further considered by the wider local authority and NHS system through a paper circulated to Place-Based Leads, NHS Provider Forum, NHS Primary Care Board and the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board through their governance officers. Responses to the paper were considered by a meeting of the Shadow Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership and the membership was agreed, which would consist of 30 members from a wide range of the public, private and voluntary sector, with others invited as required.

It had been proposed that the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership secretariat be provided by the GMCA governance team and it should meet at least quarterly on the same day as the GMCA meeting. The Partnership would convene and coordinate the activities of sub-committees, working groups or other forums as its role developed.

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and it was:

RESOLVED

- (i) That the GM Integrated Care Partnership be established as a joint committee of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board and ten local authorities;**
- (ii) That the Executive Leader be appointed as a Member of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership and the Executive Member with responsibility for Health be appointed as substitute;**
- (iii) That the proposed Terms of Reference of the GM Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership as set out at Appendix B of the report be noted.**

48. ESTABLISHMENT OF A GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader, which sought to establish a Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise decisions of the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee and the Clean Air Administration Committee.

It was reported that the ten Greater Manchester Districts and GMCA established the Clean Air Administration Committee in March 2021 and the Clean Air Charging Committee was established in October 2021. Decisions of both Committees were currently subject to Scrutiny by each District. However, as the Committees were jointly exercising the functions of the authorities it was proposed that the Scrutiny arrangements also be exercised jointly. This would enable decisions to be scrutinised more effectively and efficiently on a Greater Manchester basis and across both Committees. The Proposed Terms of Reference for the GM Scrutiny Committee were appended to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and it was:

RESOLVED

- (i) That the establishment of a GM Clean Air Joint Scrutiny Committee be agreed;**

- (ii) That the Terms of Reference of the GM Clean Air Joint Scrutiny Committee as set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed; and
- (iii) That Councillor Boyle be appointed as a member to the Committee.

49. MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES

The Chair of Council Business advised that there were no changes to be made.

50. NOTICES OF MOTION

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was moved by Councillor Boyle and seconded by Councillor Roderick:

That this Council notes that:

On 8 September 2022, the Prime Minister announced plans to lift the ban on fracking for shale gas.

This Council further notes that:

That this Council deeply regrets the Government's announcement to lift the ban on fracking; notes with concern how extracting new fossil fuels distracts from investing in renewable projects and decarbonising heating systems; recognises the importance of reducing the demand for gas to heat homes in order to lower heating bills, create warmer homes and cut emissions; regrets the lack of support from the Government to help people improve the energy efficiency of their homes; further recognises that fracking would hinder the UK from achieving net-zero emissions; further notes with concern the importance of keeping energy bills low for consumers; notes with concern the lack of evidence that fracking in the UK would lower bills for consumers; and calls on the Government to publish the British Geological Survey report it commissioned earlier this year into fracking.

Fracking could put communities at risk of micro-earthquakes, ground water contamination, loss of species and many other environmental hazards.

This announcement seriously calls into question the government's commitment to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels and to move to net zero emissions by 2050.

Following consideration of the Motion it was:-

RESOLVED

That this Council notes that:

On 8 September 2022, the Prime Minister announced plans to lift the ban on fracking for shale gas.

This Council further notes that:

That this Council deeply regrets the Government's announcement to lift the ban on fracking; notes with concern how extracting new fossil fuels distracts from investing in renewable projects and decarbonising heating systems; recognises the importance of reducing the demand for gas to heat homes in order to lower heating bills, create warmer homes and cut emissions; regrets the lack of support from the Government to help people improve the energy efficiency of their homes; further recognises that fracking would hinder the UK from achieving net-zero emissions; further notes with concern the importance of keeping energy bills low for consumers; notes with concern the lack of evidence that fracking in the UK would lower bills for consumers; and calls on the Government to publish the British Geological Survey report it commissioned earlier this year into fracking.

Fracking could put communities at risk of micro-earthquakes, ground water contamination,

loss of species and many other environmental hazards.

This announcement seriously calls into question the government's commitment to reduce the country's reliance on fossil fuels and to move to net zero emissions by 2050.

51. QUESTIONS

Councillor Huntbach raised a question under Standing Order 17.2 as follows:-

"There is compelling evidence that glyphosate and a wide range of other herbicides and pesticides are harmful to human health including successful legal cases regarding incurable cancer. The use of pesticides and weed killers reduces biodiversity, impacting negatively on insects, birds and bees, in a time when the world is losing 2.5% of its insect population per-year. Harmful weed killer residues can creep into the food chain and children and pets are at risk from residues on Council maintained lawns and fields.

Scientific studies have shown a 41% increased risk of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma caused by exposure from glyphosate-based weed killers and products.

Will the Council formalise our strategy on pesticide applications across the borough including a minimum of the following commitments?

- *Phase out the use of all pesticides and weed killers on council land.*
- *Cut out all use of glyphosate-based treatments in all council operations in one year.*
- *Trial pesticide-free alternatives during this period. Particularly those adopted by the likes of Hammersmith and Fulham and Lewes Councils who use biodegradable foam or hot steam treatments on weeds. To be decided by Executive.*
- *Grant an exception to the above ban regarding the control of Japanese knotweed, or other invasive species, where there are currently no effective mechanical techniques available. However, in this case chemicals such as glyphosate will only be stem-injected, rather than sprayed, to reduce its spread in the environment.*
- *Grant an exception on sprays only in relation to Giant Hogweed where it's not safe to be dug out or safely removed by other means.*

In response, Councillor Ward stated:-

"This council is committed to increasing the biodiversity across the Borough; this can be seen in the fantastic wild flower meadows on Werneth Low to the thousands of trees planted on Ponderosa in Audenshaw and the traditional hedgerows we maintain in the countryside.

The Council is committed to reducing pesticides where possible. We don't spray our sites unless it is to control Japanese Knotweed or Giant Hogweed. In this case, we use a minimum amount of chemicals that we can. Every year our greenspace volunteers give up their time to get rid of the Himalayan Balsam across our parks and countryside, physically pulling and cutting this evasive species. As we do in Denton with our friends group 'Friends of Tame Valley', my ward colleagues, Councillor Ricci and Councillor Gwynne, frequently attend these Balsam bashing events. We have ceased spraying in our playgrounds and our parks apart for exceptional needs. Where we do treat weeds, we do not blanket spray areas and all the spraying is recorded and monitored to ensure minimal use.

We are always researching and working with colleagues in other councils, industries and partners to ensure that we are up to date with the latest technology and we are aware of the pilot projects that councils are using to minimise chemical use. We are always keen to review learning and good practice to ensure we are taking well-informed approaches to tackling issues and to ensure the needs and priorities of our local residents are central to decisions and we will continue to review our approach with regard to this."

Councillor Huntbatch further asked:

"Would the Council consider wild flower verges that only require cutting twice a year, as other councils have successfully done?"

Councillor Ward responded:

“Councillor Huntbach would be welcome to join us on a Tame Valley event to see how things are done and what we do and ask any questions along the way.”

52. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR

EXECUTIVE CABINET

26 October 2022

Commenced: 1.00pm

Terminated: 1.35pm

Present: Councillors Cooney (Chair), Choksi, Feeley, Jackson, North, Taylor, Ward and Wills

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Kathy Roe	Director of Finance
Stephanie Butterworth	Director of Adult Services
Alison Stathers-Tracey	Director of Children's Services
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Debbie Watson	Director of Population Health
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director, Operations & Neighbourhoods
Tom Houghton	Policy & Strategy Service Manager

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Fairfoull, Sweeton and Kitchen (ex officio)

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Cabinet Members.

65. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 28 September 2022 be approved as a correct record.

66. CONSOLIDATED 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 31 AUGUST 2022

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Finance, which reflected actual expenditure to 31 August 2022.

It was explained that, from a healthcare commissioning perspective, the report looked at 9 months of expenditure based on indicative ICB plans (for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023). Month 5 was the second month in which the ICB had been operational. As such, final approved delegated budgets at locality level had not yet been confirmed. Work was ongoing to finalise budgets, but in the meantime the report presented indicative locality budgets. Plans for Tameside were submitted for a delivery of £595k surplus in 22/23. At month 5 it was assumed that the plan would be delivered, which was in line with wider ICB reporting for month 5. The plan to deliver a surplus required savings of £7.8m to be found, and whilst there was risk of achievement, it was currently expected that Tameside would be on target, however work continued to ensure that savings identified became recurrent.

As highlighted in previous finance reports for the year, the Council was facing significant and growing inflationary pressures across a number of areas, combined with demand pressures in Adults and Children's services, resulting in a substantial forecast overspend by 31 March 2023 of £11.117m. This represented a £1,188k improvement since month 4, driven largely by additional investment income resulting from increases to interest rates.

Significant work was still required to balance the financial position in 2022/23. Work was in progress

to identify mitigating savings to reduce the forecast overspend on Council budgets, and address the forecast budget gap for 2023/24 and beyond. This was being done in the context of growing inflationary pressures, including significant energy cost and pay inflation, with no indication that any additional funding would be provided either in 2022/23 or the next two financial years.

In terms of the Integrated Commissioning Fund, Members were advised that, since 2016/17, the Council and the former Tameside and Glossop CCG, had been parties to a section 75 agreement to pool resources for Health and Social Care in the Tameside locality. Upon creation of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB) from 1 July 2022, the section 75 agreement had novated to the ICB. The Section 75 agreement included a risk share arrangement, which enabled each organisation to make additional contributions into the pooled budget in agreement with the other party. The making of additional contributions, up to a maximum amount of £5 million per annum, then placed an obligation on the other party to increase its contribution to the same value in future years.

In 2020/21 and 2021/22 the CCG agreed to increase its contribution to the pooled budget. This agreement was reported to Executive Cabinet and Strategic Commissioning Board in March 2021 and March 2022 respectively. These additional contributions enabled the Council to reduce its contribution in these years, and set aside the funding into reserves to enable reciprocation with additional contributions into the pooled fund during 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The Council would transact additional contributions to the Tameside Locality of the Greater Manchester ICB in month 6 of 2022/23 of £3.5m to support winter pressures and reduce delayed discharges. In addition, an amount of £2.060m would be transacted over the next two years to support additional investment in ISCAN Therapies (Integrated Services for Children with Additional Needs) in Tameside, supporting the written statement of action in response to the SEND inspection.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;**
- (ii) That the position on the Integrated Commissioning Fund, including the transaction of the risk share as part of the section 75 agreement, as set out in section 3 of the report, be noted; and**
- (iii) That the expenditure of £30K to refresh of Grant Thornton financial data work to inform priority areas of focus for services for budget reductions, be approved.**

67. SOCIOECONOMIC DUTY

The Executive Member, Education, Achievement and Equalities / Assistant Director, People and Workforce Development submitted a report setting out the local and national context, policy recommendations, case studies, key terms and other considerations with a view to adopting the socioeconomic duty in Tameside, in line with work taking place in other local authorities in Greater Manchester and across England..

It was explained that, in recent years the rise of poverty had emerged as a major policy issue. This has made adopting the socioeconomic duty and other anti-poverty measures a matter of urgency. Local and National statistics were provided in an appendix to the report and key issues for consideration was detailed as follows:

- Tameside had the 5th best male Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy in Greater Manchester, but the 9th best female Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy. Life Expectancy (at birth) in Tameside was 77.57 years for men and 80.7 years for women, while Healthy Life Expectancy (at birth) was 61.9 years for men but only 58.3 years for women.
- In the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Tameside was ranked as the 28th most deprived of 317 Local Authority districts in England, and the 5th most deprived local authority in GM. Within Tameside, 11 of the borough's 141 lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) are also within the most deprived 5% of such areas nationally.
- The Trussell Trust end of year data for 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 showed that their

foodbanks in Tameside had given out the 4th most parcels in GM. This equated to 11.1% of their total food parcels for Greater Manchester, 10.6% of their parcels for adults in GM, and 12% of their parcels for children in GM.

- According to the Resolution Foundation, the real incomes of the poorest quarter of households nationally were set to drop by 6% in 2022/23, putting an extra 1.3 million people, including 500,000 children, into absolute poverty. This would be the first recorded incident of a rise in absolute poverty in Britain outside of a recession.

Members were advised that, whilst the precise details of implementation of the socioeconomic duty could vary, research by a number of organisations had identified key practical steps in all cases.

Short-Term Recommendations - Simple measures that could be implemented quickly.

1. Identify Senior Members and Officers to take on the role of “Designated Leads” of the Socioeconomic Duty;
2. Integrate Socioeconomic Disadvantage into Equality Impact Assessments using appropriate proxy indicators and review processes; and
3. Consolidate existing poverty-related data held by the Council and partners.

Long-Term Recommendations – More involved measures that would require an element of discretion.

4. Develop internal guidance and training for officers to consider how they could meet the Socioeconomic Duty at a service delivery level, on a day-to-day basis, outside of formal Equality Impact Assessments;
5. Collaborate with residents, civil society and voluntary and community sector organisations to build awareness and understanding of the Socioeconomic Duty and people’s lived experience of socioeconomic disadvantage;
6. Embed accountability for the implementation of the Socioeconomic Duty through monitoring, evaluation, and sharing of best practice; and
7. Deliver the Living Wage for all council staff and contracted employees, and introduce mechanisms to promote uptake of the Living Wage among other local employers.

Successfully implementing the socioeconomic duty in Tameside would deliver a number of benefits, including but not limited to:

- Reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socioeconomic disadvantage;
- Supporting coordination and partnership working, both within the Council between service areas and externally with partners in the public, private, community and voluntary sectors;
- Raising awareness of existing socioeconomic inequalities in Tameside within the Council and among our partners;
- Securing a widespread commitment from council services to consider their impact on local socioeconomic inequalities while carrying out their day-to-day functions;
- Actively encouraging the participation of low-income residents in decisions that affect them, especially in the context of any proposed cuts or changes to services;
- Achieving greater consistency in practice in both the short-term and in the long-term across political administrations and turnover of staff;
- More rigorous and systematic approaches to Equality Impact Assessments and general assessments of policy and practice;
- Strengthening data gathering and analysis practices, especially in the context of Equality Impact Assessments, thereby strengthening the council’s evidence base and accountability to residents and partners; and
- Supporting the effective and efficient allocation of limited resources in medium and long-term planning.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to implement the socioeconomic duty in Tameside as part of the wider Poverty Strategy.

68. ASHTON TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Towns and Communities / Assistant Director Operations and Neighbourhoods, which sought to introduce a Public Spaces Protection, which had been designed to help address anti-social behaviour in Ashton town centre.

It was explained that, in March 2020, the UK entered a national lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the subsequent two years, lockdowns were lifted, then re-imposed; social restrictions lessened and re-imposed. The impact of this period had had significant effects on individuals, business and town centres. During the periods of lockdown, anti-social behaviour activity naturally decreased in Ashton Town Centre. However, as restrictions lifted and the town centre became busy again, a subsequent rise of reports of anti-social behaviour occurred. As a rise in anti-social behaviour was occurring, Greater Manchester Police and Tameside Council began receiving complaints from members of the public. The complaints related to intoxicated individuals consuming alcohol & other substances and causing a nuisance.

The report proposed the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order, which would be applicable to the proposed restricted area identified in the map attached to the order (Appendix 1 to the report).

The order would prohibit the following activities:

- the consumption of alcohol or the possession of an open alcohol container;
- the use or possession of other intoxicating substances as defined by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016;
- discarding a hypodermic needle or syringe;
- urination or defecation;
- health and/or safety risks including obstruction of doorways and stairwells; and
- the erection of temporary structures within the restricted area.

The order would also require the provision of information upon request by an authorised person reasonably suspected of breaching any of the prohibitions or requirements in this order within the restricted area. The order would require clear signage to be placed at every point of access to the relevant restricted area, detailing those activities, which were restricted and outlining the penalties for breaching the order (£100 fixed penalty or £1,000 fine following summons).

In addition to the signage, the Council, in partnership with GMP, would develop a communications strategy which ensured that the order was publicised very clearly in local and social media to ensure maximum public awareness of the order. The order would be enforced by officers from Greater Manchester Police (both police officers and police community support officers) and any appeal would be through GMP's own appeals system.

A draft copy of the Public Spaces Protection Order was appended to the report.

Details of the six week public consultation exercise were given and written responses were detailed at Appendix 4 to the report. Of the responses 90.3% (or 9 out of 10 people) supported the introduction the Public Space Protection Order.

Of those in favour of the Public Space Protection Order being introduced, 10.8% raised some notable concerns on a number of thematic areas:

- Comments were made around policing the PSPO, specifically because of a perceived lack of visible policing in the town centre;
- Concern was expressed that the PSPO may push the problems into other areas in the borough;
- Some respondents expressed concern that the PSPO targeted individuals who were vulnerable and in need of support, rather than enforcement; and
- Reference was made to the potential for victimising those who were jobless, homeless or substance abuse misusers, many of whom may not be able to pay an imposed fine.

As a result of the comments, the Community Safety and Homelessness Service would conduct an annual review of the impact of the PSPO covering its effectiveness in tackling ASB as well as the potential impacts suggested by some of the respondents. Tameside Council also received a response to the consultation from the Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor the Rt. Hon Baroness Beverley Hughes who provided her support for the proposals to introduce the Public Space Protection Order as proposed. A copy of the letter was appended to the report at Appendix 5.

RESOLVED

That the proposed public space protection order be adopted for Ashton Town Centre as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, for the area shown in Appendix 1 to the report, which has been designed to help address anti-social behaviour in Ashton town centre.

69. FAMILY HUBS AND BEST START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader, Children and Families / Assistant Director, Early Help and Partnerships providing an update following the confirmation that Tameside qualified to apply for the Top Tier funding allocations for the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Fund and outlined Tameside's approach and intentions.

The Department for Education had confirmed an allocation of £3,295,000 over 3 years:-

- 2022/23 - £799,000
- 2023/24 - £1,356,000
- 2024/25 - £1,140,000

It was explained that since 2017, the Early Help Offer in Tameside had grown significantly, with the development of an Early Help Access Point, better Early Help Assessments tools, building 'Team Around' Approaches, Early Help Panels with joint decision-making and shared workforce development, such as Signs of Safety. The development of the Family Hubs had been identified as a key programme to improve the Early Help offer for children and families in Tameside further. In November 2021, Local Authorities were invited to apply for up to £1 million transformation funding to implement Family Hubs. In March 2022 Tameside Council were informed that they were unsuccessful in this application, however, continued with the ambition to develop the family hub model locally, with endorsement from the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The new investment from the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme would enable around half of upper-tier Local Authorities in England to transform their services into a family hub model.

Building on previous work regarding the Family Hubs model, Members were advised that a scoping exercise had been undertaken in Tameside with partners to begin to explore the model and identify buildings across the four neighbourhoods. Communication and engagement events took place, between April and July 2022 within each of the four neighbourhoods to support local voice and coproduction. A proposed hub and spoke model had been presented to the Early Help Operational Board, neighbourhood meetings and Partnership Event for each of the four neighbourhoods. It was intended that under the implementation of the Programme, a public consultation exercise would take place later in the year to inform and formalise proposals.

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The new investment from the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme would also include funding for essential services in the crucial ‘Start for Life’ period from conception to age two, and services which support parents to care for and interact with their children. The Programme represented a significant step forward in delivering on the Government’s commitments set out in ‘The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days’, and built on delivery of the Healthy Child Programme and wider 0-19 public health services.

It was intended that a Tameside Family Hubs Steering Group be established to provide action focused, system leadership on the implementation of Family Hubs and the strategic oversight of Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme.

Tameside had started a journey to build on the neighbourhood model where four neighbourhood areas had now been defined with partners. This would provide a strong foundation to develop the Family Hubs approach, which was an integral part of the development of a Children and Young People’s Plan and would enable the delivery of accessible, local and joined up services to children and their families within their neighbourhoods.

Staffing requirements to support the delivery of the programme were detailed and discussed.

The report concluded that, Tameside Council were committed to deliver the expectations of the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme. Through the Family Hubs Steering Group, the key next steps included: formally submitted the sign up form, working closes with the allocated DfE adviser, resource the programme team effectively and develop the detailed action plan by December 2022.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the DfE Grant and associated Terms & Conditions of Grant, as set out in section 2 of the report, be accepted and agreed;**
- (ii) **That the signing of the Sign Up Form on behalf of the Council, as set out in section 3 of the report; be agreed;**
- (iii) **That Tameside’s proposed approach to developing options and “governance” to Family Hubs and Best Start for Life delivery be supported; and**
- (iv) **That further reports setting out the proposals to spend the grant together with progress on deliverables, be submitted to the Executive Cabinet.**

70. REPLACEMENT OF BOYDS WALK (CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROVISION)

The Deputy Executive Leader, Children and Families / Executive Director, Finances, Resources and Transformation / Director of Children’s Services submitted a report, detailing the current configuration of the six bed Boyds Walk home for short and long term stay for children with disabilities and the risk posed to its closure. The report also detailed the options for a replacement home that was not only fit for purpose but would put at its heart the best outcomes for children with disabilities in childhood and as they prepared for adulthood.

Members were advised that a range of alternative vacant sites / existing properties had been considered as options for the replacement of Boyds Walk as follows:

Site Location	New Build / Remodelling	Description	Site Area	Reason for rejection
Land at Lime Street, Dukinfield	New Build	Site of former residential properties 61-67 Church Street – now cleared.	0.044 acres	Site too small
Land at Lower Bennett Street, / Arnside Drive, Hyde	New Build	Large vacant site and part of the site could be developed in isolation. Site topography – part	2.20 acres	Potential Second Option

		undulating, part sloping.		
Site of former Flowery Fields Infant School, Old Road, Hyde	New Build	Site is adjoining Flowery Fields Children's Centre.	1.26 acres	Preferred option
Jubilee Gardens Child & Family Centre, Droylsden	New Build	Site is an operational Children's Centre, adjacent to Active Medlock leisure facility.	0.65 acres	Site too small for new build
Wilshaw House, Wilshaw Lane, Ashton	Remodelling	Operational asset – occupied by Adult Services and home to Dementia Day Care	0.80 acres	Rejected on grounds of cost, time and value for money

The re-purposing of Boyds Walk for other service use had been considered by Children's Services. However, a decision had been made to hand back the property to Jigsaw Housing. With no formal lease in place a negotiated position would have to be taken in terms of the dilapidation / condition on hand back, the only formal agreement in place was for Tameside MBC to remove the additional pod of accommodation put in place in recent years and make good (estimated cost £10,000).

Members were further advised that the Department for Education (DfE) ran a capital funding programme during summer 2022 (details of which were appended to the report at Appendix 6. This was a competitive bidding process for local authorities against a fixed envelope of investment that would provide 50% capital funding for children's homes. The funding was designed to support local authorities individually or in a partnership / consortium to establish new children's homes provision via expansion, refurbishment, or new building work.

Tameside had submitted a bid for this funding to support the capital cost of replacing and expanding Boyds Walk (bid requested £1,632,500 of DFE funding). The anticipated costs of delivering the new building was: £3,265,000

It was explained that the option that provided the best value for money was to build a new home with nine units of accommodation on the former Flowery Field, Old Road site. The additional units of accommodation this brought allowed for a compliant capital bid to be submitted to the DFE Children's Home Capital Programme 2022-25 for 50% (£1,632,500) of the estimated capital funding required. If the bid was unsuccessful then the full £3,265,000 would be required to be funded from the Council via Prudential Borrowing.

RESOLVED

- 1) **That Option 1, to replace Boyds Walk with a new build for nine units of accommodation on the Flowery Fields site, be approved;**
- 2) **That the use of the former Flowery Field, Old Road site to locate the new building, be approved;**
- 3) **That the terms and conditions set out in the DFE Children's Home Capital Programme 2022-25 Grant Offer Letter (£1,632,500 of match capital funding currently required) be accepted, subject to legal advice that there are no additional liabilities to those outlined in this report and the capital programme;**
- 4) **That it be RECOMMENDED to Council to include the £1,632,500 of Council match capital funding in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan;**
- 5) **That the procurement of the scheme through the Local Education Partnership be approved;**
- 6) **That the virement of £622,399 revenue budget from the Children's Services external agency placement budget to the Children's Services in-house residential services budget to operate the premises, be approved; and**
- 7) **That Boyds Walk be decommissioned immediately on the opening of the replacement together with meeting any reasonable ancillary costs relating of the surrender of the premises to Jigsaw.**

If the Council is unsuccessful in its bid to the DFE Children's Home Capital Programme 2022-25, then the Council agrees to change recommendation 4 above to:

That it be **RECOMMENDED** to Council to include the full £3,265,000 of Council capital funding required to replace Boyds Walk in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and the capital programme.

It be agreed that this capital allocation will need to be kept under scrutiny and the necessary due diligence to ensure it is subject to any required uplifts to manage inflationary pressures in the current financial markets in order that it can both be delivered and continues to be a vfm invest to save project, over an appropriate return period given the increasing rates of interest in the unusual volatile markets. Any such financially sensitive information will be provided at the next stage to progress this project.

71. ENERGY UTILITIES FRAMEWORK PURCHASE AGREEMENT THROUGH STAR PROCUREMENT

A report was submitted by the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Place, which explained that the electricity contract was due for renewal on 1 April 2023. Tameside Council currently utilised Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation framework for electricity supplies. A new arrangement was required after 31 March 2023.

The report sought delegated approval to the Director of Place and Director of Finance in consultation with the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation and the Executive Member for Environmental Services to enter into new utility contracts for electricity from April 2023.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the procurement of an electricity provider, with the aim to minimise energy rate increases from 1 April 2023, be approved;**
- (ii) That authority be delegated to the Director of Place and Director of Finance in consultation with First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation and the Executive Member for Climate Emergency & Environmental Services to enter into a contract for electricity from April 2023 subject to the due diligence on the options available to the Council, including the consideration of the green energy tariff charges; and**
- (iii) It be noted that the current arrangements under the gas contract with Crown Commercial Services means we must provide notice in the September of each year if we are to leave the following April therefore we are to remain on this framework for gas for 2023/24 so this is not included in the report and a review of these arrangements will be undertaken separate review during April to June of 2023 to ensure any revised contract arrangements are in place from 1 April 2024 to ensure that the Council achieves vfm at the end of the existing arrangements.**

72. ASHTON PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Towns and Communities / Director of Place providing an update on the draft proposal for the redevelopment of Market Square and the outdoor market including the key findings of consultation and engagement work to date.

It was explained that on 27 October 2021, it was announced that the £19,870,000 Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid for Ashton Town Centre had been successful. The specific interventions proposed in the LUF bid were prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LUF and were critical to unlocking the comprehensive redevelopment of the Town Centre; supporting a coherent vision and completing of the final phase of Vision Tameside.

The Council had now commenced delivery of the Ashton Town Centre LUF programme in the context of an emerging wider strategic vision for Ashton Town Centre following the decision by Executive Cabinet on 24 November 2021. A Memorandum of Understanding with Department for Levelling Up,

Housing and Communities (DLUHC) was signed in February 2022, which had enabled the first payments of the grant to be drawn down by the Council. A further update was provided to Executive Cabinet on 9 February 2022. Progress on delivery of the Ashton Town Centre LUF programme and public realm works was reported quarterly to the Council's Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel.

Work had commenced on the preparation of a draft proposal (Phase One) for the improvement of Market Square and the outdoor market in Ashton that would be used to shape future design proposals for the key public space in the Ashton Town Centre. The draft proposal had been costed and formulated from feedback received at the Love Ashton Event in March and from discussions with Council officers, key stakeholders and market traders.

Within the wider Ashton LUF programme grant funding of £5,300,000 had been secured associated with the former interchange site. The Council was currently finalising the acquisition of the site from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) that would be the subject of a separate report to Executive Cabinet later in 2022.

Consultation and engagement to date had identified that delivery of significant improvements to the outdoor market and Market Square in Ashton was a priority for the local community. Market Square and the market stalls continued to attract anti-social behaviour which in turn, deterred people from visiting the area, new businesses from setting up in the centre of Ashton and a general overall negative perception of the town centre.

The Council had secured funding of £19,870,000 from LUF, of which £11,200,000 was identified for public realm works in the Town Centre for delivery by 31 March 2025. As the priority area of focus was to deliver works linked to Market Square, the public realm strategy and some of the design principles were primarily focused on this area and its immediate surrounds. However, the Public Realm Strategy included proposals, strategies and design principles for the whole of the Town Centre. It would be important that Ashton Town Centre had a clear vision and plan in place in order to respond positively to future funding initiatives as and when they emerged in order to deliver the later phases of works.

The Director of Place then delivered a presentation, which gave details of the draft proposal for Phase One - Market Square/Ashton market.

Members were advised that the proposed works for Market Square would look to improve the quality of the public realm, accessibility and mobility of the square, an improved outdoor market offer including the creation of a flexible town square to incorporate a range of uses and possibilities that would enhance the area and the town as a visitor destination in its own right. The extent of adaptations and improvements to Market Square was dependent on the future ambition and provision of the outdoor market.

The total cost of the draft proposal was £10,832,846 and would include the removal of all of kiosks and market stalls and replacing them with the construction of a large canopy or a series of canopied structures (including a canopy attached to Market Hall) that would include flexible market units to meet the needs of modern market traders.

It was explained that there were a significant number of advantages of progressing the draft proposal, which included the opportunity to open up the views to heritage buildings in the square, shelter for traders and visitors from the elements, reduce the likelihood of ASB by removing the fixed stalls and providing modern market facilities. Ultimately, the clearance of the existing stalls and kiosks would enable the comprehensive redevelopment of Market Square that would deliver a much more flexible space for a multitude of uses in addition to a modern outdoor market, to enable small and larger scale events to take place. The main disadvantages of the draft proposal was that it would inevitably lead to disruption to market traders whilst the work took place. Measures would need to be put in place to ensure disruption caused to traders was minimised. Specialist consultants in market operations would be included in the multi-disciplinary team to support the practicalities and logistics when the scheme

was to be delivered. A high level breakdown of the costs for the draft proposal are included in the report. The costings would be subject to detailed design work due to commence imminently.

In terms of next steps, the Council were now seeking to undertake public consultation on Phase One of the Public Realm Strategy, which included the draft proposal for the redevelopment of Market Square using funding secured from Levelling Up Fund. It was proposed that consultation would begin week commencing at the end of October 2022/start of November for a period of 4 weeks. Briefing updates to Ashton Ward members, Ashton Town Team, a market traders group and other key stakeholders would take place before consultation commenced.

Consultation material would be available online and an event would also be held at Ashton Market Hall where the local community would be able to speak with Council officers and members of the consultant team around the emerging proposals which would be displayed on exhibition boards at various locations in the town centre. Once the consultation period had ended, comments and feedback would be collated. This would inform preparation of the final proposals for the Phase One works for Executive Cabinet approval.

Timescales for delivery of the works to Market Square were challenging and the funding agreement was clear that monies need to be spent and works completed by March 2025. This was achievable within the current delivery programme on the assumption that the phase of consultation was completed by November 2022 to enable the first stages of the detailed design stage to progress.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the work to date in preparing the proposal for Market Square and the outdoor market for Ashton Town Centre be noted, including the key findings of the consultation and engagement to date;**
- (ii) That the proposal and associated costings for the redevelopment of Market Square and the outdoor market be reviewed and noted;**
- (iii) That the undertaking of public consultation for a period of 4 weeks from the start of November 2022 on the draft proposal for Market Square redevelopment be approved, which includes the future provision of the outdoor market.**

73. TAMESIDE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND SME WORKSPACE OVERVIEW

The Executive Member, Inclusive Growth, Business and Employment / Director of Place submitted a report seeking approval for the submission of a bid by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SME Workspace E22).

RESOLVED

It be noted that a bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SME Workspace E22) has been submitted from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council for the deadline of 19 October 2022.

74. URGENT ITEMS

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

75. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

It be noted that the next meeting of the Executive Cabinet is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 23 November 2022.

CHAIR

EXECUTIVE CABINET

23 November 2022

Commenced: 1.00pm

Terminated: 1.30pm

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

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Kathy Roe	Director of Finance
Stephanie Butterworth	Director of Adult Services
Alison Stathers-Tracey	Director of Children's Services
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Debbie Watson	Director of Population Health
Caroline Barlow	Assistant Director of Finance
Lorraine Kitching	Performance, Intelligence & Scrutiny Services Manager

Apologies for absence: Councillors Jackson and Kitchen (ex officio)

76. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Cabinet Members.

77. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 26 October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

78. MINUTES OF THE 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 17 November 2022. Approval was sought of recommendations of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel arising from the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (a) The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 17 November 2022 be noted; and
- (b) That the following recommendations be approved:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME: UPDATE

That the Executive Cabinet be recommended to APPROVE:

- (i) A contribution of £120,000 from Basic Need to provide a full size artificial pitch at St Thomas More as detailed in paragraph 3.9.
- (ii) Funding of £110,000 from Basic Need to remodel two classrooms and playground fencing within Discovery Academy for pupils from Thomas Ashton School and to remodel classroom provision at Corrie Primary School to enable the Pupil Support Service step out classroom to move from Discovery Academy as detailed in paragraph 3.10.
- (iii) Additional funding of £40,000 for underfloor heating at St Johns CE from Condition Grant funding as detailed in paragraph 4.14.

- (iv) Funding of £650,000 from High Needs Provision Capital Fund be allocated to establish a 15 place resource base at Longdendale High School through a grant agreement with the Stamford Park Trust as detailed in paragraph 6.4.

ADULT SERVICES CAPITAL PLAN

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to APPROVE:

- (i) Programmes 5 to 15 contained in Section 3 of the report
(ii) to progress to full business case for Programmes 16 to 20 identified in Section 4 of the report and feedback to Executive Board for final approval.

OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS CAPITAL REPORT

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Approve the allocation of the Integrated Transport Block funding, £631,000 to road safety initiatives and £1,600,000 of the Highways Maintenance funding be added to the Highways Revenue Budget for 2022/23, as set out in section 2.2.
(ii) Approve the list of highway maintenance schemes identified in Appendix 1 that are to be funded from the Highway Maintenance Grant Allocation.

79. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group held on 16 November 2022 be noted.

80. CONSOLIDATED 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Finance, which reflected actual expenditure to 30 September 2022.

Members were advised that Tameside & Glossop CCG formally closed down on 30 June 2022, with responsibilities transferring to either Greater Manchester ICB or Derby & Derbyshire ICB. As such the scope of the report was different to that of previous months.

Reporting for TMBC and ICFT continued as usual, but the CCG position had been replaced by budgets delegated to the Tameside Locality by GM ICB. The report no longer included any health spend relating to Glossop, where commissioning responsibility was transferred to Derbyshire.

Plans for Tameside were submitted for delivery of a £595k surplus in 22/23. At Month 6 it was assumed that the plan would be delivered, which was in line with wider ICB reporting for Month 6. The plan to deliver a surplus required savings of £7.8m to be found, and whilst there was risk of achievement, it was currently expected that Tameside would be on target, however work continued to ensure that savings identified became recurrent.

As highlighted previously, the Council was facing significant and growing inflationary pressures across a number of areas, combined with demand pressures in Adults and Children's services, resulting in a significant forecast overspend by 31 March 2023 of (£8,198k). This represented a £2,919k improvement since Month 5. The movement was driven by a reduction in the level of overspend forecast on Adults and Children's services, combined with a significant forecast underspend on Population Health budgets and further additional investment income due to rising interest rates.

Ongoing demand and cost pressures on Council budgets would have implications for the 2023/24 budget and work was in progress to identify mitigations for 2022/23, whilst planning for 2023/24.

Further detail on the financial position was detailed in appendices to the report, including the latest forecast for the Collection Fund in 2022/23.

The latest position and forecast for the Dedicated Schools Grant funding and deficit position was summarised in an appendix to the report. If the 2022/23 forecasts materialised the deficit would further increase to £5.496m. A deficit recovery plan had been developed and submitted to the DfE. Discussions were continuing with the DfE and were ongoing.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;**
- (ii) That the reserve transfers set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;**
- (iii) That the budget virements set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;**
- (iv) That the forecast position on the Collection Fund, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report be noted; and**
- (v) That the current position in respect of the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit as set out in Appendix 4 to the report, be noted.**

81. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The First Deputy, Finances, Resources and Transformation / Director of Finance submitted a report providing a mid-year review of the Council's Treasury Management activities for 2022/23.

The report provided an overview of the Treasury Management activities of the organisation over the first 6 months of the year. At 30 September, the total investment balance was £131m and total long term borrowing was £141m.

The current strategy was designed to ensure that borrowing costs were kept low over the longer term, rather than subject to volatility that a high risk strategy may deliver. Where investments were involved, the policy was to ensure the security of the asset rather than pursue the highest returns available.

In summary, due to borrowing being taken up at a time of favourable interest rates, there had been a forecast saving on the Council's borrowing costs of £0.1m. The Council had been able to take advantage of rising interest rates in year and interest earned on day-to-day investments was forecast to be £1.8m against a budget of £0.3m, an over performance of £1.5m. This additional investment income could now be invested in Council activities.

RESOLVED

That the treasury activity and performance be noted.

82. CORPORATE PLAN SCORECARDS UPDATE – NOVEMBER 2022

A report was submitted by the Executive Leader/ Chief Executive providing evidence to demonstrate progress towards achievement of the Corporate Plan and improving the services provided to residents, businesses and key stakeholders within the locality.

It was explained that the Corporate Plan outcomes scorecard, (as appended to the report) followed the structure of the Corporate Plan, and contained indicators focused on long term outcomes across the plan's priorities. There were a number of proxy indicators for issues related to the pandemic which would take significantly longer to be reflected in the regular long term measures.

Members were advised that the percentage of 3 and 4 year olds in Early Years settings which had been rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in the Summer Term 2022/23 was 91.3%, up from 88.0% in the previous term in the Spring. The number of 2 year olds in funded early education, measured as a percentage of the Department for Education-set target, was 83% in the Summer term, up from

81% in Spring.

With the return of in-person school assessments following the coronavirus pandemic, educational attainment measures had begun to be reported normally for the first time since 2019. In Key Stage 2, the percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing, and mathematics had fallen from 63% in 2019 to 57% in 2022, just less than the national average of 59%. Focusing on reading in particular, however, the percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard had risen slightly from 72% in 2019 to 75%, above the national average of 74%.

In Key Stage 4, the average Attainment 8 score achieved by Tameside pupils was 45.1, down from 48 in 2019 and below the national average of 48.8. The percentage of pupils achieving grades 9 to 4, i.e. a passing grade, in their English and mathematics GCSEs was 64.9%, down from 69.4% in 2019 and below the average of 68.8% across England.

The percentage of Children's Services audits which received a rating of 'Good' or 'Outstanding' in the year to August 2022 was 34%; this was a notable improvement on the same period in 2021, where just 19% of audits received these ratings.

The percentage of Tameside's working age residents in employment across 2021/22 was 75.8%, up four percentage points from 2020/21 and fractionally higher than the national average of 75.4%. The number of Tameside residents in receipt of Universal Credit in September 2022 was 25,828, 216 more people than in September 2021. The percentage of Universal Credit recipients in Tameside in employment had also increased, climbing from 38.6% in August 2021 to 39.7% in August 2022, which remained below the national average of 41.0% across England.

Data on apprenticeship starts and completions for the 2021/22 academic year had been revised since the previous update. Figures now stated that 1,460 apprenticeships were started throughout the year in Tameside, a rate of 103.5 per 10,000 working age residents; this was higher than the national average of 82.0 per 10,000 but a fall from the previous year's rate of 112.6. The rate of apprenticeship completions had also fallen, with 29.1 achievements per 10,000 in 2021/22 compared to 60.2 the previous year. The latest year's rate equated to 410 achievements in Tameside and was higher than the national average of 25.0 per 10,000 working age residents.

The proportion of Tameside residents walking or cycling for any reason three or more times each week over the year to October 2021 was 34.3%, significantly lower than the national average of 45.6%, and a fall from the same period the previous year, when 39.0% of Tameside residents walked or cycled at least three times a week.

The rate at which Tameside residents died due to suicide, which was reported annually over a rolling three year period, had fallen on the previous year. The rate per 100,000 people in the period 2019-2021 was 7.2, compared to the national average of 10.4. The previous rate of deaths due to suicide in Tameside, for the time period from 2018-2020, was 8.3 per 100,000.

The number of food bank enquiries made to the council in September 2022 had increased by 71% since September last year, with 113 enquiries made about a food bank referral. Whilst not a comprehensive measure of food bank usage within the borough, the increase in enquiries could indicate a significant increase in demand for support with food among the borough's residents.

The number of contacts made into the adult social care system in August 2022 was 883, a 39.7% increase on the same month in 2021, when 632 contacts were made into the system.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report and scorecard be noted.

83. TAMESIDE AND STOCKPORT PARTNERSHIP REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Deputy Executive Leader, Children and Families / Director of Children's Services, which gave details of Tameside & Stockport Partnership review in light of SEND inspection outcome and education policy changes.

It was explained that, on the 24 March 2021, the Executive Cabinet agreed to a single Director of Education operating across Tameside and Stockport and that Director be the existing Assistant Director for Education at Tameside to support the exploration of how things could be done differently in education services with less money and share best practice across traditional boundaries.

Members were advised that, given the significant demand and extra pressure on the Council to reform and improve systems for children, it was essential that the previous Partnership sharing decision be revisited and all available resources and expertise be focused on the needs of children in Tameside.

Since the original decision to share services, Tameside had had a full Inspection of SEND services in November 2021, requiring the Council to commit to a formal written statement of action with ten priority areas of improvement to be addressed.

Tameside was currently remodelling the service delivery of early help and prevention, social care and 0-19 Health Services in to Family Hubs. Schools provided essential anchors in local communities, Tameside was identified as one of 75 Family Hub pilot areas, this would require the Council to reset its relationship with Early Years settings, Schools and Colleges to work better in terms of offering more effective Early Help to respond to the Family Hub funding requirements and offer a more joined up service that addressed the needs of Children before problems occurred.

OFSTED Inspected Children's Social Care and Early Help services through a Focussed Visit to the Integrated Front Door in April 22. They found that some areas of services had deteriorated since the previous monitoring report meaning that there was a significant way to go to improve the service across the Children's Directorate.

Members were further advised that Tameside and Stockport had a track record of working successfully together in Children's Services over the past four years, which continued with Stockport acting as Tameside's Partner in Practice. This would continue in parts, however with all of the additional demands and pressure to reform the system, there was no longer the capacity to share services beyond 2022 with the exception of the approach to Early Years Service in order to maximise expertise and support the well-developed concept.

RESOLVED

That the giving of notice under the service level agreement with Stockport to end the shared Director of Education arrangement resulting in Tameside's Assistant Director for Education returning to his substantive post to lead the work required by Tameside Children's Services in the context of significant changing policy and SEND Improvement work, be approved.

84. STALYBRIDGE BUS STATION STUDY

The Executive Member, Planning, Transport and Connectivity / Director of Place submitted a report seeking approval of the Stalybridge Bus Station Study which had identified the need for and options to create, improved public transport infrastructure that would provide enhanced connectivity between public transport modes and better accessibility to destinations in Stalybridge Town Centre and beyond.

It was explained that options had been developed to be complementary to the wider ambitions for the town centre and accommodate future development aspirations. The options identified within the Study focused on the relocation of the bus station, or the provision of enhanced bus infrastructure, in order to provide cost effective, sustainable and deliverable potential solutions. Whilst not an immediate

factor to be incorporated within the options identified, the aspiration was that the study should be cognisant of the potential for Metrolink services and/or tram-train operations to be extended to serve Stalybridge at some point in the future.

An objective setting workshop for the Study was held and the following objectives were adopted:

- Improve connectivity between bus and rail travel modes for public transport users.
- Improve connectivity for public transport users to key destinations within Stalybridge Town Centre.
- Support wider regeneration efforts within Stalybridge.
- Encourage greater levels of public transport and active travel usage within Stalybridge and the wider region.
- Avoid impacting (increasing) bus journey times.
- Consider provision for micro-mobility in all options.

This in turn informed the main aims of the Study as follows:

- To provide enhanced connectivity for multi-modal journeys comprising bus and rail travel;
- To provide more convenient access for public transport users to and from the key destinations within Stalybridge Town Centre;
- To support the wider regeneration of Stalybridge Town Centre;
- If possible, to enable the existing bus station site to be redeveloped for the benefit of the town centre; and,
- To encourage greater take up of public transport within Stalybridge and the surrounding area, in order to bring about benefits in terms of air quality, highway congestion, and public health.

The Study then identified a long list of options, with the intention of these options being to meet the overall aims as ascertained through the objective setting workshop. The options identified had been further categorised into three broad concept areas as follows:

- Concept 1 – the provision of a co-located bus and rail interchange facility;
- Concept 2 – the provision of a re-located bus station within the town centre; and,
- Concept 3 – the provision of a series of high-quality on-street bus stops at key points across the town centre in the place of a singular centralised bus station.

The initial option appraisal process resulted in a shortlist being identified as follows:

- Option 4 - New Bus Station to the north side of Rassbottom Street (Current Car Park);
- Option 9 - New Bus Stops utilising Parking Area to immediate North-East of Station Entrance forecourt;
- Option 10 - Enhance Existing Bus Stops on Rassbottom Street; and
- Option 12 - New Bus Stops at Key Locations in the Town Centre (Including by Station) and Redevelop Existing Bus Station.

The shortlist identified had been appraised further based on stakeholder acceptability, land ownership impact, forecast timescales for implementation and Town Centre wide impact. The process identified Option 12 - New Bus Stops at Key Locations in the Town Centre (Including by Station) and Redevelop Existing Bus Station as the highest scoring option, and therefore this had been identified as the recommended preferred option. The option was considered to be cost effective, deliverable, and was forecast to deliver tangible town-centre wide improvements to bus and rail connectivity and to bus infrastructure generally within Stalybridge. The option would also allow the existing bus station site, owned by TfGM, to be redeveloped to support wider regeneration efforts within the town centre.

In terms of next steps, Members were advised that the outputs of the study would support development of a pipeline of schemes across GM for delivery against anticipated future capital funding streams. The Council would continue to engage with TfGM to explore how the preferred option could be developed in more detail to secure funding and enable delivery. Once more work had been undertaken and there were specific proposals then these would be subject to a formal consultation process. The Council would continue to engage with the GM Station Alliance, TfGM and TransPennine Express to ensure that the outputs of the study were aligned with and considered in any emerging work for further improvements to Stalybridge rail station. The Council would also continue to engage

with TfGM to understand/influence the potential longer term delivery of new infrastructure linked to any future Metrolink or train-tram provision and the role of the rail station.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Stalybridge Bus Station Study that will guide future decisions to improve bus-rail connectivity and general bus based provision within Stalybridge Town Centre, be approved; and**
- (ii) That the next steps in relation to further work with partners, including TfGM, TransPennine Express and the GM Stations Alliance, be noted.**

85. GM STATIONS ALLIANCE

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Planning, Transport and Connectivity / Director of Place providing an update on the emerging work of Tameside Council with the Greater Manchester (GM) Stations Alliance and sought approval to progress initial feasibility work at Ashton Rail Station and continue engagement in relation to opportunities at Stalybridge Rail Station.

It was explained that in April 2019, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), formally entered into the Rail Station Alliance Framework Agreement with Network Rail, London Continental Railway (LCR), TransPennine Express and Northern Rail. The agreement established the framework for governance and operation of the Alliance, including formally setting out the Vision, Aim and Objectives.

The Council had engaged with the Alliance to understand how the group might support, establish and progress regeneration and development opportunities within Tameside. It had been identified that the Alliance could initially support Tameside with specific feasibility work for potential development at Ashton Rail Station and further engagement in relation to potential works at Stalybridge Rail Station.

The report sought approval for Tameside to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the GM Stations Alliance for initial feasibility stage work at Ashton Rail Station and surrounding land.

At Stalybridge the Council had prepared the Stalybridge West Phase 1 Masterplan which identified the potential for significant residential led mixed use development on brownfield land in the vicinity of Stalybridge Rail Station. There was now an opportunity to engage proactively with the Alliance, and specifically TfGM and TransPennine Express, to further explore how potential improvement works at the Station could support the emerging proposals for Stalybridge West and the wider regeneration of the Town Centre through improved accessibility and greater integration with other transport modes.

In addition to the emerging work at Ashton and Stalybridge, the Council would maintain regular engagement with the Alliance in respect of any opportunities that may arise in relation to the other 11 rail stations in Tameside.

In terms of next steps, Members were advised that the Council would enter into an MOU with the GM Stations Alliance for initial feasibility stage work at Ashton Rail Station and surrounding land. Once the work had been undertaken a further report would be shared recommending whether there was an opportunity to progress any options to support the wider regeneration of Ashton Town Centre.

The Council would continue to engage with the Alliance in relation to the emerging work for further improvements to Stalybridge Rail Station to ensure that this was properly aligned with the wider programme of regeneration activity for the Town Centre and any opportunities for external funding were maximised.

RESOLVED

- (i) It be approved for the Council to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the GM Stations Alliance to undertake initial feasibility work at Ashton Rail Station; and**
- (ii) That the next steps in relation to further work with the GM Stations Alliance at Stalybridge Rail Station, be noted.**

86. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Climate Emergency and Environmental Services / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, which gave details of an application received from Tameside Owners and Drivers Association to increase the maximum fares for Hackney Carriages.

It was explained that the current fares were last reviewed in March 2022. A copy of the current table of fares was appended to the report. On 16 August 2022, a request was received from the Tameside Owners & Drivers Association (TODA) for a further variation to the fare structure. The proposal included:

- Increase on all Tariffs
- Soiling charge increase from £30 to £40
- A requirement for the passenger to pay costs incurred at Manchester Airport (drop off/pick up charges).

Members were advised that there were currently 148 Hackney Carriages licensed by the Council. An informal consultation with all licensed Hackney Carriage vehicle proprietors was completed on 2 September 2022. 45 replies were received by Licensing, all supporting the variation. A summary of the comments was appended to the report. A comparison of the current and proposed tariffs was also provided, which showed the impact of the proposed changes.

Due to significant increases to the cost of fuel, many Councils across Greater Manchester and England had either recently processed, or were currently considering Hackney Carriage fare reviews.

The Speakers Panel (Licensing) considered this matter on 13 September 2022 giving their support to the fare increase proposal. Public advertisement of the application was now sought.

RESOLVED

That the public advertisement of the revised Hackney Carriage Fares be approved.

87. THE MAYOR'S CHALLENGE FUND – TRANCHE 1 (PHASE 2) PROGRESS UPDATE

The Executive Member, Planning, Transport and Connectivity / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods submitted a report providing an update on the walking and cycling schemes previously approved, in principle, as part of the Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) programme – Tranche 1 (Phase 2). The schemes were located at Rayner Lane (Droylsden), Stamford Drive (Stalybridge), Clarendon Road (Audenshaw) and Ross Lave Lane (Denton).

The purpose of the report was to obtain approval to undertake public consultation on the proposed schemes and to approve the de-prioritisation of the Ross Lave Lane, Denton scheme at this time. The decisions would ultimately support the MCF business case approval process, which if successful, would result in the approval of MCF construction funding.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the plans to undertake public consultation, for a 4-week period, on the Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) Tranche 1 (Phase 2) schemes be approved; and**
- (ii) The de-prioritisation of the development of the Ross Lave Lane scheme in Denton be approved, due to affordability within the overall MCF programme and due to technical challenges associated with agreeing a Bee Network compliant scheme with stakeholders.**

88. CONSULTATION RE: DISCHARGE OF HOMELESS DUTIES THROUGH THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Adult Social Care, Homelessness and

Inclusivity / Head of Community Safety and Homelessness explaining that tackling homelessness and reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation was a key priority for the Council's Homelessness Service. The report proposed a change in policy to increase options available to the council to house those who were at risk of homelessness.

Members were advised that Tameside MBC did not currently have a private rented sector policy and so could not currently legally discharge its main homeless duty via a suitable offer of private rented accommodation.

It was explained that, during 2019-20, 365 households were accepted as being owed a main homeless duty. For the majority of those cases, the duty would end when the household was made an offer of social housing. The shortage of social housing and existing nomination agreements, which required registered providers to provide just 30% (20% in the case of Jigsaw Homes to the Housing Register) contributed to rising numbers of people and families being accommodated in temporary accommodation.

It was, therefore, vital that the Council explored a wider range of options to increase move on opportunities. Alongside this, the development of the (non-statutory) Rough Sleeper Service in Tameside had led to closer working relations with the private rented sector and in 2021, 200 single households were offered move on accommodation in the private rented sector. The work provided an opportunity to enhance the role of the private rented sector in meeting the needs of people to whom the Council held a main homeless duty. The proposed policy would be reviewed following the consultation process, taking into account the feedback and views of those consulted.

RESOLVED

That permission be given to commence a 12 week consultation on a draft policy which would allow the Council the flexibility to seek to end the main homeless duty towards a household by the offer of suitable Private Rented Sector accommodation, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

89. URGENT ITEMS

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

90. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

It be noted that the next meeting of the Executive Cabinet is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 14 December 2022.

CHAIR

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE

1 November 2022

Commenced: 4.00pm

Terminated: 4.35pm

Present:

Mrs Lawton (Chair), Councillors McNally, Ricci and Lane

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart

Head of Paid Service

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Kitchen, Costello and S Homer
Parish Councillor Travis

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the Standards Committee meeting on the 5 April 2022 were approved as a correct record.

3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DISQUALIFICATION) ACT 2022

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought to inform the Standards Committee of the new grounds for disqualification from being elected to, or being a member of, a local authority that had been introduced by the Local Government (Disqualification) Act 2022.

The Committee was advised that The Local Government (Disqualification) Act 2022 ("the 2022 Act"), which came into force on 28 June 2022, introduced new grounds on which a person was disqualified from being elected to, or holding, certain positions in local government in England, including the position of councillor.

This new disqualification related to individuals who were subject to certain notification requirements or orders relating to sexual offences. While there was already a disqualification that applied to individuals who within five years before the day of election, or since their election, had been convicted in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man of any offence and had been sentenced to imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of not less than three months without the option of a fine, that pre-existing disqualification would not necessarily apply to individuals subject to the aforementioned notification requirements or orders.

The Committee was advised that in 2017 the Government consulted on proposals to update the disqualification criteria for councillors, London Assembly members and elected mayors to bring them into line with both modern sentencing practice and the values and high standards of behaviours the electorate had a right to expect of the elected members that represent them. In October 2018 the government issued a summary of responses to that consultation and gave a commitment to seek to legislate to ensure that the disqualification criteria would be amended to also include individuals who are subject to either the notification requirements set out in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (commonly known as 'being placed on the sex offenders register') or a Sexual Risk Order made under section 122A of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.

The 2022 Act expands the disqualification criteria beyond the offences consulted upon in 2017 to ensure that they were specific and comprehensive in disqualifying individuals subject to the relevant notification requirements or relevant orders imposed in respect of sexual offences, and included the territorial equivalents of such notification requirements and orders in the devolved nations (and the

Isle of Man and Channel Islands) in the event that someone subject to such territorial equivalents subsequently stands for elected office in England.

The disqualification introduced by the 2022 Act did not operate retrospectively. Therefore, it did not disqualify a person who became subject to any relevant notification requirements or a relevant order before the 2022 Act came into force on 28 June 2022.

Consequential changes to the rules for administering elections had also been made (either by the 2022 Act itself or under secondary legislation), including to the prescribed consent to nomination form. Candidates were now required to declare when standing that they were not disqualified under the newly inserted Section 81A of the Local Government Act 1972.

It should be noted that during any election or post-election period or during a term of office, any claim that a person was disqualified cannot be investigated by the Local Authority or the Returning Officer but was a matter for the police or an election court.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

4 ETHICAL STANDARDS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive. The report was intended to brief members on developments and news on matters of local government ethics.

It was reported that to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Committee on Standards in Public life the Committee commissioned a piece of work on the standards landscape. The report provided an overview of the standards landscape effective in the central and local government and administration of the United Kingdom (UK). It provided a snapshot of the standards regime 25 years after the establishment of the Committee on Standards in Public Life in 1994 and offered a vantage point from which to view its changing shape and form. Attached at Appendix A was a standards matters summary.

The Minister of State for the Constitution and Devolution had written to Lord Evans submitting the government's evidence to the Committee's Standards Matter 2 review. Attached to the report at Appendix B was a precis of how the government believed standards cooperated.

The Chief Executive advised the committee that Watchdog urged Levelling Up Secretary to rethink position on local government standards, citing "clear frustration" within councils at limited powers to tackle poor behaviour. The Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) had called on the Government to reconsider its position on the powers of local authorities to sanction councillors for poor behaviour.

In March this year the Government rejected a recommendation by the standards watchdog in its 2019 Local Government Ethical Standards report that local authorities should be able to suspend councillors without allowances for up to six months for breaches of the code of conduct. It was explained that the report had also recommended that councillors be given the right to appeal to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman if their local authority imposed a period of suspension. The Ombudsman would have been given the power to investigate the allegation and impose a binding decision on the council. It was further explained that the Government's formal response stated that there was no provision in current legislation for a sanction to suspend a councillor found to have breached the code of conduct.

The report set out the letter of the CSPL chair, Lord Evans to the Levelling up Secretary Simon Clarke and a letter of chair of Camden Councils Standards committee to the CSPL regarding the Government's decision.

The Committee was advised of a recent published decision, where a town council member had been found by Durham Council's Standards Committee to have brought Spennymoor Town Council into disrepute. The town council members was found to have brought the Town Council into disrepute by posting racist and Islamophobic material on social media, and in a separate complaint, was found to have bullied two town council officers in breach of the town council's Code of Conduct for members.

It was explained that there was question whether the member was acting, claiming to act or giving the impression he was acting as a representative of the town council when posts were shared between his two profiles, one which identified him as a councillor and one which he did not. It was further explained that the Member claimed he was expressing his personal opinions in a private capacity as an individual.

Discussion ensued between Members of the Committee on the outcome of this decision and situations where Members are considered to be acting as a Councillor and when views are considered private and in the capacity as an individual.

Members of the Committee were advised that a Maldon District Council member had been disqualified after being found guilty at Chelmsford Crown Court in February 2022 of breaching a non-molestation order. The member was given eight months in prison (suspended for 18 months). Section 80(1)(d) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that if a custodial sentence of three months or more was handed down, then the elected member was automatically disqualified.

The Committee was also advised of a planning meeting at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council, where the Monitoring Officer was forced to bring a planning committee to a halt mid-session after some councillors were seen to be passing a document to each other that was not part of the planning application papers before the committee.

The document was a feasibility plan showing an earlier alternative layout for a development site and dates from 2020. Once the issue was raised, the Council's Monitoring Officer immediately adjourned the meeting to investigate any procedural irregularities.

Each committee member was interviewed by the Monitoring Officer and there was no evidence that there had been any attempt to influence the committee members. During the investigation, one committee member revealed information that demonstrated that they "did not have the requisite skills and understanding of the planning process" and had been removed from the committee until further training on the planning process is provided. The Monitoring Officer concluded that the integrity of the planning process had not been undermined by the circulation of the old plan as members had not been influenced when the plan was shared. Members were instructed to disregard the document, however due to the planning committee not being able to reconvene in its original form, the application heard at the committee was struck through, and the process will start afresh, that is, the officer will repeat their presentation and the speakers will be invited to repeat their submissions to ensure the process is fair, transparent and legally sound.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report be noted.

5 PROCEDURE UNDER STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive. The Committee were asked to review the updated procedure for complaints, which particularly addressed anonymous complaints and also asked to consider a position when a standards complaint has not been concluded when a member ceases to be in office.

It was explained that a finding may not be made against a former member however there were some authorities that had decided that a complaint or investigation could be reinstated if the former member was re-elected within a certain period of time.

It was recommended therefore that the committee consider that when a member ceased to hold office the outstanding complaint, investigation or hearing did not continue unless the person was re-elected within a certain period of time after ceasing to hold office.

Members could determine the relevant period. If within that period, the person was either re-elected or co-opted to the Council, the complaint was reinstated and would be referred back to the Standards Committee for consideration. If the person was not re-elected or co-opted within that period, no further action was taken in the matter. It was noted that both the Council's complaints system and the Local Government Ombudsman did not consider complaints over 12 months except in exceptional circumstances.

In regards the Hearing Panel and its composition, Hearing Panel was a sub-committee of the Council's Standards Committee. It would comprise of at least one of the independent Members co-opted to the Standards Committee who would act as Chair and three elected Members of the Standards Committee of whom one should be a Member of the largest minority political group (if any). Where the complaint is about a Mossley Town Parish Council Member, the Hearing Panel would also include the Mossley Town Parish Council Member co-opted to the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the revised procedure for a local hearing and the composition of the Hearing Panel be confirmed; and**
- (ii) That a time period of 12 months in which a complaint should be revived if a member ceased to hold office but became re-elected, except in exceptional circumstances, be confirmed.**

6 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSON(S) TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive, which sought approval to appoint an independent person to the Audit Committee.

It was reported that the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) had recently updated its position statement on audit committees in local authorities and police bodies in England and Wales, replacing the 2018 version. The 2022 statement, which had been endorsed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and the Home Office, set out the 'purpose, model, core functions and membership of the audit committee'.

It was explained that one notable change compared to the 2018 edition was the removal of suggestions that audit committees undertake a wider role in supporting authorities, such as by reviewing treasury management arrangements or supporting the work of other committees. This addressed concerns raised in Sir Tony Redmond's 2020 Independent Review into the Oversight of Local Audit and the Transparency of Local Authority Financial Reporting about the broad role of some local authority audit committees distracting them from their core financial oversight role and potentially created conflicts of interest.

The Redmond Review also recommended that local authorities appoint at least one independent member to audit committees to ensure they had the necessary expertise to carry out their role effectively. As a result, the Department instead asked CIPFA to develop strengthened guidance.

The revised position statement built on the previous statement, which suggested committees should have at least one independent member, to include an explicit statement that "CIPFA recommends that each authority audit committee should include at least two co-opted independent members".

Tameside needed its Audit committee to be a fundamental cornerstone of the Authority's corporate governance framework. CIPFA's updated audit committee position statement focuses the remit of the audit committee to ensure that their core role of oversight of governance and accountability was protected. It would also ensure that audit committees were able to access the expertise they

needed to carry out their role effectively through the introduction of the requirement to include at least two co-opted independent members who complement the knowledge and experience of existing members.

RESOLVED

That the appointment of two independent persons to the Audit committee for a period of two years be approved.

7. DISCUSSION PERIOD FOR MEMBERS TO RAISE ISSUES (IF ANY)

No items were raised during the discussion period.

8. REGISTER OF INTERESTS AND GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

Members were advised that the Register of Interests and Register of Gifts and Hospitality were available online for inspection.

9. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR

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OVERVIEW PANEL

21 November 2022

Commenced: 14:00

Terminated: 14:20

Present: Councillors Naylor, M Smith, N Sharif, T Sharif, Cooney, Fairfoull, North and Billington

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Caroline Barlow	Assistant Director of Finance
Paul Radcliffe	Policy and Strategy Lead
Tom Hoghton	Policy & Strategy Service Manager

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Cartey, Kitchen and Ryan

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the Overview Panel meeting on the 26 September 2022 were approved as a correct record.

17. SCRUTINY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive. The report provided a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's Scrutiny Panels for September to November 2022.

It was reported that on the 20 September 2022 the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel met with the Executive Member for Town Centres, Communities, Corporate Land & Community Assets and the Assistant Director for Development and Housing. The Panel received a strategic overview and proposals on the next steps for Tameside town centres and regeneration. On the 1 November 2022, the Panel met with the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity and the Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods to receive an update on past scrutiny activity and recommendations on Homelessness and Housing. In addition, the Panel receives a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to the First Deputy for finance, Resources and Transformation in response to the mid-year budget update sessions held on 3 October 2022.

On the 21 September 2022 the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel met with the Executive Member for Education & Achievement and the Director of Education to receive a response to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Focus Report 'Out of School, out of sight? Ensuring children out of school get a good education', published 2022. Further, the Panel met with the Assistant Director of Children's Social Care self-evaluation (SEF). On the 2 November 2022 the Panel met with the Assistant Director of Children's Social Care, Head of Service for Cares for Children, Head of Commissioning to receive an update on placement strategy and capacity across in-house and external provision, including fostering recruitment. The Panel also received a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to the First Deputy for Finance, Resources and Transformation for information. The letter was in response to the mid-year budget update sessions, which were held on 3 October 2022.

Members were advised that the Head and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on the 22 September 2022 met with Population Health to receive an overview of strategic priorities for local health outcomes and inequalities, considering aspects of rising cost of living and poverty, future priorities

and work streams. On the 3 November 2022, the Panel met with the Chief Executive of Tameside & Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, to receive an update on health system recovery, winter pressures and locality plans, including the planning and delivery of neighbourhood and community health care. The Panel also received a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to the First Deputy for Finance, Resources and Transformation for information. The letter was in response to the mid-year budget update sessions, which were held on 3 October 2022.

It was reported that Mid-year budget update sessions for all Scrutiny members took place on 3 October 2022. The update was provided by Councillor Jacqueline North, First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation); and Caroline Barlow, Assistant Director of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer).

The Executive had received a formal response of the Scrutiny Chairs, capturing a range of points and highlighting any concerns and specific areas for consideration in supporting the Council's ongoing work in this area. The response letter was tabled in a separate report to Overview Panel on 21 November 2022.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

18. SCRUTINY MID-YEAR BUDGET UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel / Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel / Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Panel / Chief Executive. The report provided a summary and feedback based on the recent scrutiny engagement on the mid-year budget position for 2022/23 and future planning.

It was reported that all Scrutiny Panel members were provided with an opportunity to attend one of two mid-year budget update sessions delivered on 3 October 2022. This year the invitation included all non-executive members of Overview Panel. The sessions enabled members to seek assurance on the Council's approach to managing and mitigating budget pressures, known risks and future uncertainty. A response letter of the Scrutiny Chairs to the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation), could be viewed in the attached Appendix 1.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

19. SOCIOECONOMIC DUTY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Education, Achievement and Equalities / Assistant Director, People and Workforce Development, which set out the local and national context, policy recommendations, case studies, key terms and other considerations in adopting the socioeconomic duty in Tameside, in line with work taking place in other local authorities in Greater Manchester and across England..

It was explained that, in recent years the rise of poverty had emerged as a major policy issue. This has made adopting the socioeconomic duty and other anti-poverty measures a matter of urgency. Local and National statistics were provided in an appendix to the report and key issues for consideration was detailed as follows:

- Tameside had the 5th best male Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy in Greater Manchester, but the 9th best female Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy. Life Expectancy (at birth) in Tameside was 77.57 years for men and 80.7 years for women, while Healthy Life Expectancy (at birth) was 61.9 years for men but only 58.3 years for women.
- In the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Tameside was ranked as the 28th most deprived of 317 Local Authority districts in England, and the 5th most deprived local authority in GM.

Within Tameside, 11 of the borough's 141 lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) are also within the most deprived 5% of such areas nationally.

- The Trussell Trust end of year data for 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 showed that their foodbanks in Tameside had given out the 4th most parcels in GM. This equated to 11.1% of their total food parcels for Greater Manchester, 10.6% of their parcels for adults in GM, and 12% of their parcels for children in GM.
- According to the Resolution Foundation, the real incomes of the poorest quarter of households nationally were set to drop by 6% in 2022/23, putting an extra 1.3 million people, including 500,000 children, into absolute poverty. This would be the first recorded incident of a rise in absolute poverty in Britain outside of a recession.

Members were advised that, whilst the precise details of implementation of the socioeconomic duty could vary, research by a number of organisations had identified key practical steps in all cases.

Short-Term Recommendations - Simple measures that could be implemented quickly.

1. Identify Senior Members and Officers to take on the role of "Designated Leads" of the Socioeconomic Duty;
2. Integrate Socioeconomic Disadvantage into Equality Impact Assessments using appropriate proxy indicators and review processes; and
3. Consolidate existing poverty-related data held by the Council and partners.

Long-Term Recommendations – More involved measures that would require an element of discretion.

4. Develop internal guidance and training for officers to consider how they could meet the Socioeconomic Duty at a service delivery level, on a day-to-day basis, outside of formal Equality Impact Assessments;
5. Collaborate with residents, civil society and voluntary and community sector organisations to build awareness and understanding of the Socioeconomic Duty and people's lived experience of socioeconomic disadvantage;
6. Embed accountability for the implementation of the Socioeconomic Duty through monitoring, evaluation, and sharing of best practice; and
7. Deliver the Living Wage for all council staff and contracted employees, and introduce mechanisms to promote uptake of the Living Wage among other local employers.

Successfully implementing the socioeconomic duty in Tameside would deliver a number of benefits, including but not limited to:

- Reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socioeconomic disadvantage;
- Supporting coordination and partnership working, both within the Council between service areas and externally with partners in the public, private, community and voluntary sectors;
- Raising awareness of existing socioeconomic inequalities in Tameside within the Council and among our partners;
- Securing a widespread commitment from council services to consider their impact on local socioeconomic inequalities while carrying out their day-to-day functions;
- Actively encouraging the participation of low-income residents in decisions that affect them, especially in the context of any proposed cuts or changes to services;
- Achieving greater consistency in practice in both the short-term and in the long-term across political administrations and turnover of staff;
- More rigorous and systematic approaches to Equality Impact Assessments and general assessments of policy and practice;
- Strengthening data gathering and analysis practices, especially in the context of Equality Impact Assessments, thereby strengthening the council's evidence base and accountability to residents and partners; and
- Supporting the effective and efficient allocation of limited resources in medium and long-term planning.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

20. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR

DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP

29 November 2022

Commenced: 4.00pm

Terminated: 4.25pm

Present: Councillors Cooney (In the Chair), Costello, Feeley, Kitchen, North, Ward and Warrington.

Apologies for Councillors Fairfoull, McNally and Ryan.
Absence

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 26 September 2022 be approved as a correct record.

7. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING STATIONS

Members considered a report of the Chief Executive/Returning Officer, which advised Members that following the Council meeting on 4 October 2022 a period of consultation had taken place on the statutory review of polling districts and polling stations. It was explained that the review had been brought forward so that changes could be agreed at Council on 6 December 2022. The review focused on the implications of the Local Government Boundary Review and the new ward boundaries that would be used for the May 2023 Borough Council and subsequent elections. The report summarised the outcome of the consultation

Following the meeting of Council in October Ward Councillors were provided with data and options for their wards and asked to comment on options either directly or at a meeting. In most cases there were limited changes solely to reflect changes in ward boundaries for following the Boundary Commission Review.

Particular areas requiring further input from the Working Group were identified as:

Dukinfield Ward – whether to have a polling station at Itrain or to have a mobile on/or near the site of the former polling station at Old Hall Chapel (which was no longer usable);

Stalybridge South Ward – whether to include those electors who were previously part of the Longendale Ward in the existing STSTH4 (voting at Stalyhill Primary School) or to create a new polling district for the 400 electors.

RECOMMENDED:

That Council agree the following changes to Polling Districts and Polling Stations to be implemented for use in the new register of electors and for elections after 6 December 2022:

Ashton Hurst

(i) **That HURST3 polling district be expanded to account for the new ward boundary and that HURST4 polling district be reduced to account for ward boundary change.**

Ashton St Michael's

(ii) **That the polling districts remain the same other than to reflect new ward boundaries**

(iii) **That Albion Church be used as the polling station for STMIC3 polling district**

Ashton Waterloo

(iv) **That the boundary between polling districts WAT3 and WAT2 be amended to incorporate part of Newmarket Road that was an anomaly and would be better served**

by Waterloo Primary School in WAT2 polling district. The WAT3 polling district to be split as it was too large, with an additional polling station at Richmond Leisure Centre.

Audenshaw

- (v) That the size of polling district AUD5 be increased to account for the new Ward Boundary and the size of polling district AUD2 be decreased to account for the new Ward Boundary.

Denton North East

- (vi) That polling district DENNE2 be increased in size to account for the new Ward Boundary, and the size of polling district DENNE4 be decreased to account for the new Ward Boundary

Denton South

- (vii) That Denton South polling district DENS1 be increased to account for the new Ward Boundary.

Denton West

- (viii) That polling district DENW1 be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary.

Droylsden East

- (ix) That polling district DROYE4 be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary.

Droylsden West

- (x) That polling district DROYW1 be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary.

Dukinfield/Stalybridge

- (xi) That polling district DU/ST3 be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary.

Dukinfield

- (xii) That the number of polling districts in Dukinfield Ward be increased from 4 to 5 with a mobile polling station on the site of Old Hall Chapel replacing the existing polling station and the addition of a polling station at Jigsaw Hub on Wellington Parade with polling district boundaries being redrawn to ensure that electors were able to vote at most convenient polling station.

Hyde Godley

- (xiii) That the polling district known as NEW3 be renamed GOD2 and the rural area of GOD2 be moved into GOD3 and GOD3 be redrawn to reflect small boundary changes with Hyde Werneth Ward.
- (xiv) That the small number of electors who used to vote at Hyde Flowery Centre but are now part of Hyde Godley ward be allocated to GOD2 with polling station at St Paul's RC Primary School.

Hyde Newton

- (xv) That polling district NEW2 be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary, keeping the remaining polling district boundaries the same apart from the minor changes suggested by Ward Members and making no changes to the polling stations within the Ward. The district currently referred to as NEW5 to become NEW3.

Hyde Werneth

- (xvi) That WER4 polling district be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary taking on the Kingston area, keeping the remaining polling district boundaries the same apart from the minor changes suggested to correct the anomalies in WER5.

Longdendale

- (xvii) That the new area from moved from Hyde Godley be a new polling district named

LDALE7, other than those properties identified as more conveniently voting at Ken Ward Centre, these properties to be moved to LDALE2 polling district. LDALE3, 4 and 5 to be adjusted in line with the new ward boundary. Also, subject to discussions with the school proposed to replace Hollingworth Community Centre with the Children's Centre at Hollingworth Primary.

Mossley

(xviii) That no changes be made.

Stalybridge North

(xix) That the boundaries around STNTH5 be redrawn to reflect the Ward Boundary changes. To change the polling station from Buckton Vale Primary School to Buckton Vale Bowls Pavilion.

Stalybridge South

(xx) That St Paul's Church replace St Paul's Primary School as polling station for STSTH3, and those electors previously part of Longendale Ward form a new polling district and a suitable polling station for the polling district be identified

8. REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENT FOR SELECTION OF CIVIC MAYOR

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive, which sought Members views on reviewing the arrangements for the selection of the Civic Mayor which was last reviewed in 2022. Members agree that the method of identifying the Civic Mayor for future years should be reviewed by the Chair of Council Business and Chief Executive and that the views of all Members be sought during the review with a view to submitting options and proposals to a future meeting of the Working Group prior to consideration by Council. Reference was made to the different methods that were used at other Greater Manchester Councils that including length of service and political balance in calculations.


RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Chair of Council Business and Chief Executive undertake a review of the method of identifying future Civic Mayors;**
- (ii) That the views of all Elected Members be sought during the review; and**
- (iii) That a report on the outcome of the review be submitted to a future meeting of the Working Group prior to consideration at full Council.**

CHAIR

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Report to:	COUNCIL
Date:	6 December 2022
Executive Member:	Councillor Denise Ward, Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Environmental Services
Reporting Officer:	Emma Varnam, Assistant Director of Operations & Neighbourhoods
Subject:	ESTABLISHMENT OF ENFORCEMENT CO-ORDINATION PANEL
Report Summary:	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Propose the establishment of an Enforcement Co-ordination Panel.• Propose the terms of reference for the Panel.
Recommendations:	<p>That the Council be recommended to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The re-establishment of the Enforcement Panel.• The terms of reference for Enforcement Panel as set out in APPENDIX 1 to this report.
Corporate Plan:	<p>The proposals contained in this report will support the delivery of the Corporate Plan by;</p> <p>Helping to provide a sustainable environment.</p> <p>By nurturing our communities.</p> <p>Helping people to live longer and healthier lives with good mental health.</p>
Policy Implications:	Any policies relating to enforcement will be a matter for the council to consider.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)	There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. All expenditure relating to enforcement activity is financed via the annual revenue budget of the Council. Any resultant charges levied for non-compliance are set out in the fees and charges schedule within the Council's annual budget report.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	This panel will provide valuable overview and scrutiny across the range of enforcement activity across the council to help drive improvements and efficiencies especially in relation to the range of statutory enforcement activity.
Risk Management:	The establishment of the Enforcement Panel will enable the council to have oversight of the Councils enforcement activity.
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Sharon Smith, Head of Public Protection

 Telephone: 0161 342 2277

 e-mail: sharon.smith@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose that the Council establish an Enforcement Co-ordination Panel and agree to the terms of reference for the meetings as set out at **Appendix 1**.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council's Enforcement Co-ordination Panel previously met quarterly until 17 April 2019 when it was disbanded. Enforcement is a priority for the Council and the re-establishment of the panel will enable the Council to receive regular updates on the Enforcement activity across the relevant service areas.
- 2.2 The Council has a wide range of enforcement responsibilities and statutory functions primarily in the following areas:
- Food Safety & Food Standards
 - Health & Safety
 - Public Health
 - Animal Health & Welfare
 - Licensing
 - Parking Enforcement
 - Environmental Enforcement
 - Waste Enforcement
 - Environmental Protection
 - Housing
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Planning Enforcement
 - Building Control Enforcement

3. ENFORCEMENT PANEL ARRANGMENTS

- 3.1 The purpose of the Panel is to receive reports on enforcement activity from across the Council and ensure there is a co-ordinated approach across service areas and with partners to tackling the issues presented.

4. MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

- 4.1 The Panel will have a minimum of six Members to include the Assistant Executive Member with responsibility for enforcement matters, the Chairs of the Neighbourhood Forums and one opposition councillor (to reflect political balance on the Council). The Panel will be chaired by the elected member who has the responsibility for enforcement. The Quorum for the Panel shall be three elected members.
- 4.2 The Panel will be supported by Heads of Service and Managers from Public Protection, Planning, Building Control and Community Safety.
- 4.3 Democratic Services will facilitate the meetings and a legal representative will also be in attendance.
- 4.4 As an internal Working Group the Enforcement Co-ordination Panel will be held in private, where necessary decisions will be considered through the Council's formal decision-making process.

5. COMMUNICATION

- 5.1 A representative from the Council's communications team will attend the meetings and will ensure any enforcement activity that can go in the public domain and is not still under investigation or may prejudice any legal action is reported on in a timely manner.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

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APPENDIX 1

TERMS OF REFERENCE TAMESIDE COUNCIL ENFORCEMENT CO-ORDINATION PANEL

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The main purpose of the Enforcement Co-ordination Panel is to:

- Provide overview, assurance and scrutiny of the wide range of enforcement activity undertaken across the Council by receiving reports from service areas in scope.
- Promote the enforcement activities of the Council enforcement services throughout the borough.
- Provide cohesion of the Council's enforcement bodies.
- Promote integrated provision and joined up planning across a range of enforcement activities with wider service providers such as Greater Manchester Police.
- Deliver on the strategic priorities including increasing enforcement across the Borough.

2. SCOPE

2.1 The group will consider a range of enforcement activity and statutory functions that are undertaken across the Borough of Tameside. Topics that are within the scope of the group are, but are not restricted to include:

- Food Safety & Food Standards
- Health & Safety
- Public Health
- Animal Health & Welfare
- Licensing
- Parking Enforcement
- Environmental Enforcement
- Waste Enforcement
- Environmental Protection
- Housing
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Planning Enforcement
- Building Control Enforcement

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Core Membership:

A minimum of six Elected Members to include:

- Assistant Executive Member with responsibility for Enforcement (Chair);
- Chairs of Neighbourhood Forums;
- One Opposition Councillor (to reflect political balance on the Council)

3.2 Quorum

The quorum of the Panel shall be three Elected Members

3.3 The Panel will be supported by:

- Head of Public Protection
- Head of Community Safety
- Head of Planning
- Head of Legal Services
- Service Unit Managers responsible for enforcement activity across the council.
- Democratic Services

4. KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 The key responsibilities of the panel are:

- (i) To receive an overview of the enforcement activity that is being undertaken across a range of services within the Council.
- (ii) To direct and scrutinise the enforcement activity of service areas in line with statutory requirements and council priorities.
- (iii) To provide assurance to the Council of the adequacy of the enforcement action being taken in the borough of Tameside.
- (iv) To highlight concerns to the panel about significant issues that may require more targeted enforcement activity.

5. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Meetings will be held quarterly and in person.

5.2 Agenda items will include reports of the previous quarter's enforcement activity and any additional reports at the request of the panel.

5.3 The Agenda will be set and circulated ahead of the meeting and minutes will be taken by a member of Democratic Services.

5.4 Minutes of the meetings will be provided to Elected Members for information.

Report to: COUNCIL

Date: 6 December 2022

Executive Member: Councillor Gerald P. Cooney Executive Leader

Reporting Officer: Julian Jackson – Director of Place

Subject: **AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION RELATING TO STRATEGIC PLANNING & CAPITAL MONITORING**

Report Summary: Council Constitution Part 2 - Articles of the Constitution Article 9 - Speakers Panel (Planning) state at 9.1 Regulatory and Non Executive Functions 1. – *“The Council will appoint the Speakers Panel (Planning) to discharge its quasi-judicial and regulatory functions, as set out in Schedule 1 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000. These include functions relating to Town and Country Planning and development control (strategic planning matters are within the terms of reference of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel).”*

Part 3a - Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation 11. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL 1. Terms of Reference The Strategic Planning and Capital Project Monitoring Panel shall have delegated powers to deal with the following:-

Within the framework of Council Policy, and having regard to the Development Plan, Local Development Documents, other planning guidance and development briefs approved by the Council, the Panel shall exercise the Council's functions relating to town & country planning & development control, the protection of important hedgerows, the preservation of trees and the regulation of high hedges set out in the Local Authorities (Functions & Responsibilities)(England) Regulations 2000 (as amended). Most of these functions are delegated to the Speakers (Planning) committee and then onwards to the Director or Head of Planning but the following are reserved to the Strategic Planning and Capital Project Monitoring Panel 1. applications for Large Scale Major Development, defined from time to time by Department for Communities and Local Government. Currently this includes residential developments of 200 dwellings or more, or 4 ha or more and 10,000 square metres or more, or 2 ha or more of retail, commercial or industrial or other floorspace. 2. Smaller scale major applications contrary to Development Plan Policy; 3. All significant applications which would depart from Green Belt policy shall be referred to the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel for determination. ‘Significant’ will be defined by the Executive Leader and Chief Executive or their nominees;

There are a number of applications that whilst falling within the delegated authority for determination by the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel, the Executive Leader as Chair of Strategic Planning & Capital Monitoring is of the view they would be more expediently dealt with by Speakers Panel and therefore would like the delegated discretion to refer such matters in consultation with the Chair of Speakers Panel Planning and the Director of Place.

Recommendations:	It be RECOMMENDED to Council that the Constitution is amended so that the Executive Leader in consultation with the Chair of Council's Speakers Panel (Planning) and the Director of Place can at their absolute discretion refer such matters as would ordinarily fall within the delegation and scope of Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel to Speakers Panel where considered expedient to do so.
Corporate Plan:	Accepting the recommendation will enable the council to meet it's requirements in respect of a flexible approach to meeting the need to provide modern infrastructure and create a sustainable environment.
Policy Implications:	In line with the constitution.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)	There are no additional financial implications as a consequence of Speakers Panel considering the application as opposed to Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Head of Legal)	The constitution sets out how the Council has delegated its functions and the Council has the authority to make alternative delegations
Risk Management:	To avoid legal challenge and ensure openness and transparency of decision making.
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Melanie Hale, Head of Planning



Telephone: 0161 342 2191



e-mail: melanie.hale@tameside.gov.uk

HEAD OF PAID SERVICE APPPOINTMENT PANEL

28 November 2022

Present : Councillor Cooney (In the Chair)

Councillors Choksi, Costello, Dickinson, Fairfoull, Feeley, North, Sweeton, Taylor, Walsh, Ward and Wills.

Apologies for Councillors Jackson and Kitchen (ex-officio)

Absence:

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted to this meeting.

2. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, because disclosure of the personal information contained in the report would be in breach of the Data Protection principles.

3. HEAD OF PAID SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

Members considered a report of the Executive Leader/Assistant Director (People and Workforce Development) which outlined the interim arrangements that had been in place since the resignation of the former Chief Executive on 7 June 2022 and set out proposals for the appointment on a permanent basis.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That Sandra Stewart be appointed to the statutory role of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) on a permanent basis to be paid at the relevant salary scale, currently £184,767 (subject to the current pay award outcome).
- (ii) That Sandra Stewart continue in her role as Director of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund
- (iii) That Sandra Stewart be permanently appointed as Electoral Registration Officer for any constituency, or part of a constituency coterminous with, or contained in Tameside Metropolitan Borough and Returning Officer for Local, Parliamentary and other elections/referenda.
- (iv) That the role of Place Based Lead as determined by the GM NHS ICB continue to be held by the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service)
- (v) That arrangements for appointment to key statutory roles Monitoring Officer, along with a review of senior leadership roles, along with an independent salary review be undertaken in January 2023.

CHAIR

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