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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
Ask for	Robert Landon
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Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend an **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council to be held on **Tuesday, 23rd May, 2023 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.	ELECTION OF CIVIC MAYOR To consider the appointment of the Civic Mayor for the Municipal Year 2023/24. This is a statutory requirement to consider this matter first but it is intended to defer this matter until 6.00pm for the ceremonial part of this meeting.	
2.	APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF COUNCIL BUSINESS To appoint the Chair of Council Business for the Municipal Year 2023/24.	
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest from Members of the Council.	
4.	ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS To receive a report of the Returning Officer detailing the persons elected to the office of Councillor for the Wards of the Borough.	1 - 4
5.	COUNCIL MINUTES The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Council on 28 February 2023 to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair of Council Business (or other person presiding) (Minutes attached).	5 - 12
6.	APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE LEADER To appoint the Executive Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2023/24.	
7.	APPOINTMENTS OF EXECUTIVE CABINET, PANELS, THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE, OUTSIDE BODIES AND OPPOSITION SPOKESPERSONS To consider and approve the appointment of the persons nominated to serve on the above for the Municipal Year 2023/24.	13 - 20
8.	CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023/24 To agree the calendar of meetings for the Municipal Year 2023/24.	21 - 26
9.	EXECUTIVE CABINET MEETING To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 29 March 2023 and 26 April 2023.	27 - 52
10.	ALLOWANCE FOR GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERS To consider a report of the Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service.	53 - 84

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. ELECTION OF CIVIC MAYOR

To elect a Member of the Council as Civic Mayor of Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council for the 2023/24 Municipal Year (see item 1 above).

12. ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

To consider the appointment of the Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

13. TO ACCORD A VOTE OF THANKS TO THE RETIRING CIVIC MAYOR AND MAYORESS

14. PRESENTATION OF MEDALLION TO THE RETIRING CIVIC MAYOR

15. RESPONSE OF RETIRING CIVIC MAYOR

16. 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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Agenda Item 4

Report To:	COUNCIL
Date:	23 May 2023
Reporting Officer:	Sandra Stewart – Chief Executive and Returning Officer
Subject:	ELECTION OF COUNCILLORS
Report Summary:	To receive notification from the Chief Executive, the Returning Officer for the Local Elections held on 4 May 2023, as to which persons were elected in accordance with the Representation of the People Acts to hold the Office of Councillor for the Wards within Tameside Borough Council.
Recommendations:	That the report is noted.
Links to Community Strategy:	The Constitution and democratic framework provides an effective framework for implementing the Community Strategy.
Policy Implications:	There are no policy implications.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	There are no additional budgetary implications.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	Complies with the Representation of the People Acts.
Risk Management:	Publication of the outcome of the Elections ensures compliance with the Representation of the People Acts and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Access to Information	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Robert Landon, Head of Democratic Services by:  phone: 0161 342 2146  e-mail: Robert.landon@tameside.gov.uk

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL – 23 MAY 2023

TAMESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER ON THE PERSONS ELECTED TO THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR FOR THE WARDS INDICATED BELOW

The following persons, at the elections held on 4 May 2023, were elected to the Office of Councillor for the Wards respectively indicated, to hold office for the period as set out below.

WARD	NAME AND PARTY OF COUNCILLOR ELECTED (PERIOD OF OFFICE)
ASHTON HURST	Mike Glover (Labour) (4 years)
	Dan Costello (Conservative) (3 years)
	Mohammed Karim (Labour) (1 year)
ASHTON ST. MICHAEL'S	Andrew McLaren (Labour) (4 years)
	Bill Fairfoull (Labour) (3 years)
	Jean Drennan (Labour) (1 year)
ASHTON WATERLOO	Vimal Choksi (Labour) (4 years)
	Dave Howarth (Labour) (3 years)
	Sangita Patel (Labour) (1 year)
AUDENSHAW	Charlotte Martin (Labour) (4 years)
	Nick Axford (Labour) (3 years)
	Teresa Ann Smith (Labour) (1 year)
DENTON NORTH EAST	Alison Gwynne (Labour) (4 years)
	Denise Ward (Labour) (3 years)
	Vincent Ricci (Labour) (1 year)
DENTON SOUTH	George Newton (Labour) (4 years)
	Clair Reid (Labour) (3 years)
	Jack Naylor (Labour) (1 year)
DENTON WEST	George Jones (Labour) (4 years)
	Brenda Warrington (Labour) (3 years)
	Mike Smith (Labour) (1 year)
DROYLSDEN EAST	David Mills (Labour) (4 years)
	Susan Quinn (Labour) (3 years)
	Laura Boyle (Labour) (1 years)
DROYLSDEN WEST	Gerald Cooney (Labour) (4 years)
	Ann Holland (Labour) (3 years)
	Barrie Holland (Labour) (1 year)
DUKINFIELD	Jackie Lane (Labour) (4 years)
	John Taylor (Labour) (3 years)
	Naila Sharif (Labour) (1 year)

DUKINFIELD/STALYBRIDGE	Leanne Feeley (Labour) (4 years)
	David Sweeton (Labour) (3 years)
	Eleanor Wills (Labour) (1 year)
HYDE GODLEY	Joe Kitchen (Labour) (4 years)
	Betty Affleck (Labour) (3 years)
	Andrea Colbourne (Conservative) (1 year)
HYDE NEWTON	Helen Bowden (Labour) (4 years)
	Peter Robinson (Labour) (3 years)
	Hugh Roderick (Labour) (1 year)
HYDE WERNETH	Phil Chadwick (Conservative) (4 years)
	Shibley Alam (Labour) (3 years)
	Jim Fitzpatrick (Labour) (1 year)
LONGDENDALE	Jacqueline North (Labour) (4 years)
	Gary Ferguson (Labour) (3 years)
	Jacqueline Owen (Labour) (1 year)
MOSSLEY	Jack Homer (Labour) (4 years)
	Taf Sharif (Labour) (3 years)
	Steve Homer (Labour) (1 year)
ST PETERS	Joyce Bowerman (Labour) (4 years)
	Warren Bray (Labour) (3 years)
	David McNally (Labour) (1 year)
STALYBRIDGE NORTH	Christine Beardmore (Labour) (4 years)
	Adrian Pearce (Labour) (3 years)
	Jan Jackson (Labour) (1 year)
STALYBRIDGE SOUTH	Doreen Dickinson (Conservative) (4 years)
	Liam Billington (Conservative) (3 years)
	David Tilbrook (Conservative) (1 year)

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COUNCIL

28 February 2023

Commenced: 5.00pm

Terminated: 6:30pm

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Cartey, Gosling, Martin, Mills, Turner and Wills.

67. MINUTES

RESOLVED

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 6 December 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

DISPENSATION Item 8 – Council Budget 2023/24		
Councillors: Affleck, Alam, Billington, Bowden, Bowerman, Boyle, Bray, Chadwick, Choksi, Colbourne, Cooney, Cooper, Costello, Dickinson, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, Glover, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, J Homer, S Homer, Huntbach, Jackson, Jones, Kitchen, Lane, McNally, Naylor, Newton, North, Owen, Patel, Patrick, Pearce, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Robinson, Roderick, Ryan, T Sharif, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, Ward, Warrington and Welsh	Prejudicial – Section 33(2)(a) of the Localism Act 2011 – that without the dispensation the number of Members prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business.	Beneficial interest in property in Tameside, namely residence.

69. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor began by paying tribute to Lord Pendry, former Member of Parliament for Stalybridge and Hyde who passed away at the age of 88 on 26 February 2023. Lord Pendry had first been elected as Member of Parliament for the constituency in 1970 and went on to serve for 31 years. In that time he served as a shadow and government minister and went on to become the constituency's longest serving MP.

It was highlighted that Lord Pendry's chief love had been sport, having been an amateur boxer, keen football fan and president of the Football Foundation, helping clubs at all levels including Hyde United and Stalybridge Celtic in the borough.

The Mayor extended his deepest sympathies and those of the Council to Lord Pendry's children and his wider family. A minute's silence was observed in his memory.

Following the first anniversary of Vladimir Putin's illegal and brutal attack on Ukraine, the Mayor had led the borough in observing the national one-minute's silence to reflect on what had happened over the last year. He paid tribute to the courage of the Ukrainian people who had suffered grievously as they fought to repel the Russian invasion.

The Mayor had been delighted to welcome Steve and Jacky Gooderson into the Mayor's Parlour, to thank them for raising £200,000 to find homes in the borough for 40 Ukrainian refugees.

Reflecting on a busy few months, including the festive period, the Mayor informed Council that he had attended a number of events, including:

- The Ukrainian Christmas concert;
- The civic carol service at St Michael's Church in Ashton-under-Lyne;
- The borough's Christmas light switch on events;
- The Willow Wood Hospice garden of a thousand lights; and
- Parties and lunches organised by Hattersley Hub.

Other events attended by the Mayor included the Alex Williams Charity Concert; a British Empire Medal investiture ceremony at Gorton Monastery, and birthday celebrations for Ivy Axon, who had reached the age of 104.

It was announced that, Chris Ashworth, Stamford Park Trust Estates Manager, was the borough's lone recipient in the King's New Year Honours. He was awarded the British Empire Medal for his dedicated work at Ashton Sixth Form College during the covid lockdowns.

In addition, the Mayor had attended Arts Award presentations; a graduation ceremony at Tameside College; the opening of the new library at Great Academy, Ashton; the Armchair Adventure Installation Extravaganza at Stalybridge Civic Hall; and a junior mayor assembly at Greenfield Academy, Hyde.

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day in January, the Mayor had visited the thought-provoking Anne Frank Art Installation created by the borough's six special schools in collaboration with the Council's arts team.

In the weeks before Christmas, the Mayor had joined his fellow Greater Manchester mayors at the National Football Museum in Manchester where they met an array of Lionesses, both past and present, at a women's football reception. The event was linked to the 'Crossing the Line' exhibition and England's success in winning last summer's Euro 2022 football championships.

The Mayor concluded by thanking those who had continued to support him in his role, including the Mayoress, the Deputy Mayor, the Mayor's Office and Members.

70. COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader began by outlining the Council's plans and priorities for the new financial year to deliver for Tameside in 2023 and beyond. This included making good on a pledge to improve financial support for social care workers. It would be supplemented with a new Carer's Strategy for Tameside, ensuring that the Borough's many unpaid and informal carers were respected and included in any decision that affected them going forward.

It was highlighted that the Cost of Living Crisis was one of the most pressing issues that many individuals faced and the Executive Leader resolved to build on the already excellent work undertaken in Tameside to expand the ways in which residents could access support. This included face-to-face access points, refreshing the Council's website, expanding borough-wide free Wi-Fi and the helping hand schemes.

Early next month the Council would deliver its new comprehensive Tackling Poverty in Tameside Strategy, detailing how the authority in cooperation with its partners through the local Health and Wellbeing Board, would fight poverty, including its causes, in the years to come. As part of this, the Executive Leader explained that the Council would make the case to ministers and civil servants for

rolling back legislation that was unjust, damaging to residents and the country as a whole. This included permanently ending no-fault evictions; reinstating the £20 top-up of Universal Credit; abolishing the bedroom tax; the two-child limit for Child Benefit; and the benefit cap.

Concerning Children's Services, the Executive Leader informed Council that through collaboration with Ofsted and partners, the Council was proceeding with its agreed improvement plan. This included the delivery of Family Hubs and the Best Start for Life programme in each of the borough's four neighbourhoods. Early Intervention for young people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND) would be addressed through a new Adolescent Hub and the establishment of a new SEND school based at Hawthorns.

The Executive Leader outlined the Council's ambition to develop the Borough's town centres and wider public realm. The plans included the redevelopment of Ashton Town Hall; Ashton market square; Ashton Moss, St Peters Fields, the mayoral development zones, Stalybridge Civic Hall; and the development of the Denton, Droylsden and Hyde growth triangles. A parking review would be undertaken and a new cultural strategy would be devised to maximise footfall and engagement in town centres.

Working alongside the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and neighbouring local authorities, the Council would support the delivery of the new bus franchising model whilst also supporting other plans to revolutionise public transport in and around Tameside, including the Rochdale, Oldham and Ashton bus corridor.

It was emphasised that supporting the local economy to drive sustainable investment and inclusive growth had become more important than ever. Consequently, a commitment had been made to maximise Council spending on Tameside based businesses, charities, voluntary organisations and community groups wherever possible. The Council would also work closely with suppliers to unlock the social value through volunteering work and apprenticeships as part of the procurement process. Residents would also be supported to access better-paid roles through schemes including Routes to Work and Kickstart.

Community Safety efforts would be strengthened by a new strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour by engaging with the Greater Manchester Mayor and police, to get more police onto the borough's streets. In addition, work to tackle potholes and fly-tippers would be undertaken as well as extending support to keep the streets clean.

As part of Tameside's commitment to ending violence against women and girls, the Council was actively seeking a White Ribbon Accreditation. Support would be provided to those who were victims of domestic violence through the 'Take Control' campaign.

The Executive Leader reflected on the difficult times that the country was currently experiencing but wanted to assure residents and businesses that the Council's ambition and aspirations for Tameside remained undimmed. The priorities highlighted combined with the solid foundations laid out in the budget would form a blue print to ensure that Tameside would continue to thrive.

Ahead of the local elections on 4 May, the Executive Leader thanked those Members who would not be standing for re-election for their hard work and contributions to the borough.

71. COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION

The Chair reported that in accordance with Standing Orders 31.12 and 31.13 a question had been submitted by Trevor Clark to Councillor Cooney.

Question

"As a board member of Jigsaw Homes Group you will be aware that the group made a surplus (after tax etc.) of £17 million in the six months up to 30 September 2022. Given that, would you confirm that you will raise the issue of widening and speeding up Jigsaw Homes' programme of insulation retrofitting in its properties in Tameside at the next board meeting of Jigsaw Homes as this would

help residents feel warmer and healthier, reduce residents' energy bills and reduce CO2 emissions? Would he also report back to Full Council on the response to his intervention?"

Response from Councillor Gerald Cooney (Executive Leader of the Council)

The Executive Leader advised that he would email the question directly to the Chief Executive of Jigsaw Homes.

72. JOINT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET AND OVERVIEW PANEL

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Executive Cabinet held on 14 December 2022 and 25 January 2023 and the Joint Meeting of the Executive Cabinet and Overview Panel held on 8 February 2023.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Executive Cabinet held on 14 December 2022 and 25 January 2023 and the Joint Meeting of the Executive Cabinet and Overview Panel held on 8 February 2023, be received and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

73. COUNCIL BUDGET 2023/2024

The First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) began by highlighting the enormous challenges faced by the Council with inflation running at its highest level in 40 years. The cost of living crisis had pushed many of the borough's residents to breaking point, placing increased demand upon the Council's services.

Members were informed that the largest component of a Council's budget was government support grants, and despite inflation being above 10%, the Council's net spending power from 2022/23 had only increased by 6.3%. Since 2010/11, the cumulative impact of austerity had slashed Tameside's real terms spending power by almost 24%. This equated to a £688 reduction in spending for every household in the borough.

It was estimated that due to the reduction in funding, the Council would have to manage an additional £40 million worth of service pressures during the next financial year. The First Deputy believed that the government was passing the burden for its catastrophic economic policies onto local taxpayers.

The First Deputy explained that government had failed to implement its Fair Funding Review for local government, failed to fund pay increases, failed to deal with adult social care and failed to properly implement their own levelling-up agenda. In the absence of proper and equitable government support, the only way the Council could plug the financial gap was through raising Council Tax and look at yet more innovative ways to deliver services at lower costs.

Council was advised that Tameside's budget for the next financial year would include a requirement to achieve a further £20 million worth of budget reductions and efficiencies, and a 4.99% increase in Council Tax and the Adult Social Care Precept for 2023/24. For a typical Band A property, which constituted the largest share of Tameside's housing stock, each household would pay an extra £1.06 in total. A larger Band D property would pay an extra £1.59 per week. It was expected that this increase would raise an extra £5 million in funding, which when combined with £15 million of funding from other sources, would deliver a legal and balanced budget.

It was stressed that no Council relished having to raise Council Tax during a cost of living crisis but it was considered necessary to deliver a balanced budget and enable the delivery of essential services to both residents and businesses.

The First Deputy called on Conservative and Green Party Members to join Labour Members in asking the government to move away from local authorities having to bid for investment from central government, for the implementation of the Fairer Funding Review, and an end to single year

financial settlements. This would allow the Council to make longer term, strategic financial choices on the design and delivery of services. The First Deputy would continue to make the case to government that supplying Tameside with the money it needed to fund services in full was not only the right thing to do, but also necessary. Continuing to pass the financial burden onto local taxpayers was not considered sustainable.

Tameside residents were right to expect a return on the money they gave to the Council and the First Deputy was confident that the budget to be presented would put the Council on a firm and sustainable footing moving forward. Cuts to frontline services would be minimal and any additional income raised would be reinvested in supporting those individuals who needed help the most.

A commitment to pay all carers who delivered Council Services, the real living wage of £10.90 per hour from April onwards was contained within the budget. This was considered not only the right thing to do but would also help to protect an increasingly fragile market.

In conclusion, the First Deputy recognised that weathering the current economic storm would require hard decisions but this would not be an excuse for despair or inaction and a commitment was made to support residents in their time of need.

The Chair of Council Business then afforded any other Member the opportunity to put an alternative budget that had been signed off by the Section 151 Officer.

In response, Councillor Billington proposed a number of amendments to the outlined budget although he did not have an alternative funded budget proposal:

- Agree to the non-frontline savings proposed;
- That the Council should not increase Council Tax by 2.99%;
- That the Growth department should be restructured to go back towards 2017 levels of spending;
- A reduction in spending on nanny state public health projects such as smoking cessation and telling people what they should and should not eat, and redirect that money towards providing spaces in women's refuges and tackling addiction;
- Commit to the 2% increase ring fenced for Adult Social Care;
- A 1% increase in Council Tax to fund additional resources for street cleansing, enforcement in licencing and planning, development of a new local plan to protect our environment and ensure responsible development that improved and regenerated our towns.

Councillor Dickinson seconded the amendments.

Councillor North queried if the financial viability of the amendments had been checked with the Section 151 Officer to confirm if the proposals added up. It was highlighted that since 2013 local government had received a grant from central government that had to be spent on delivering a range of public health services, such as interventions to tackle teenage pregnancy, child obesity, sexually transmitted infections and substance misuse. As the money was ring fenced, it could not be spent in other areas.

In relation to the proposed Council Tax increase, the First Deputy advised Members that the Council was expected to raise it by the maximum of 2.99% and the Adult Social Care Precept by 2%.

Concerning the Growth department, it was highlighted that all Council departments were subject to review but that its aims and ambitions were central to current government policy relating to levelling up. Whilst the Council had received £20 million in Levelling Up Funding, it did not necessarily follow that money would be freed up to spend elsewhere.

The First Deputy believed that the proposed amendment to increase Council Tax by only 1% misunderstood the budget given the funding constraints and emerging economic and social pressures, there was no growth within this overall 2023/24 budget for substantive service improvements. Consequently, redirecting money from one part of the budget to another would result in a substantive cut somewhere else.

General discussion then ensued in relation to the proposed budget and amendments as outlined and responses made accordingly.

The Chair of Council Business then called for a recorded vote on the proposed amendments, moved by Councillor Billington, and seconded by Councillor Dickinson as follows:

For the motion:

Councillors Billington, Chadwick, Colbourne, Costello, Dickinson, Patrick and Welsh.

Against the motion:

Councillors Affleck, Alam, Bowden, Bowerman, Boyle, Bray, Choksi, Cooney, Cooper, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, Glover, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, J Homer, S Homer, Huntbach, Jackson, Jones, Kitchen, Lane, McNally, Naylor, Newton, North, Owen, Patel, Pearce, Quinn, Ricci, Robinson, Roderick, Ryan, T Sharif, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, Ward and Warrington.

No abstentions Reid had left the meeting at this point in time.

The budget for 2023/24 set out in the previously circulated report, and the amount of Council Tax for 2023/24 as set out in tabled supplementary report was moved by Councillor North, seconded by Councillor Cooney and, in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations, a named vote was taken on the Council Tax motion as follows:

For the motion:

Councillors Affleck, Alam, Bowden, Bowerman, Boyle, Bray, Choksi, Cooney, Cooper, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, Glover, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, J Homer, S Homer, Jackson, Jones, Kitchen, Lane, McNally, Naylor, Newton, North, Owen, Patel, Pearce, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Robinson, Roderick, Ryan, T Sharif, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, Ward and Warrington.

Against the motion:

Councillors Billington, Chadwick, Colbourne, Costello, Dickinson, Huntbach, Patrick and Welsh.

RESOLVED

- i. That the significant financial challenges and risks set out in this report be noted;**
- ii. That the budgeted net expenditure for the financial year 2023/24 of £221.397m as set out in section 3 and Appendix 1, be approved, noting the significant pressures outlined in Appendix 2;**
- iii. That the proposed budget reductions to be delivered by management outlined in section 3 and Appendix 3 be approved;**
- iv. That the uplift to fees and charges as set out in Appendix 16 be approved;**
- v. That the proposed resourcing of the budget as set out in Appendix 4 be approved;**
- vi. That a 2.99 per cent increase to Council Tax and an increase of 2 per cent in respect of the Adult Social Care Precept for 2023/24 be approved;**
- vii. That it be noted that the budget projections set out in section 6 assumed a 1.99 per cent per annum increase in general Council Tax from 2024/25 through to 2027/28. The budget projections also assumed that there was no reduction to current levels of government funding;**
- viii. That the Director of Finance's assessment of the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of reserves as set out in Appendix 5 be accepted. Following this, determine that the estimates are robust for the purpose of setting the budget and that the proposed minimum General Fund Balance was adequate;**
- ix. That the proposed minimum General Fund Balance of £27 million as set out in Appendix 6 be approved;**
- x. That the Reserves Strategy be approved and to note the projected reserves position as set out in Appendix 6;**
- xi. That the School's Budget for 2023/24 as set out in section 3 and Appendix 15 be approved;**

- xii. That the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24 be approved, which included the proposed borrowing strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy.
- xiii. That the position on the Capital Programme (section 9 and Appendix 19) previously approved by Executive Cabinet, and the forecast future investment requirements be noted.
- xiv. That the Capital Strategy 2023/24 (Appendix 20) be approved.
- xv. That the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 as set out in section 12 and Appendix 21 be approved; and
- xvi. That authority be delegated to the Directors (in consultation with the Section 151 Officer) to agree any uplifts required to other contractual rates from 1 April 2023 which Directorates will manage within their approved budgets for 2023/24.

74. MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 20 February 2023.

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull that the Minutes of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 20 February 2023 be received.

It was noted that in the Minutes of Previous Meeting section, the meeting referred to the minutes of the Working Group held on 29 November 2023. It was advised that this should have stated 29 November 2022.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group be received with the amendment outlined above.

75. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES (SECTION 151 OFFICER)

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor North and;

RESOLVED

That Members agree the appointment of Ashley Hughes as Director of Resources and the statutory Section 151 Officer with effect from 3 April 2023 and that it be noted that Stuart Fair would continue as Interim Director of Finance and the statutory Section 151 Officer until that date.

76. MAYORALTY

It was moved by the Executive Leader and seconded by the Deputy Executive Leader that Councillor Tafheen Sharif be nominated as Civic Mayor for the 2023/24 Municipal Year and Councillor Betty Affleck be nominated for election as Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 Municipal Year at the Annual Meeting.

RESOLVED

That Councillor Tafheen Sharif be nominated as Civic Mayor for the 2023/24 Municipal Year and Councillor Betty Affleck be nominated for election as Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

77. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL COUNCIL

It was noted that the Annual Meeting of Council (both Civic and Business) would commence at 5.00pm on Tuesday, 23 May 2023 and would be held at Dukinfield town hall.

78. QUESTIONS



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

79. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business for consideration at the meeting.

CHAIR

Agenda Item 7

Report to:	COUNCIL
Date:	23 May 2023
Member/Reporting Officer:	Political Group Leaders Sandra Stewart – Chief Executive as Proper Officer
Subject:	APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE CABINET, PANELS, STANDARDS COMMITTEE, OUTSIDE BODIES AND OPPOSITION SPOKESPERSONS FOR 2022/23
Report Summary:	<p>To agree appointments to Executive Cabinet, Panels, Standards Committee, Outside Bodies and Opposition Spokespersons for the 2023/24 Municipal Year or until Council determines that any changes should be made. Appointments of persons nominated by the various groups are undertaken in accordance with political balance rules. Where the table shows light blue this position will be filled by an opposition member.</p> <p>The list of outside bodies contains only those outside bodies where information is required by the other statutory Greater Manchester bodies. Other outside body appointments will be made by the Executive Leader following recommendations by the relevant Executive Member or where appropriate the Executive Member.</p>
Recommendations:	That the appointments to Executive Cabinet, Panels, Standards Committee, Outside Bodies and Opposition Spokespersons TO BE TABLED AT THE MEETING to be confirmed for the 2023/24 Municipal Year or until Council determines that any changes should be made and allowances paid in accordance with Members Allowance scheme.
Links to Community Strategy:	The Constitution and democratic framework provides an effective framework for implementing the Community Strategy.
Policy Implications:	There are no policy implications.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	There are no budgetary implications.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	Accords with Procedural Standing Orders 6.4 (g); (h); (i); (j) and (k).
Risk Management:	Allows for transparent and democratic decision making.
Access to Information	<p>The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Robert Landon, Head of Democratic Services by:</p> <p> phone: 0161 342 2146</p> <p> e-mail: Robert.landon@tameside.gov.uk</p>

	Role	2023/34
	Mayor	
	Deputy Mayor	
	EXECUTIVE CABINET (max 10)	
1.	Executive Leader	
2.	Deputy Executive Leader (Children & Families)	
3.	First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation)	
4.	Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity	
5.	Climate Emergency & Environmental Services	
6.	Population Health & Well-being	
7.	Education, Achievement and Equalities	
8.	Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment	
9.	Towns & Communities	
10.	Planning Transport and Connectivity	
11.	Chair of Council Business	
	SHADOW SPOKESPERSONS CABINET (max 10)	
12.	Executive Leader	
13.	Deputy Executive Leader (Children & Families)	
14.	First Deputy (Finance & Performance)	
15.	Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity	
16.	Climate Emergency & Environmental Services	
17.	Population Health & Well-being	
18.	Education & Achievement	
19.	Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment	
20.	Towns & Communities	
21.	Planning, Transport & Connectivity	
	ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE MEMBERS	
22.	Assistant Executive Member for Children's Engagement, Corporate Parenting & Care Leavers	
23.	Assistant Executive Member - Cleaner Streets	
24.	Assistant Executive Member - Transport & Parking	
25.	Assistant Executive Member - Armed Forces and Enforcement	
26.	Assistant Executive Member to First Deputy	
27.	Assistant Executive Member - Culture, Heritage & Digital inclusivity	
28.	Assistant Executive Member - Housing, Housing Standards and Social inclusion	
	STRATEGIC NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS (Chairs also members of Corporate Parenting) Area based so no political balance	
29.	North Chair	
30.	North Deputy	
31.	South Chair	
32.	South Deputy	
33.	East Chair	
34.	East Deputy	
35.	West Chair	
36.	West Deputy	
	SPEAKERS PANEL (PLANNING) (Labour 9: Conservative 1)	
37.	Chair	
38.	Deputy	
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	SPEAKERS PANEL LICENSING (Labour 9: Conservative 1)	
47.	Chair	
48.	Deputy	
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	SPEAKERS PANEL – LIQUOR LICENSING (Labour 8: Conservative 1)	
57.	Chair	
58.	Deputy	
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	SPEAKERS PANEL EMPLOYMENT APPEALS (Labour 4: Conservative 1)	
67.	Chair of Council Business	
68.	First Deputy	
69.	Relevant Executive Member for Employee	Relevant at time of hearing
70.	Relevant assistant executive member	
71.	Opposition member	
	OVERVIEW PANEL (Labour 9: Conservative 1)	
72.	Chair	
73.	Deputy	
74.	Chair of Scrutiny	
75.	Chair of Scrutiny	
76.	Chair of Scrutiny	
77.	Leader	
78.	Deputy	
79.	Executive Member Finance	
80.	Chair of Council Business	
81.	Audit member	
82.	Audit member	
	AUDIT PANEL (Labour 7: Conservative 1)	
83.	Chair	
84.	Deputy	
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	STRATEGIC PLANNING & CAPITAL MONITORING (Labour 8: Conservative 1)	
91.	Executive Leader	
92.	Deputy Leader	
93.	Executive Member for Finance	
94.	Executive Member responsible for schools	
95.	Chair of Planning	
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	ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP (Labour 9: Conservative 1)	
100.	Assistant Executive Member (Chair)	
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	DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WORKING GROUP (Labour 9: Conservative 1)	
110.	Chair	
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	HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD	
120.	Executive Member (Health) (Chair)	
121.	Deputy Executive Leader (Children & Families)	
122.	Executive Member Adult Social Care & Health	
123.	Executive Member with responsibility for housing & employment	
	EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT BOARD (Labour 6: Conservative 1)	
124.	Executive Member for Education (Chair)	
125.	Executive Member for Children	
126.	Assistant Member for Children	
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	PLACE & EXTERNAL RELATIONS SCRUTINY PANEL (Labour 9: Conservative 1)	
131.	Chair	
132.	Deputy	
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	HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL (Labour 9: Conservative 1)	
141.	Chair	
142.	Deputy	
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	CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL (Labour 9: Conservative 1)	
151.	Chair	
152.	Deputy (opposition member)	
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	STANDARDS COMMITTEE Not politically balanced	
161.	Independent Person (Chair)	
162.	Deputy Independent person (Deputy)	
163.	Chief Whip	
164.		
165.		
166.		
167.		
168.	Town Parish Councillor	
169.	Substitute Town Parish councillor	

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Agenda Item 8

Report To:	ANNUAL COUNCIL
Date:	23 May 2023
Reporting Officer:	Sandra Stewart, Chief Executive
Subject:	CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022/23 AND 2023/24
Report Summary:	Attached is a draft of the Calendar of Meetings 2023/24 Municipal Years.
Recommendations:	That Members note the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2023/24 Municipal Years.
Links to Community Strategy:	The Constitution and democratic framework provides an effective framework for implementing the Community Strategy.
Policy Implications:	There are no policy implications.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)	There are no budgetary implications.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	Achieves compliance with Procedural Standing Orders.
Risk Management:	Publication of the Meetings Calendar allows for transparent and inclusive decision-making and complies with the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Access to Information	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Robert Landon, Head of Democratic Services by:  phone: 0161 342 2146  e-mail: robert.landon@tameside.gov.uk

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CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2023/2024 MUNICIPAL YEAR

MEETINGS	DATE/TIME						
Council	Tuesday 5.00pm	23 May 2023	18 July 2023	3 Oct 2023	5 Dec 2023		27 Feb 2024
Executive Cabinet	Wednesday 1.00pm	28- June 2023	26 July 2023	30 Aug 2023	27 Sept 2023	25 Oct 2023	22 Nov 2023
		13 -Dec 2023	24 Jan 2024	14 Feb 2024 (Jt meeting with Overview Panel)	27 March 2024	24 April 2024	
Audit Panel	Tuesday	1 August 2023 2.00pm	26 September 2023 1:30pm	21 November 2023 2.00pm	12 March 2024 2.00pm		
Overview Panel	Tuesday	1 August 2023 4.00pm	26 Sept 2023 3:30pm	21 Nov 2023 4.00pm	Wed 14 Feb 2024 (Jt meeting with Executive Cabinet)		
Planning Committee	Wednesday 10.00am	31 May 2023	28 June 2023	26 July 2023	13 Sept 2023	18 Oct 2023	15 Nov 2023
		13 Dec 2023	17 Jan 2024	14 Feb 2024	20 March 2024	17 April 2024	
Liquor Licensing Panel	Monday 10.00am	12 June 2023	10 July 2023	11 Sept 2023	6 Nov 2023	15 Jan 2024	11 March 2024
Licensing Panel	Tuesday 10.00am	13 June 2023	18 July 2023	19 Sept 2023	14 Nov 2023	16 Jan 2024	19 March 2024
Scrutiny Panels:							
Place and External Relations	Tuesday at 6.00pm	6 June 2023	25 July 2023	12 Sept 2023	7 Nov 2023	9 Jan 2024	5 March 2024
Children's Services	Weds at 6.00pm	7 June 2023	26 July 2023	13 Sept 2023	8 Nov 2023	10 Jan 2024	6 March 2024
Integrated Care and Wellbeing	Thursday at 6.00pm	8 June 2023	27 July 2023	14 Sept 2023	9 Nov 2023	11 Jan 2024	7 March 2024
Other Panels and Working Groups:							
Standards Committee	Tuesday 4.00pm	5 Sept 2023	7 Nov 2023	26 March 2024			
Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel	Thursday 2.00pm	22 June 2023	17 August 2023	16 November 2023	21 March 2024		

Democratic Processes Wrk Grp	Monday 4.00pm	3 July 2023	25 Sept 2023	11 Dec 2023	19 Feb 2024		
Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group	Wednesday 4.30pm	14 June 2023	13 Sept 2023	15 Nov 2023	13 March 2024		
Enforcement Co-ordination Panel		Tuesday 18 July 2023 2.00pm	Wednesday 11 October 2023 10.00am	Wednesday 31 January 2024 10.00am	Wednesday 27 March 2024 9.30am		
Health and Wellbeing Board	Thursday at 10.00am	15 June 2023	14 Sept 2023	16 Nov 2023	18 Jan 2023	14 March 2024	
Education Attainment Improvement Board	Tuesday at 3.30pm	20 June 2023	17 Oct 2023	16 Jan 2024	12 March 2024		
Corporate Parenting Board	Tuesday at 5pm	6 June 2023	8 Aug 2023	10 Oct 2023	5 Dec 2023	13 Feb 2024	9 April 2024
Asset Management Panel	Wednesday 2.00pm	28- June 2023	26 July 2023	30 Aug 2023	27 Sept 2023	25 Oct 2023	22 Nov 2023
		13 -Dec 2023	24 Jan 2024	27 March 2024	24 April 2024		
Strategic Neighborhood Forums:							
SOUTH (Hyde/Longdendale)	Monday at 6.30pm	26 June 2023	16 Oct 2023	29 Jan 2024	25 March 2024		
NORTH (Ashton)	Tuesday at 6.30pm	27 June 2023	17 Oct 2023	30 Jan 2024	26 March 2024		
EAST (Dukinfield/Mossley/Stalybridge)	Wednesday at 6.30pm	21 June 2023	11 Oct 2023	24 Jan 2024	20 March 2024		
WEST (Audenshaw/Denton Droylsden)	Thursday at 6.30pm	22 June 2023	12 Oct 2023	25 Jan 2024	21 March 2024		

GMPF MEETINGS 2023/24

Pension Fund and Working Groups calendar dates:

Pension Fund Panel (Conference Rooms 1 & 2)	Friday 10.00am	14 July 2023	15 Sept 2023	1 Dec 2023	8 Mar 2024
Policy & Development (Teams)	Thursday 11.00am	22 June 2023	7 Sept 2023	23 Nov 2023	22 Feb 2024
Investment Monitoring & ESG (Teams)	Friday 9.00am	21 July 2023	22 September 2023	26 Jan 2024	12 April 2024
Administration & Employer Funding Viability (Teams)	Friday 11.00am	21 July 2023	22 September 2023	26 Jan 2024	12 April 2024
Local Pensions Board (Hybrid Teams / Boardroom)	Thursday 3.00pm	20 July 2023	28 Sept 2023	25 Jan 2024	11 April 2024

Northern LGPS Joint Oversight Cttee (Zoom)	Thursday 11.00am	7 July 2022		6 Oct 2022		2 Feb 2023		13 April 2023	
		6 July 2023		5 Oct 2023		1 Feb 2024		11 April 2024	
Investments Cttee (Teams)	Monday 9.00am	16 May 2022	20 June 2022	25 July 2022	22 Aug 2022	12 Sept 2022	10 Oct 2022	14 Nov 2022	
		12 Dec 2022	16 Jan 2023	13 Feb 2023	13 Mar 2023	24 April 2023			
		15 May 2023	19 June 2023	17 July 2023	14 Aug 2023	18 Sept 2023	9 Oct 2023	13 Nov 2023	
		11 Dec 2023	15 Jan 2024	12 Feb 2024	18 Mar 2024	22 April 2024			
Northern Pool (No 1) GP Limited Board (Teams)	Monday 11.00am	16 May 2022	20 June 2022	25 July 2022	22 Aug 2022	12 Sept 2022	10 Oct 2022	14 Nov 2022	
		12 Dec 2022	16 Jan 2023	13 Feb 2023	13 Mar 2023	24 April 2023			
		15 May 2023	19 June 2023	17 July 2023	14 Aug 2023	18 Sept 2023	9 Oct 2023	13 Nov 2023	
		11 Dec 2023	15 Jan 2024	12 Feb 2024	18 Mar 2024	22 April 2024			

EXECUTIVE CABINET

29 March 2023

Commenced: 1.00pm

Terminated: 1.45pm

Present: Councillors Cooney (Chair), Fairfoull, Feeley, Jackson, Kitchen (ex-officio), North, Sweeton, Taylor, Ward and Wills.

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Stuart Fair	Interim Director of Finance
Stephanie Butterworth	Director of Adults Services
Alison Stathers-Tracey	Director of Children's Services
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Debbie Watson	Director of Population Health
Ilys Cookson	Assistant Director, Exchequer Services
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods
Caroline Barlow	Assistant Director of Finance

Apologies for absence: Councillor Choksi

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Cabinet Members.

132. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the joint meeting of Overview Panel and Executive Cabinet held on 8 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

133. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group held on 15 March 2023 be noted.

134. 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 16 March 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 16 March 2023 be noted; and
- (b) That the following recommendations be approved:

2022/23 P10 CAPITAL MONITORING

RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Note the forecast position for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1.
- (ii) Note the funding position of the approved Capital Programme as set on page 4 of Appendix 1.
- (iii) Note the changes to the Capital Programme as set out on page 9 in Appendix 1
- (iv) Note the updated Prudential Indicator position set out on pages 10-11 of Appendix 1, which was approved by Council in February 2022
- (v) Approve a budget of £0.060m to be drawn down from the £0.500m allocation for works in Tameside One for the work smart programme as set out in Appendix 2(f).

CAPITAL PROGRAMMES FOR GROWTH DEPARTMENTS

RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to

- (i) Note the progress with regards to the schemes within the Place Capital Programme (Town Centres, Property and Planning) as set out in the report
- (ii) Approve the allocation of £31,000 to the capital programme to finance the additional expenditure at Hyde Pool as stated in section 2.34. The funding to be allocated via the cumulative underspend of £207,000 against schemes detailed in table 2 (section 2.32),
- (iii) Approve the allocation of up to £30,000 to the capital programme to finance the additional expenditure at Hattersley Station as stated in sections 2.21 and 2.22. The sum to be allocated via funding held in Council reserves on behalf of the Land Board and is subject to a separate Council decision.
- (iv) Approve the allocation of up to £7,500 to the capital programme to finance expenditure relating to the relocation of the Mottram show as stated in section 2.18. This sum to be resourced via the earmarked capital programme budget of £103,000 that is allocated to the Mottram showground.

OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS CAPITAL REPORT: UPDATE

RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Note the progress with regards to the schemes within the Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme as set out in the report.
- (ii) Approve the reprioritised resurfacing schemes for the Highway Maintenance programme as outlined in Appendix 1.
- (iii) Note the progress on the list of highway maintenance schemes identified in Appendix 1 that are to be funded from the Highway Maintenance Grant Allocation
- (iv) Approve the drawdown of funds in respect of the S106 agreements detailed in Section 4 of this report and add to the Council's Capital Programme to allow the detailed design, procurement and installation of the various works.
- (v) Reverse the previous recommendation approved in November 2022 which requested that £1,600,000 of the 2022/23 Highways Maintenance Grant be added to the Councils Revenue budget to fund the cost of reactive maintenance works. Due to a required change in accounting treatment, it is necessary to reverse this decision and transfer that grant funding back to the Council capital programme. It is important to note that this is purely an accounting adjustment and the funds will still be utilised in for the same purpose.

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME: UPDATE

RECOMMENDED

That a report is produced for April Executive Cabinet to agree the funding, scope and contract for Hawthorns to enable it to be delivered and that Executive Cabinet be recommended to **APPROVE:**

- (i) The addition of £667,612 2022/23 additional Devolved Formula Capital grant to the capital programme as detailed in paragraph 2.10 to the programme in 2023/24.
- (ii) The Section 106 contributions totalling £529,205.04 as detailed in paragraph 2.16 are approved to finance Education Capital Schemes.
- (iii) The proposed estimate of £1,400,000 School Condition Grant for 2023/24 is added to the

programme as detailed in paragraph 4.21. The final amount of grant will be updated on receipt of the final confirmation of the grant.

- (iv) The 2023/24 School Condition grant is allocated to the projects detailed in the table at paragraph 4.29.
- (v) The addition of £20,000 school contributions to the capital programme in 2023/24 as detailed in paragraph 4.30, subject to the confirmation of School Condition Grant as per recommendation.
- (vi) The allocation of £150,000 from High Needs Provision Fund for Oakdale School as detailed in paragraph 6.4 to be added to the programme in 2023/24.
- (vii) The allocation of £720,000 from High Needs Provision Fund for the New Bridge Academy Trust as detailed in paragraph 6.5 to be added to the programme in 2023/24.
- (viii) An allocation of £70,414 from High Needs Provision Fund for St James' Church of England Primary School as detailed in paragraph 6.6 to be added to the programme in 2023/24.
- (ix) A grant agreement for £70,414 is agreed with the Forward as One Academy Trust as detailed in paragraph 6.6 to provide 10 resourced pupil places at St James' Church of England Primary School, Ashton from September 2023.

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to NOTE:

- (i) Lyndhurst Primary and Ravensfield Primary – Air Con units (£11,000) to be returned to the unallocated school condition fund and (£20,000) removal of school contributions as detailed in paragraph 4.15.
- (ii) The addition of £203,210 Direct Revenue Funded projects to the capital programme as detailed in paragraph 2.11.
- (iii) The use of £30,000 contingency to support asbestos removal and fire compartmentalisation at Stalyhill Juniors (as part of the works required for the decarbonisation schemes) as detailed in paragraph 4.14.

135. PERIOD 10 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 21 JANUARY 2023

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Finance, which reflected actual expenditure to 31 January 2023.

It was explained that, as highlighted in previous reports, 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 £1,634k. This represented a (£857k) improvement since Month 9. The movement was driven by an increase in Adults, Governance and Finance & IT forecasts, which had been offset by reductions in forecasts for Place, Children's and Corporate. Ongoing demand and cost pressures on Council budgets would have implications for the 2023/24 budget. Mitigations were in place for 2022/23, and 2023/24, although further work was still needed.

Further detail on the financial position was provided in Appendix 1, with further detail by Directorate set out in Appendix 2, to the report.

The latest forecast for the Collection Fund in 2022/23, together with collection performance, was summarised in Appendix 3 to the report.

The latest position and forecast for the Dedicated Schools Grant funding and deficit position was summarised in Appendix 4 to the report. If the 2022/23 forecasts materialised, the deficit would further increase to £4.956k. A deficit recovery plan had been developed and submitted to the DfE. Discussions were continuing with the DfE and were ongoing. The position would continue to be closely monitored and updates reported to Schools' Forum and Members.

Appendix 5 to the report, listed those debts scheduled for write off as uncollectible in the period 1 October to 31 December 2022.

The Director of Finance had approved the re-purposing of £245k unspent clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) grant to the Household Support Fund (HSF) grant. HSF applications were forecast to exceed the funding available for 2022/23. The transfer would ensure continued support to the most vulnerable and those in need of support for essential living costs via the HSF until the end of March. Further HSF grant funding had been allocated from April 2023.

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 forecast position on the Collection Fund as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be noted;**
- (iii) **That the current position in respect of the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit as set out in Appendix 4 to the report, be noted;**
- (iv) **That the write off of uncollectable debts as set out in Appendix 5 to the report, be approved;**
- (v) **That the reserve transfers set out in Appendix 6 to the report, be approved; and**
- (vi) **That the transfer of unspent grant to the Household Support Fund in section 4 of the report, be noted.**

136. BUSINESS RATES REVALUATION AND RELIEFS 2023-24

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director, Exchequer Services, which advised Members that the Local Government Finance Act 1988 Part 3 Sec 41(2), updated in the Non-Domestic Rating (Lists) Act 2021, determined that the Valuation Office Agency should compile a Non-Domestic Rating List.

The report detailed the revaluation of Business Rates effective from 01 April 2023, the implications based on data from the Valuation Office Agency to all local authorities and the reliefs available in the 2023/24 financial year.

It was concluded that the retail sector was the only sector to show a decrease in rateable values and the industry sector had the biggest increase across all regions, which was reflected in the rateable value changes to businesses in Tameside. Overall there had been a 7.4% increase in overall rateable values in Tameside from £149m to £160m.

The government had introduced three new business rates reliefs from 1 April 2023 subject to specific eligibility criteria. The effect of being awarded a relief was that there was a reduced amount of business rates payable. The three new reliefs were a transitional relief scheme, Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) rate relief scheme and Supporting Small Business (SSB) relief scheme.

There was an expectation that ratepayers that were eligible to receive the reliefs would have the relief applied to year start bills issued in March 2023. Processing systems required upgrades and testing to ensure that the reliefs could be applied to bills in time for the new financial year.

RESOLVED

That the 2023 national revaluation and the new reliefs introduced by central government effective from 1 April 2023, be noted.

137. COUNCIL TAX – EMPTY PROPERTIES AND SECOND HOMES

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director, Exchequer Services setting out proposed increases to empty properties and second homes on the condition that local authorities must 'make the determination at least one year before the financial year to which it relates', as detailed in the Levelling Up Bill and which was expected to become legislation within the current financial year.

The Bill proposed:

- Up to a maximum of a further 100% Council Tax be charged from the time the property has been empty for one year instead of the current 2 years;
- Discounts on second homes be withdrawn; and
- Second home Council Tax charges may be increased by no more than 100% providing that there is no-one resident and the dwelling is substantially furnished.

Members were advised that there were currently 133 second homes in the Borough and 341 empty properties, however both of these figures fluctuated. If the proposals to increase charges were implemented and based on 2022/23 Council Tax levels, an estimated income of £506,859k could be realised from empty properties and £210,676k from second homes, however it must be taken into account that Councils must '*make the determination at least one year before the financial year to which it relates*', and the charge could not be effective until 1 April 2024, subject to legislation being passed in the current financial year.

It was further advised that any proposed increase in Council Tax for second homes and empty properties was aligned to guard against empty property owners leaving furniture in a property and classing as a second home in an attempt to attract a reduced charge for a longer period of time.

RESOLVED

It be agreed that, subject to legislation being in place within the current financial year, that Council Tax in respect of empty properties and second homes be increased to 200% charge after the necessary 12 months' notice has been given.

138. ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

The Executive Member, Population Health and Wellbeing / Director of Population Health submitted a report, which provided an update on the development of a place based anti-poverty strategy by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

It was explained that, in recent years the rise of poverty, exacerbated by the cost of living crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic, had emerged as a major policy issue. The current cost of living crisis had been significantly worsened by a number of longer-term structural weaknesses in the UK, including low wages, low productivity and high inequality relative to other major economies.

All partners recognised the severity of the current crisis and were working hard to support residents and gain a deeper understanding of poverty through cooperation with groups such as the Tameside Poverty Truth Commission.

Following the development of a Poverty Needs Assessment, which sat as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Health & Wellbeing Board agreed to support the development of a system-wide strategy to address both the short-term and long-term issues that drove poverty in Tameside.

The strategy – '*Building Resilience: Tackling Poverty in Tameside*' – was adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Board at their meeting on 16 March 2023. The document was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

It was further explained that the consultation and research undertaken through the development of the needs assessment served the dual purpose of understanding both the issues prevalent in Tameside but also the available solutions. The needs assessment was attached to the report at Appendix 2 and a summary of the exercises undertaken to gather this information was provided.

Members were advised that on 22 February 2023, Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) published their report '*Local anti-poverty strategies – Good practice and effective approaches*'. The report was attached at Appendix 4 to the report. GMPA made twelve advisory recommendations for those areas embarking on the development of an anti-poverty strategy. Current work put Tameside

in a strong position against GMPA's recommendations. Examples of work that met the recommendations included:

- Poverty Needs Assessment;
- Programme of engagement and lived experience listening;
- Poverty Truth Commission.;
- Adoption of the socio-economic duty in 2022;
- Partnership approach through the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Clear leadership with named Executive Member (Cllr Wills);
- Development of a detailed and tracked action plan (in development now);
- Poverty dashboard (in development now building on the needs assessment); and
- Pilot and implementation of Money Advice Referral Tool.

In terms of next steps, Members were advised that the final consultation concluded on 31 January 2023 with minimal revision of the core recommendations required. The final strategy was presented at Health and Wellbeing Board on 16 March 2023 where it was formally adopted by the board on behalf of all partners.

An action plan to deliver the ambitions set out in the strategy was already in development over which, the Health & Wellbeing Board would have oversight. Delivery of the action plan would be undertaken by a sub-group reporting into the Board. It was appropriate for the council to also adopt the strategy and establish an operational delivery group internally to ensure its contribution to delivery of the action plan was progressed quickly and effectively.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the report and the strategy document (as at Appendix 1 to the report), agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board for the place on 16 March 2023, be noted; and**
- (ii) It be agreed that the strategy be adopted by Tameside Council as one of the place based partners who will work together through the Health and Wellbeing Board to deliver the recommendations outlined in the strategy.**

139. ENERGY SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE FUEL PAYMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director Exchequer Services, which explained that the Government announced that the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (now the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero), would work in partnership with Local Authorities to deliver alternative funding for help with consumers' energy bills.

It was explained that, for the majority of the population the support was being delivered direct by the Energy Bill Support Scheme (EBSS) as a £400 credit to electricity bills and as a reduction to the unit cost of gas and electricity and was delivered by energy suppliers. However, the government estimated that around one million households across the UK would miss out on the EBSS as they did not themselves directly contract with a domestic electricity supplier or used alternative fuels to heat their homes. They would instead qualify for assistance via the Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Fund (EBSS – AF) or the Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Funding (AFP – AF) to be administered by local authorities. The scheme was underpinned by the Energy Prices Act 2022.

The government therefore required local authorities to deliver 2 energy bill support schemes, as follows:

- **Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Fund (EBSS – AF)**
This was to be a £400 payment for households that did not have a direct contract with an energy supplier such as residents in park homes, care homes. This would be delivered from 27 February 2023 to 31 May 2023.
- **Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Fund (AFP – AF)**
This was a £200 payment for households that used alternative fuels to heat their homes such

as heating oil, biomass and LPG. This would be delivered from 6 March 2023 to 31 May 2023.

Local Authorities would be required to deliver both schemes on behalf of central government from 27 February 2023 to 31 May 2023 for receipt of applications and with reconciliation commencing August onwards.

RESOLVED

It be noted that the Council delivers the Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Funding (EBSS – AF) payment in addition to the Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Funding payment (AFP – AF).

140. ASHTON PUBLIC REALM: PHASE ONE, MARKET SQUARE

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Towns and Communities / Director of Place, which provided a summary of the findings from the recent public consultation along with the final strategy for the delivery of the redevelopment of the Market Square and outdoor market in Ashton Town Centre utilising Levelling Up Funding.

Members were reminded 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 has 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.

The draft proposal for the redevelopment of Market Square (including Ashton outdoor market) were the subject of a full public consultation for a period of 4 weeks across November and December 2022. The draft proposals were costed and fell within the identified LUF budget allocated for the public realm in the town centre. The total cost of the draft proposals was £10,800,000 and included the removal of all kiosks and market stalls and replacing them with the construction of a large canopy (including a canopy attached to Market Hall) that included flexible market units to meet the needs of modern market traders.

Feedback from the consultation and engagement to date including the Love Ashton event in March 2022, identified the need for the delivery of significant improvements to the outdoor market and Market Square in Ashton was a priority for the local community in order to breathe new life into the town centre to develop a clear local picture and to gain an insight into issues, opportunities, and future aspirations for Ashton Market Square and outdoor market.

A summary of some of the feedback received, how the feedback had been reviewed and analysed, and how the findings had fed into the final strategy proposals for Market Square and the outdoor market was detailed in the report. A vision, masterplan and set of design principles had been developed that would inform the next stage of detailed design work before the construction phase of the scheme commenced in early 2024.

A detailed programme of the works was included in Appendix 5 to the report. Members were advised that timescales for delivery were very tight in line with the Levelling Up Funding agreement of works

being completed in full by March 2025. Some of the key milestones were detailed in the report.

The report concluded that, responses received from the public consultation as well as discussions with market traders, demonstrated an overall support for the draft proposals and design principles identified within the draft masterplans. Whilst there were still some concerns with market traders in respect to the future of their business, the Council continued to liaise with market traders to ensure they were involved in the proposals as they become more defined.

Given the nature and multi-functionality of market squares across all towns, there were a number of competing demands, desires, needs and ambitions for different people as to what a modern market town should deliver. Whether it was a modern or traditional market, a diverse offer, events, culture, art, play, greenery or any other feature of a market square, there were competing demands from those who visited and utilised Market Square, which must be balanced to ensure the successful delivery of a public square that was unique to Ashton, now and for generations to come.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the work to date in preparing the proposal for Market Square and the outdoor market for Ashton Town Centre, including the key findings of the consultation and engagement to date, be noted; and**
- (ii) That the final proposals relating to the redevelopment of Ashton Market Square and outdoor market (Phase One) Public Realm Strategy for Ashton Town Centre, as detailed in the report and appendices, be approved; and**
- (iii) That approval be given to progress the detailed design based on the final strategy.**

141. HYDE TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN UPDATE

The Executive Member, Towns and Communities / Director of Place providing an update on the Hyde Town Centre Masterplan including the results of the initial fact finding exercise.

Members were advised that the Council was recently successful in achieving a grant award of £225,000 via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Evergreen Round 3) which needed to be expended by 31 March 2023. The use of GM Evergreen funds of £225,000, with match funding of £125,000 from the Investment, Development and Housing (IDH) budget and £100,000 secured from the One Public Estate (OPE) programme, was approved for Hyde by Tameside Council Executive Cabinet on 29 September 2021. Of this funding £100,000 was identified for the preparation of the Hyde Town Centre Masterplan with the remainder to support the repurposing of the former library building on Union Street.

Furthermore, a report to Executive Cabinet in June 2021, identified that Hyde Town Centre had been identified as one of the 70 local authority areas that would be able to access government support through the High Street Task Force (HSTF) programme. The report agreed that the Council would formally participate and engage in the programme and the first stage of support from HSTF included an initial diagnostic which was undertaken earlier in the year offered under the banner 'Unlocking Your Place Potential'. The appointed Task Force Expert also participated in the selection process for the appointment of GL Hearn and Hemingway Designs. The next stage included a Place Workshop on 2 February 2023, would bring together key stakeholders to collectively consider how to improve the town centre. Feedback would contribute to the masterplan proposals.

The consultant team were working towards a comprehensive masterplan that would ensure that all aspects of regeneration was considered. This would include working collaboratively with the local community and key stakeholders so they were able to shape the proposals for Hyde. The fact finding stage had come to an end and the baseline assessment completed, the findings would feed into draft proposals and a vision for the town, which would be subject to a formal consultation period early in the New Year.

The report outlined some of the key findings from the fact finding exercise carried out. All of the

responses had been reviewed and analysed in order to help to shape the draft masterplan for Hyde Town Centre. A vision, set of design principles, development opportunities, public realm and highway improvement areas were included in the draft masterplan, a copy of which was appended to the report.

In terms of next steps, it was explained that the Council would undertake a formal consultation on the draft masterplan for a period of four weeks commencing in May 2023. A review of comments and responses from consultation would take place in June 2023 and approval would be sought from Executive Cabinet to adopt the Hyde Town Centre Masterplan, in August 2023. This would ensure the masterplan acted as a material consideration in the planning application process for any proposals submitted in the area.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the findings from the fact finding exercise that have been used to feed into the draft Masterplan for Hyde Town Centre, be noted;**
- (ii) That the draft proposals, including vision and design principles in the draft Masterplan, be approved;**
- (iii) That the consultation on the draft Masterplan for Hyde for a period of 4 weeks following the Elections in May 2023, be approved; and**
- (iv) It be approved that the estimated remaining non-recurrent Council reserve balance of £125,000 (as set out in table 1, section 6.2 of the report), previously allocated to the Place Directorate to support town centre master planning, be utilised in 2023/24 to progress the regeneration of Hyde Town Centre, subject to further governance setting out what will be delivered within this budget envelope.**

142. HATTERSLEY ANNUAL REPORT

A report was submitted by the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Place setting out an update on the Hattersley Regeneration Programme for the period 2022/23.

Progress in 2022/23 was provided in respect of:

- Public Realm;
- Hattersley Station Ticket Office;
- Housing Development;
- RSK Science Park; and
- Work and Skills Coach.

Priorities for 2023/24 were also detailed and discussed, in terms of:

- Public Realm Delivery;
- Housing Development; and
- District Centre Phase 2.

With regard to governance, in order to provide clarity as to decisions set within the context of the Hattersley Land Board, Members were advised that there would be regular reporting to the Council's Executive Board and Executive Cabinet. These reports would include updates on annual performance of the delivery of the Hattersley Regeneration Programme, together with approval of payments, as required, in relation to the funding held in a Council reserve for the Land Board where the Council acts as the accountable body.

In terms of funding, summary details of the balance of funding held in the Council reserve as accountable body at 31 March 2022, were provided. The balance was allocated between the funding that supported public realm schemes and the Collaboration Agreement. It was noted that there was no expenditure in 2021/22 via the funding held in the reserve. Summary details of the forecast balance of funding that would be held in the Council reserve as accountable body at 31 March 2023, were also provided, including details of the proposed expenditure to be financed via the reserve allocated between public realm schemes and the Collaboration Agreement.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the work undertaken in 2022/23 as part of the Hattersley Regeneration Programme and the proposed next steps, be noted;**
- (ii) That the payments to Onward Homes, Homes England and the Council to reimburse expenditure as set out in table 2 (section 4.2) of the report, be approved, with a sum of up to £281,000 to finance public realm schemes and a sum of up to £318,000 to finance collaboration agreement expenditure. The expenditure is to be financed via the funding held in the Council reserve for the Hattersley Land Board, the balance of which is included in table 2 and was £4,708,395 at 1 April 2022;**
- (iii) It be approved that future payments to partners in respect of the Hattersley Regeneration Programme be undertaken at a minimum of every six months (usually September and March), subject to approval either via Cabinet through the Annual Update Report or a separate Executive Member Decision Notice.**

143. ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND 2 – FULL SCHEME DELIVERY APPROVAL

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Planning, Transport and Connectivity / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, which, subject to approval of the Active Travel Fund 2 (ATF2) Delivery Plan, sought approval to enter into the relevant ATF2 funding agreement between the Council and TfGM in order to secure and allow draw down of active travel grant funding to support delivery of the four prioritised ATF2 schemes located at:

- Oldham Road (Ashton-under-Lyne)
- Newman Street (Ashton-under-Lyne)
- Stockport Road (Ashton-under-Lyne)
- Guide Lane (Audenshaw)

Details were provided in respect of each of the above four schemes, including a progress report on the consultation and design process.

Members were advised that the Council had been allocated, in principle, £985,000 from TfGM's Active Travel 2 programme. This funding must be spent by March 2024.

The report concluded that the ambitious ATF programme, and the high-quality design standards being applied across the Bee Network should help to increase the number of people choosing active travel modes. This was a key priority for the Council as it would support the delivery of environmental, economic and societal benefits.

Current cost estimates exceeded the allocated ATF2 budget. Construction works would only start on all four ATF2 schemes if they were affordable within the approved grant funding envelope. There was currently no requirement to provide match funding from existing Council budgets.

Standard scheme procedures and statutory processes were being followed, including advertising of traffic orders, road safety audits and consultation with residents and key stakeholders.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the four Active Travel Fund 2 (ATF2) schemes detailed in the report be approved after having given careful consideration to the outcome of public consultation, which was undertaken between the 5 September 2022 and 14 October 2022;**
- (ii) Subject to Transport for Greater Manchester's (TfGM) approval of the Council's ATF2 Delivery Plan; authorisation be given to enter into the relevant funding agreement to secure the allocated ATF2 grant funding to add to the Council's capital programme; and**
- (iii) Subject to approval and satisfactory completion of statutory processes, the construction of the four ATF2 schemes be authorised, located at:**
 - Oldham Road (Ashton-under-Lyne)
 - Newman Street (Ashton-under-Lyne)
 - Stockport Road (Ashton-under-Lyne)

- **Guide Lane (Audenshaw).**

144. PROBATION DEPENDENCY AND RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICE (DRUGS AND ALCOHOL) – FUNDING TRANSFER AND CONTRACT VARIATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Population Health and Wellbeing / Director of Population Health, providing background information on reforms within His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). It gave details of work at a GM level to meet the objectives of the National Drug Strategy, which included the proposals set out in the report for the local authority to receive additional funding from HMPPS and GMCA to ensure continuation of the Dependency and Recovery service aimed at residents under the supervision of the probation service, to ensure they had access to appropriate treatment and support for substance misuse issues.

The report outlined the progress already made and described the arrangements and approach proposed over the coming years, which would involve the local authority receiving the additional funding and varying in to existing contract with the substance misuse treatment provider, to ensure support continued to be offered to Tameside residents. The values were £88,047 for 2023/24 and indicative amounts of £95,287 for 2024/25 and £95,755 for 2025/26.

It was explained that the Council proposed to commission the existing specialist substance misuse service provider, Change Grow Live (CGL) Services My Recovery Tameside, to deliver the Dependency and Recovery services funded by the HMPPS and GMCA. This would be for the duration of the existing contract between Tameside MBC and CGL Services (up to 31 August 2025) utilising a contract variation. The substance misuse commissioners in the Population Health Team were working with STAR procurement on the process and collaboratively with the management team from CGL Services to develop a continued robust delivery plan that met local needs.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That approval be given to receive the allocation of £88,047 for delivery of the HMPPS Dependency and Recovery Service in 2023/24 and to award this to CGL Services via a contract variation to the existing substance misuse treatment service contract in place. Also to receive an award the indicative amounts for 2024/25 and part of 2025/26 up to the end of the current CGL Services contract in August 2025 (c. £95,287 and £95,755 respectively); and**
- (ii) **That approval be given to vary the existing contract with CGL Services My Recovery Tameside to deliver the HMPPS Dependency and Recovery Service in 2023/24, 2024/25 and part of 2025/26.**

At this juncture, in respect of the following item, it was noted that Councillor Cooney was a Trustee/Director of Jigsaw Homes Group, however it was further noted that the report sought approval to go out to procure the Domestic Abuse Support Service for Tameside and that delegation be given to the Director of Population Health in consultation with the Director of Finance to award the contract following the completion of a compliant competitive procurement exercise and Cllr Cooney would not be involved in any procurement exercise whatsoever.

145. DOMESTIC ABUSE COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS 2023-2024

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Population Health and Wellbeing / Director of Population Health, which explained that domestic abuse continued to be a growing issue in Tameside with data highlighting that the number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police increased from 4424 in 2019/20 to 5409 in 2021/22 (22%). This was further echoed by the increases seen by Children's Social Care whereby referrals relating to domestic abuse rose from 1850 in 2019/20 to 3222 in 2021/22 (74%).

It was further explained that reducing Domestic Abuse was a key objective in the Corporate Plan

and the Local Authority currently committed £506,818 annually to the delivery of domestic abuse support in Tameside, which funded the core contract provided by Jigsaw Support, delivering the Bridges service. This was enhanced by the Women and Families centre at a cost of £112,000 per year, which was also provided by Jigsaw Support.

Both contracts were due to end on 31 March 2024 and would be subject of a re-commissioning exercise in 2023, with new contracts due to begin on 1 April 2024. In addition, the Council received an annual Domestic Abuse grant from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to deliver against statutory duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, specifically safe accommodation.

The report set out the intentions to re-commission the domestic abuse response in Tameside from 1 April 2024, taking into consideration statutory requirements, national learning and recommendations, and stakeholder feedback. Furthermore, the report outlined the commissioning intentions for 2023/24 in line with the statutory duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given for a total of £5,035,101.05 (£1,007,020.21) per year) to be allocated from ring-fenced domestic abuse grant and core budget for the recommissioning of the Domestic Abuse Support Service for a 5-year contract, with the option of extending up to a further 5-years (optional extension of contract will be pending full formal review of service outcomes in Year 3);**
- (ii) That approval be given to go out to procure the Domestic Abuse Support Service for Tameside;**
- (iii) That delegation be given to the Director of Population Health in consultation with the Director of Finance to award the contract following the completion of a compliant competitive procurement exercise; and**
- (iv) That approval be given to undertake the necessary procurement exercises including award and other necessary arrangements in order to deliver the commissioning intentions for 2023/24 as set out in section 3 of the report.**

146. URGENT ITEMS

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

147. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

It be noted that the next meeting of Executive Cabinet is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 26 April 2023.

CHAIR

EXECUTIVE CABINET

26 April 2023

Commenced: 1.00pm

Terminated: 1.30pm

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

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Ashley Hughes	Director of Resources
Stephanie Butterworth	Director of Adults 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 and Neighbourhoods
Jordanna Rawlinson	Head of Communications

Apologies for absence: Councillors Kitchen (ex-officio) and Taylor.

148. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Cabinet Members.

149. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 29 March 2023 be approved as a correct record.

150. ADULT SOCIAL CARE FEES 2023/24

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services outlining proposals in relation to revised provider fees to meet the increasing cost of providing Adult Social Care services for 2023/24 effective from 1 April 2023. In addition, the proposed fees included the payment of the Real Living Wage (RLW) for all care workers in the borough from 1 April 2023.

It was explained that the Government was implementing wide-ranging and ambitious reform of adult social care. In December 2021, the white paper 'People at the Heart of Care' was published.

Local Authorities in 2022 to 2023 were also expected to start making genuine progress towards more sustainable fee rates, where they were not already doing so. This meant increasing fee rates paid to providers in respect of 65+ care homes and 18+ domiciliary care, including those who operated in extra care settings.

To progress the Fair Cost of Care exercise, the Council engaged external consultants to undertake a review of care providers in Tameside to complete the Fair Cost of Care and Market Sustainability exercise. The review, as per Government direction, considered the cost of delivering care for care at home provision (18+), and care homes (65+). The methodology utilised for the work was detailed, including response rates.

The data collected had been used to calculate indicative FCoC rates as they pertained locally. However, due to forecast budget pressures in 2023/24 on the Adult Services revenue budget, it was proposed that further analysis be carried out on the FCoC data during the current financial year to inform proposed future year provider fee rates.

In terms of the Real Living Wage (RLW), Members were advised that the National Living Wage (NLW) was the obligatory minimum wage that employers had to pay to workers in the UK, aged over 25 years. This law only came into effect on 1 April 2016, adding to the National Minimum Wage act of 1998. The National Minimum Wage covered workers that were below 25 years old or apprentices.

The Council had stated its ambition to become an “accredited real wage employer” and in reaching this, it would move to ensure all care workers were paid as a minimum at the RLW rate. This commitment was re-affirmed in the Adult Social Care Fees 2022/23 report approved at the Strategic Commissioning Board on 23 March 2022, although a funding source was not identified at that stage. The social care sector was struggling to recruit to many social care roles, and it was believed that one factor of difficulty was paying at the lower NLW whereas other sectors such as hospitality and retail paid above the RLW.

On the 22 September 2022, the Living Wage Foundation announced that the RLW would increase to £10.90 per hour on 1 April 2023, which represented an increase on the hourly rate of 10.1%. The National Living Wage announced by Government would see the rate increase rate to £10.42 per hour on 1 April 2023, an increase on the current rate by 9.6%. Given full Council approval, 28 February 2023 all staff across Adult Social Care contracts were to be paid the minimum of the Real Living Wage from 1 April 2023. The proposals within the report made provision for this to be paid as a minimum to all staff working across these contracts for the 2023/24 financial year. To pay the Real Living Wage it was important that all contract arrangements in place across Adult Services reflected payment to all staff as a minimum in revised terms and conditions. This would be done by way of contract variations to all existing contracts, and would be included within all future contract agreements going forward.

Financial information in respect of the following was provided in the report:

- Care Home fees;
- Support at Home/Standard Home Care rates;
- Contract Uplifts;
- Day Service options;
- Direct Payments Personal Assistant Rates;
- Shared Lives Scheme;
- Out of Borough Placements; and
- Charges for Services.

Members were further advised that the 2023/24 budgets for the provision of Adult Social Care Placements and Packages of Care including related contracts (e.g. Supported Living) totalled £79.941m gross (£51.286m net of service user contributions).

The estimated additional cost of the proposed increase on provider fees, as set out in the report, was £5.827m (£4.746m net of additional service user contributions to their care package). In addition there was also estimated service demand pressure on the related budgets of £7.006m.

The Council had approved additional funding of £7.221m to support the related costs of inflationary and service demand increases.

The Directorate were reviewing a number of proposals to mitigate the estimated additional budget pressure due to the proposed fee increases and estimated additional service demand of £4.531m in 2023/24. These included (and were not limited to):

- A review of the level of hours provided in home care packages;
- The acceleration of a review of Mental Health placement packages;

- Increasing Independence in Supported Accommodation by reducing packages of care as part of 'my house my home' work to support people into independent tenancies; and
- The return of service users from out of borough placements to accommodation in borough.

Delivery of the mitigations would be provided within the Directorate revenue monitoring reports during the 2023/24 financial year. All cost uplifts and demand pressures were to be constrained within existing resources as set out at Full Council in February 2023. There was no capacity to overspend against planned expenditure budgets.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the content of the report be noted;
- (ii) That the proposed new rates for care home placements as detailed in table 1 section 4.4 of the report, be approved;
- (iii) That the proposed new rates for Support at Home, Standard Home Care and care provides by Routes, as detailed in table 2 section 4.8 of the report, be approved;
- (iv) That the spot purchase rates for sleep-in and waking nights as detailed in table 2 section 4.8 of the report, be approved;
- (v) That the proposed Adult Social Care contract values as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, with delegation to the Director Of Adult Services to approve a greater increase with supporting evidence;
- (vi) That the proposed revised rate for additional hours commissioned in Extra Care of £17.83 per hour per section 4.10 of the report, be approved;
- (vii) That the proposed Direct Payment rates as detailed in table 3 section 4.17 of the report, be approved;
- (viii) That the proposed Shared Lives Carer payments detailed in table 4 section 4.19 of the report, be approved;
- (ix) That the proposal to increase younger adults out of borough placement care packages by 6.7% be approved, with delegation to the Director Of Adult Services to approve a greater percentage rate with supporting evidence as detailed in Section 4.23 of the report;
- (x) That the proposal to increase specialist placement care packages by 6.7% be approved, with delegation to the Director of Adult Services to approve a greater percentage rate with supporting evidence;
- (xi) That the payment of older people's out of borough placement care packages at the host local authority prevailing weekly rate, be approved;
- (xii) That all payment rates detailed in the report to be effective from 1 April 2023, be approved;
- (xiii) That the related impact of care package fee increases on the financial assessment of the service user is from 1 May 2023, be approved; and
- (xiv) That the variation of existing contracts with providers to ensure that all relevant employees are paid at the real living wage hourly rate as a minimum effective from 1 April 2023, be approved.

151. CONTRACT AWARD HOME CARE FLEXIBLE PURCHASING SYSTEM

The Executive Member, Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services submitted a report providing information in respect of the Contract Award Home Care Flexible Purchasing System.

It was explained that, on 24 August 2022, Executive Cabinet approved an extension to the existing Home Care framework from original end date 30 October 2022 to 31 May 2023. At the same time, approval was given to tender the Home Care Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) that would replace the framework from 1 June 2023.

The FPS would run for six years through to 31 May 2029 opening annually – or more frequently if required – in order to allow other providers to apply to join. Following the initial procurement process,

twenty seven providers had passed the requisite evaluation criteria and the report sought approval to award contracts as detailed.

RESOLVED

That following the evaluation of tender submissions, approval be given for the initial admission of twenty seven providers to the FPS, with potential subsequent awards to follow annually.

Provider A	365
Provider B	Benhill
Provider C	Bridging the Gap
Provider D	Care4Us
Provider E	Care Needs
Provider F	Care Solutions
Provider g	Choices Care
Provider H	City Care
Provider I	Connect Care
Provider J	Delta Care
Provider K	Elmar
Provider L	Engage Care
Provider M	Grace Live-in
Provider N	Highland Ornate
Provider O	Homecarers Liverpool
Provider P	iCare Solutions
Provider Q	Link Care
Provider R	Meridian
Provider S	Person Centred Care & Support
Provider T	PBT Safer Care
Provider U	Right Care
Provider V	Sam's Helping Hands
Provider W	SBC
Provider X	Shabach Healthcare
Provider Y	Sure Care
Provider Z	Valour
Provider AA	We Lead

152. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND ROUND 4 – APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, which proposed options for the disbursement of the Household Support Fund Round 4 allocated to Tameside. This would follow the split utilised in funding rounds 1 and 2 between:

1. Funding for families eligible for free school meals to provide support during holiday periods
2. An open support programme into which all residents could apply, offering payments for food, essentials and energy. The full options for this would be brought back in a further report.

It was proposed that the awarded monies be split across three distinct support streams, each serving a specific purpose and together ensuring that the support offer spread was maximised across the Borough's residents whilst meeting the requirements of the funding.

Stream 1 was the provision of vouchers to households with children eligible for Free School Meals to cover school breaks during the grant period, this would be administered by Education and was detailed in section 3 of the report.

Stream 2 would continue the previous open support offer into which residents could apply for an award to cover the costs of food, energy and/or related essentials and was detailed in section 4 of

the report.

Stream 3 would mirror the approach in the majority of other GM localities of providing financial support to community groups, such as Food Banks, to deliver direct and emergency support.

RESOLVED

It be approved:

- (i) That £3.08 million be provided for the provision of funding for school holiday periods via supermarket vouchers as previously provided for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024; and**
- (ii) That a further report be received setting out how streams 2 and 3 in the report can be best supported together with any necessary funding to provide administrative support for the distribution of funds.**

153. FAMILY HUBS AND START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME - UPDATES AND FURTHER COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader, Children and Families / Assistant Director, Early Help and Partnerships providing key updates on the delivery of the ongoing Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme and to seek approval on further commissioning intentions to meet the requirements of the programme framework.

It was explained that the Family Hub and Best Start for Life allocation from the Department for Education had been agreed for Tameside over 3 financial years:

Allocated agreed overall budget - £3,325,216:

- 2022/23 - £831,712
- 2023/24 - £1,354,644
- 2024/25 - £1,138,860

The report gave details of Tameside's Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme progress update and Commissioning Intentions and concluded by explaining that Tameside Council and partners had now had formal approval of the delivery plan form from the DfE and were now required to submit a self-assessment and data requirement form on the required template provided.

The DfE Delivery Plan had and continued to be developed in partnership with members of the Family Hubs Steering Group, and therefore it was important to acknowledge the detail in the plan was subject to change.

Tameside Council and its partners were on track to deliver the full expectations of the programme and expenditure within the timeframes required, and were working closely with the DfE Advisor, and the Early Intervention Foundation.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the delivery plan approval from the Department of Education be noted;**
- (ii) That the progression made against the delivery plan be acknowledged and noted;**
- (iii) That the proposed commissioning intentions as outlined in section 3 of the report, be agreed; and**
- (iv) That a further report be submitted detailing progression and further spending plans in December 2023.**

154. CIVIC EVENTS REPORT 2023

The Executive Member, Towns and Communities / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods submitted a report, which gave details of the Civic Events programme for 2023.

It was explained that the Council supported and programmed a vibrant and affordable calendar of events, generally free at the point of delivery. Key parts of the annual calendar were Whit Friday Brass Band Contests, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Services and Parades and the Borough's Christmas celebrations. Significant national or local commemoration events complimented the calendar which in 2023 included plans to mark and celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The report set out a vision for those key events and activities in 2023. The proposed model took into account the financial, organisational challenges facing the Council and the lessons learnt from staging/supporting civic events in the past.

It was proposed that the civic event dates put forward in the report were noted and adopted. It was further proposed that the plans to deliver Remembrance Services and Parades in line with 2022 were adopted and the revenue budget allocations were noted to ensure these could run safely in 2023.

The report also included the proposed plans for the corporate Lantern Parade to cease rotating between the four towns but return to Ashton annually as this was the economic centre and was easily accessible for all residents. This would mean that Ashton would host the lantern parade from 2023 onwards.

With regard to the Borough's Town Christmas Switch On, it was recommended that the named towns on their allocated dates all received a free Christmas tree, tree lights and the install and removal of those. It was also recommended that further sponsorship opportunities were explored to further support organisers with logistics following their mandatory Christmas Switch On training and compliance with Event Notifications being submitted by the 7 September 2023. The recommendations would ensure that the Town Christmas Switch On Events continued to be safe and affordable whilst also highlighting the Council's commitment to supporting Community events and town centres where possible.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the plans for Whit Friday be noted;**
- (ii) That The plans for Armed Forces Day be noted;**
- (iii) That the plans and revenue budget (section 2.16 refers) for Remembrance Sunday and the associated Services and Parades be noted;**
- (iv) That the proposal relating to Tameside's corporate festive Lantern Parade 2023 be agreed;**
- (v) It be agreed that Ashton, as the economic centre, reverts to being the annual host of the corporate lantern parade;**
- (vi) That the dates for the Town Christmas events 2023 be agreed;**
- (vii) That the support package for the Town Christmas events be agreed;**
- (viii) That the revenue budget of £18,000 (section 3.12 refers) to support the core Christmas package be noted;**
- (ix) That the proposals for marking and celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III be noted; and**
- (x) That the additional highlighted events programme be noted.**

155. NATIONAL RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Climate Emergency and Environmental Services / Head of Waste Management and Fleet Services, which updated members on recent progress by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on the Resources and Waste Strategy and the implications for Tameside Council.

Members were advised of the four main elements of the Resources and Waste Strategy as follows;

- The introduction of a deposit return scheme (DRS) for beverage containers;
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging;
- The collection of food waste on a separate, weekly basis; and

- Consistency framework for household waste collections.

It was explained that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) had recently provided further information on the deposit return scheme, extended producer responsibility for packaging and the requirement to collect food waste separately and weekly. The approach taken by Defra was to look at each area separately and to release consultation responses as they became available. This meant there was not a complete picture on the impacts and how each element would interact on others.

In terms of the deposit return scheme, the government published its consultation response in late January 2023, which set out the how the scheme was likely to work. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles, steel and aluminium cans between 50ml and 3 litres would be included in the scheme. Glass bottles were not included. The deposit rate was yet to be set but was likely to be 20p per container. A commencement date of 1 October 2025 had been set.

Containers would include an identification marker that could be read at the scheme return point. Local authorities could separate out any containers in its waste stream and redeem the deposit on them, provided they met the quality required for return i.e. the QR or barcode was readable. This would be technically challenging.

The implications of the scheme for Tameside were the diversion of PET bottles and metal drinks cans away from kerbside collections. This would in turn reduce the income levels received via the Waste Levy and the reported recycling rate. It was not possible to put any figures to the impact but if a similar scheme went ahead in Scotland as expected this summer it would provide real world data that could be used to model expected outcomes. There was likely to be some confusion with the public on what types of container would be part of the deposit return scheme. It was expected the scheme would reduce the amount of litter and may even encourage people to litter pick their area in order to redeem deposits.

With regard to Extended Producer Responsibility for Packing (EPR), it was explained that Extended Producer Responsibility would see local authorities receiving financial support for the collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of packaging with payments based on modelled costs. Defra was running a series of workshops and webinars with local authorities so the modelling accurately captures costs flowed within waste collection and disposal authorities. Payments would be based on efficient and effective collections and processing of waste and recycling by local authorities. Defra was also engaged with the packaging industry who will be charged according to the amount of packaging materials they placed on the market as this would be used to provide financial support to local authorities. The first issue of the model outputs was expected in spring 2023 with guidance on how local authorities would be assessed for efficiency and effectiveness expected in summer 2023.

In respect of the Collection of Weekly Separate Food Waste Members were advised Defra contacted GMCA as the waste disposal authority in late January 2023 to gather information on the impact of introducing weekly separate food waste collections on residual waste treatment contracts. This was so Defra could detail which waste collection authorities required Transition Arrangements and they could be named in the Regulations thus delaying implementation of separate food waste collections. The GMCA waste disposal contract ended in 2034. The deadline to submit support for Transition Arrangements was 9 March 2023 so it was not possible to take the decision through the usual governance process.

Tameside had two options; to support the application for Transition Arrangements and delay any changes to food waste collections until 2034 or look to introduce weekly food waste collections to all properties by 2025 and rely on a TEEP (Technical, environmental, economically practicable) assessment to demonstrate the current collection method was the most suitable for Tameside.

Following discussion with the Leader and Chief Executive on 9 March 2023 it was agreed Tameside wished to continue with weekly comingled food and garden waste collections. Tameside along with Stockport and Trafford councils had opted to rely on TEEP and not apply for Transition Arrangements. It was believed there was a strong case that the current collection arrangements

delivered a good capture rate of waste food from households and was the most economic and practical way for collections to take place in the Borough.

Members were further advised that Defra has yet to publish a consultation response to the Consistency Framework for Household Collections, however it was believed to be imminent. It was expected to set a minimum collection frequency for all waste streams, include dates for when pots, tubs and trays (PTTs) and flexible plastic wrapping would need to be collected from the kerbside and if councils could continue to charge for separate garden waste collections.

The report concluded that there would be significant changes in how and what recycling was collected from households in the next few years and how the Council received funding to provide the service. By opting to roll out food waste recycling to more households, this linked into Tameside's Climate Change and Environment Strategy.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted and that a further report be submitted when more detail on funding and the Consistency Framework for Household Waste Collections was known.

156. FUTURE ST PETERSFIELD DELIVERY STRATEGY

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Inclusive Growth, Business and Employment / Director of Place, which provided an update on the preparation of the Delivery Strategy for the Future St Petersfield Masterplan area and the preferred route to market to deliver the nine identified plots for a mixed development scheme in Ashton Town Centre.

As set out in the Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy (2021), St Petersfield provided a clear opportunity for Tameside to create a modern, tailored development that could provide a hub for the growth of the digital, creative and tech sector in the borough. The installation of a Dark Fibre network into the area, and the completion of a data centre in Ashton Old Baths, ensured digital connectivity to match that available in Media City.

As part of the Eastern Growth Cluster, the recent designation of the Ashton Mayoral Development Zone was approved by Executive Cabinet on 9 February 2022. The Ashton Mayoral Development Zone was a key strategic economic growth opportunity encompassing Ashton-under-Lyne town centre including the St. Petersfield Digital Creative and Tech Hub, and the large scale employment development opportunity of Ashton Moss. The AMDZ comprised three key economic growth projects;

- Ashton-Under-Lyne Levelling Up Fund Project;
- St. Petersfield Digital, Creative and Tech Hub; and
- Ashton Moss Advanced Manufacturing Park.

The scale and location of AMDZ, positioned between the digital hubs of Manchester City Centre, and Leeds, and the advanced manufacturing hubs of Lancashire and South Yorkshire, made it a key opportunity to harness the digital, creative and tech sector and advanced materials strengths of Greater Manchester, to create an economic growth engine in the east of the City region.

The approved Future St Petersfield Masterplan and associated Development Prospectus included a set of agreed development principles that would ensure a high quality development was delivered in the Masterplan area and enabled the right mix of uses to be delivered including commercial/office, residential, leisure and food and drink. The Development Prospectus had been used as a promotional tool in the Expressions of Interest exercise recently carried out by Tameside Council. The St Petersfield masterplan comprised a vision for the area which would appeal to the city region's fast growing Digital, Creative and Tech Sector, utilising the Boroughs newly installed dark fibre network. A total of nine development plots had been identified and the proposals for each development plot were connected by the improvements to the public realm and highways.

The nine development plots included proposals for new homes, commercial/office floor space, a hotel, and ancillary food and beverage establishments. Along with an improved public realm, the quantum of delivery had the potential to create new jobs, business rates income and an increased GVA for the borough. However, further discussions that had taken place with interested developers had recognised that there could be opportunities to increase the number of new homes and reduce the amount of commercial space identified.

The Masterplan was currently being used as an economic and planning tool to guide and enable the future development and enable more detailed design of the site, in accordance with existing and proposed planning policies.

Historically, there had been some legacy matters which required resolution. On 26 March 2004, the Council entered into a development agreement with ASK Property Developments Limited. The development agreement related to the redevelopment of St. Petersfield in accordance with an agreed masterplan over a 10-year period. As part of the legacy associated with the history of St Petersfield, the existing striking off of the existing management company in St Petersfield would create the platform to enable the Council to progress the delivery of the St Petersfield Masterplan.

A St Petersfield Legacy progress update and Future St Petersfield Delivery Strategy was provided in the report and accompanying appendices.

The report concluded that the Council remained committed to bring forward the Future St Petersfield masterplan development opportunity as an exemplar mixed use town centre location in Greater Manchester.

The Ashton Mayoral Development Zone would play a key role in the delivery of this opportunity in St Petersfield, and its makeup would reflect the importance of the zones potential for the regeneration and economic growth of the city region. There would be a requirement for a board to be set up that would carry out an important oversight role, providing guidance and facilitating co-ordination and co-operation between the different project elements.

The soft market testing exercise had demonstrated that there is interest from the market and from potential developers to deliver the scheme in partnership with Tameside Council.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the progress on the approach to delivery since the adoption of the masterplan for St Petersfield in January 2022, be noted;**
- (ii) That the options considered and feedback received from the recent Expressions of Interest exercise in regards to the alternative routes to delivering a scheme for St Petersfield, be noted;**
- (iii) That the delivery strategy be approved, including the preferred route to market for procurement of a private sector developer partner in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations (2015), through a competitive tendering process utilising a streamlined framework such as the Pagabo Framework; and**
- (iv) That the allocation of £70,000 be approved, to progress the St Petersfield Masterplan proposals and resolve historical matters to be financed via the non-recurrent Council's Growth and Investment reserve sum as set out in Appendix 4 to the report. The expenditure is to be financed via the reserve sum of £200,000 that was approved for the St Petersfield development in a report to the Executive Cabinet on 28 April 2021. A balance of £74,000 remains at 1 April 2022.**

157. STALYBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE FUNDING

The Executive Member, Inclusive Growth, Business and Employment / Director of Place, submitted a report providing an update on the selection of Stalybridge Town Centre as one of 16 capital regeneration projects to be funded through UK Government Departmental budgets in the 2023 UK

Budget.

The report sought approval to progress the Stalybridge Town Centre Regeneration Programme, subject to confirmation of further details from Government. A further decision by the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment to formally accept the funding would be required once the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement were available.

It was explained that, as part of the March 2021 budget, the Government announced £4.8 billion of 'Levelling Up Funding' ('The Fund') over four years (up to 2024-25), committed to a holistic, place-based approach to funding projects and programmes across the country. The Council submitted a bid of £19.9m for Stalybridge Town Centre to Round 2 of the Fund on 28 July 2022. On 19 January 2023 it was announced that the bid had been unsuccessful in Round 2 of the Fund.

On 15 March 2023 it was announced in the 2023 UK Budget that, since the conclusion of Round Two of the Fund, DLUHC had identified further funding to support shortlisted bids that did not receive funding. Following an assessment process the Stalybridge bid was selected as one 16 Capital Regeneration Projects nationally to be funded through Departmental budgets and therefore Council would be awarded £19.9m.

The bid for Stalybridge was focused on enabling infrastructure to bring forward vacant sites for redevelopment, public realm and active travel improvements, and the delivery of the Stalybridge 'Cultural Quarter' at the Civic Hall and Ashley Cheetham Art Gallery. This would help the Town Centre to reach its full potential and deliver further comprehensive regeneration, attracting additional investment.

This has been set within the context of emerging wider Town Centre master planning work and would provide the enabling works to act as a catalyst for significantly accelerating delivery of the comprehensive transformation of the Town Centre and unlock its full potential. The lack of enabling works that were the primary focus of the interventions to be supported, significantly inhibited the Council's ability to deliver the further comprehensive regeneration of the Town Centre to attract further investment, failing to meet the regeneration objectives for Stalybridge.

The interventions that would be funded were set out in the report and were focussed on;

- Stalybridge West, Enabling Infrastructure;
- Public Realm and Active Travel; and
- Cultural Quarter.

The programme of works was supported by match funding of £2,555,671 that the Council had successfully secured via the HSHAZ and within the Council's Capital Programme to help regenerate areas of the Town Centre and restore the local historic character.

Once received the Council would need to agree and sign the relevant grant funding documentation and agreement to enable the Council to deliver the programme of works for Stalybridge Town Centre and drawdown associated funding. The delivery of the interventions supported via the grant funding would form part of a wider Stalybridge Town Centre Regeneration Programme comprising a number of related projects within the Town Centre that were in receipt of further funding, primarily from the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the Council's Capital Programme.

A robust governance process was required for the delivery of the Stalybridge Town Centre Regeneration Programme. This would be ultimately overseen by the Council's Executive Cabinet who would have final decision-making responsibilities for the delivery of individual projects. Executive Cabinet would approve the entering into of any relevant funding agreements, approval the overall approach to delivery and receive regular monitoring and updates on progress as appropriate.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the successful award of £19.9m capital funding from Government for Stalybridge**

- Town Centre, be noted;**
- (ii) That the entering into of the formal agreements for the receipt of funding and inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme, be approved;**
 - (iii) That the governance arrangements, as set out in the report, be agreed; and**
 - (iv) It be noted that a further report will be forthcoming setting out the programme of works associated with the Stalybridge Town.**

158. STALYBRIDGE CIVIC HALL UPDATE

A report was submitted by the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Place providing an update in respect of Stalybridge Civic Hall.

It was explained that various initiatives to support the restoration and further development of Stalybridge Civic Hall had been ongoing since Stalybridge was selected as Tameside's focus for the Greater Manchester Mayors Town Centre Challenge in 2018.

Members were advised that the roof at Stalybridge Civic Hall was in poor condition and the roof had been identified as being beyond repair following survey work undertaken in 2019 and 2021 and therefore required a full restoration. The cost of restoring the roof had increased due to external factors and additional funding was now required to deliver the approved scheme as the original allocation of funding related to repair and restoration rather than replacement.

In order to mitigate the impact on the approved Capital Programme the Council had secured UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) monies totalling £320k and £875k from the £19.9 million Capital Regeneration Projects Funding announced for Stalybridge Town Centre in the March 2023 UK Budget. The additional funding would make up the cost variation and provide robust contingency. By undertaking the roof works as planned the risk of any "clawback" of HSHAZ funding from Historic England would be mitigated.

RESOLVED

- (i) That in principle approval be given to utilising the UKSPF Grant of £320k and £875k Capital Regeneration Projects Grant identified for the Civic Hall;**
- (ii) That the total maximum budget for Stalybridge Civic Hall Roof is set at £2,893k, with £1,195k financed from the UKSPF Grant of £320k and Capital Regeneration grant of £875k. The revised budget will include £647k contingency for un-costed works as set out at paragraph 3.6. of the report; and**
- (iii) That the Council enter into the standard Design & Build contract with the Inspired Spaces Tameside Limited (LEP) for the replacement of Stalybridge Civic Hall Roof to a value of £2,077,456 including the LEP fee, subject to the outcome of the independent Value for Money Assessment and that the Council enter into a Deed of Appointment with the LEP and Currie & Brown for the appointment of an Independent Certifier for the roof replacement scheme.**

159. NEW HAWTHORNS SCHOOL UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Education, Achievement and Equalities / First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Place / Director of Children's Services, providing members with a progress update on the Hawthorns SEND school scheme including the latest design solution, cost plan, programme, value for money assessment and grant funding bid submission to the Football Foundation.

The report also sought approval to progress the scheme including the development of standard BSF Design and Build Contract with the LEP now all the final construction costs were known for the school building. Further reports would be required in relation to (a) the construction and costs of the Football pitches following a grant application to Football Foundation and (b) the use of the current Hawthorn

School site.

It was explained that Hawthorns School was an outstanding primary special school currently located within the Audenshaw area of Tameside and catered for pupils with a range of complex special educational needs aged between 4-11 years old. The school was an academy and part of New Bridge Multi Academy Trust. The area of the school building designated as Hawthorns School was originally designed to accommodate 60 pupils. In 2015, it was identified that additional accommodation was needed and so a joint scheme to expand both Hawthorns School and Aldwyn Primary School was developed. The scheme for Hawthorns School included internal remodelling to create an additional classroom and a new build classroom. The internal remodelling work was completed. A four classroom demountable extension was currently on the site to accommodate additional pupils.

Since Executive Cabinet approved the expansion of Hawthorns School in 2021, the number of parents requesting that their children were placed at the school had increased significantly. The school now had 192 pupils on roll as at Easter 2023 and in order to accommodate these preferences, the school had opened two satellite classrooms. Those bases were at Discovery Academy in Hattersley and at Wild Bank Primary School in Stalybridge. Executive Cabinet recently approved an outline budget for the New Bridge Trust to explore options for additional accommodation to be made available to Hawthorns School from September 2023 that would take the number of children on roll at the school to 220. This was most likely to be in the form of demountable classrooms on the Samuel Laycock School site. The demountable classrooms could then be repurposed for additional secondary age provision when the new Hawthorns Building opened and the primary age children moved there. The additional temporary accommodation at Samuel Laycock School would mean that, from September 2023 until the new school building was open, Hawthorns School would be operating from its current Lumb Lane base and three additional satellite sites. The school advised that this could not be a permanent solution to the issue of additional places. The new building would enable the school to come together again on one site and expertise and good practice to be shared amongst all staff. It would also give the school and the Trust the capacity to support inclusive practice across the mainstream school system.

Members were advised that, in June 2021 Executive Cabinet, considered an options appraisal for a new building and approved a project to allocate an initial £13m of Basic Need funding to the expansion and relocation of Hawthorns School to 220 places on the Longdendale Playing Field site.

Since that date the Capital Projects Team and colleagues in Education had worked with the LEP and the school to produce designs to RIBA Stage 4 at which point the significant majority of work packages had been tendered (98% of the measured works (by value) had been market tested accordingly to the independent Value for Money consultant) or priced by the LEP's sub-contractor.

The planning application for the new school was submitted in July 2022. Several community consultation events were held including with a representative group of parents from Hawthorns School and planning permission was granted on 21 December 2022. The pre-commencement planning conditions were discharged by the planning authority on 22 March 2023. Following the granting of planning, the LEP had produced the 4th updated cost plan, which included additional works that were needed to ensure planning conditions were met and an updated programme to deliver the new school. Site enabling works had already commenced, including site clearance, access and boundary protection.

Details of the construction project, including, cost and delivery timescales and milestones were provided in the report.

The report concluded that a new school building for Hawthorns School was essential to meet the needs of primary age children in the borough who have SEND needs outlined in Education, Health and Care Plans. When the project began to build a new school, Hawthorns had 140 pupils on roll and it was envisaged that the new school building would provide an additional 80 places when it opened. This would enable the Council to avoid circa £3.022m (pa), which against a project cost of

£22.762m represented a pay back of circa 7.5 years. The growth in EHCPs in the borough since then had meant that Hawthorns School had already had to implement many of these places in the knowledge that a bigger school building had been agreed by the Council. However, these places were in temporary, satellite provision, which was not sustainable or desirable in the long term for primary aged children in need of specialist provision.

Since Executive Cabinet approved the original scheme, colleagues in the Council, at Hawthorns School, in the New Bridge Trust and the LEP had worked together to produce designs for the building which received planning permission in December 2022. This had led to cost plan 4 being issued. There had been significant increases in cost since the original estimate from the LEP in 2021 due to the economic climate and additional design requirements which were outlined in the report, mainly the construction of football pitches to meet the planning requirements of Sport England and looking to achieve carbon neutral status. The total cost was now predicted to be £22.762m.

Whilst there was sufficient headroom in the education capital budgets to accommodate this increase, the impact of the increased costs was that there was a reduction in residual funding to support other capital projects that may be needed to increase school places in the borough in line with PAN. The Council may receive further capital allocations from the DfE to support high needs provision places, or general places in line with PAN, but this would not be before the 2024/25 financial year and could not be guaranteed.

RESOLVED

- (i) That £9.762m additional budget allocation from the Education Capital funding budget to deliver the overall school project, be approved. £13.000m had previously been approved, and the capital programme be increased accordingly;**
- (ii) It be agreed that any increase in cost variations to the scope or design will need to be met by the Academy or the Education and Skills Funding Agency;**
- (iii) Approve entering into the standard Design & Build contract with the Inspired spaces (the LEP);**
- (iv) Approve entering into a Deed of Appointment with the LEP and Currie & Brown for the appointment of an Independent Certifier for the new school scheme;**
- (v) It be agreed that any variations to the project that involve an increased cost for the scheme implication will be approved by the S151 officer in the first instance and the S151 will be the Council's authorised officer for executing any project variations;**
- (vi) Approve entering into an agreement for lease and thereafter a lease with the Academy on the terms set out in the report including a surrender of their existing lease;**
- (vii) Approve entering into any incidental agreements to facilitate the project subject to agreement by the S151 Officer and the Head of Legal;**
- (viii) Approve the advertisement of any proposed loss of open space due to the lease to the academy (in accordance with the provisions of Section (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Open Spaces Act 1906);**
- (ix) Approve the submission of a grant funding application to the Football Foundation as set out in section 6 of this report including the appointment of a grant bid specialist to make this application at an estimated cost of £6k;**
- (x) That a further report be received to advise on the delivery of the football pitches and resolve any funding for the football pitches following the outcome of the application to the Football Foundation for the grant in recommendation (ix);**
- (xi) It be noted that a further report will follow in relation to the use/occupation of the former Hawthorns school, subject to a sufficiency review referred to in paragraph 2.6; and**
- (xii) It be noted that the progress of this project will be reported through Strategic Planning & Capital Monitoring Panel.**

160. URGENT ITEMS

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

161. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

It be noted that the next meeting of Executive Cabinet is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 28 June 2023.

CHAIR

Report to:	COUNCIL
Date:	23 May 2023
Reporting Officer:	Sandra Stewart – Chief Executive & Head of Paid Service
Subject:	ALLOWANCE FOR GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Report Summary:	To consider the recommendations of the GMCA Independent Remuneration Panel regarding Special Responsibility Allowance payments for members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee attached herewith at Appendix A and B .
Recommendation:	<p>That Members consider and APPROVE the following recommendations of the GMCA Independent Remuneration Panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(i) The IRP recommends that the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an annual SRA of £3,228.(ii) The IRP recommends that the Substitute Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an SRA consisting of two components:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Standing SRA of £536 per year• A Variable SRA of £134.52 for every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish group attended(iii) The IRP recommends that the SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be £9,684.(iv) The IRP recommends that if the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoint a Vice Chair then that post holder should receive an SRA of £4,035.(v) The IRP recommends that the SRAs recommended for the Members, Substitutes, Chair and if so appointed a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also annually indexed in accordance with the annual percentage cost of living increase that is applied each year as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff, with the indexation applied at the same time it is applied to the remuneration of the GMCA Elected Mayor and Co-opted Members.(vi) The Panel further recommends that the recommended SRAs for Members and Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are backdated to 24 June 2022 or any date thereafter that the GMCA deems is appropriate.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)	The financial implications will depend on the value and timing of any local government pay award, and the take-up of members and will be met by the GMCA not Tameside Council.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by Borough Solicitor)	Compliance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 which provides Local Authorities with discretion to adopt remuneration schemes reflecting local circumstances providing for clear and transparent accountability, because it is necessary for the Council when exercising this

discretion to have regard to the recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Access to Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Robert Landon, Head of Democratic Services by:



phone: 0161 342 2146



e-mail: robert.landon@tameside.gov.uk

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011, as amended by the GMCA (Amendment) Order 2015 and the GMCA (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 provides for the appointment of a GMCA Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). At their meeting on 24 February 2017 the GMCA agreed to establish in accordance with relevant statutory provisions, its own Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.2 Following consideration of the Independent Review of the GMCA Scrutiny function undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny at their meeting on the 24 June 2022, the GMCA agreed to re-convene the IRP to consider a special responsibility allowance for members and substitutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PROCESS

- 2.1 The Membership of the Greater Manchester Independent Remuneration Panel consisted of:
 - Dr Declan Hall –Independent Chair
 - Clive Memmott – Chamber of Commerce
 - Vicky Knight – UNISON Northwest
- 2.2 The Panel met in July 2022 to begin the process of reviewing the remuneration for the Members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Their final report was completed in November 2022 but was not considered immediately by the GMCA as it was anticipated that the reference to the payment of allowances to Scrutiny, Audit and PCP Committee members within the Levelling Up White Paper was imminently to become law.
- 2.3 The Panel formally convened to conduct the review and it interviewed members of Scrutiny, members the GMCA and relevant officers. In addition, all Scrutiny members were sent a short questionnaire for those who were unable to meet with the Panel were given the opportunity to make a written submission.

3. REMUNERATION PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The recommendations of the GMCA's Independent Remuneration Panel are –
 - (vii) The IRP recommends that the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an annual SRA of £3,228.
 - (viii) The IRP recommends that the Substitute Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an SRA consisting of two components:
 - A Standing SRA of £536 per year
 - A Variable SRA of £134.52 for every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish group attended
 - (ix) The IRP recommends that the SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be £9,684.
 - (x) The IRP recommends that if the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoint a Vice Chair then that post holder should receive an SRA of £4,035.
 - (xi) The IRP recommends that the SRAs recommended for the Members, Substitutes, Chair and if so appointed a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also annually indexed in accordance with the annual percentage cost of living increase that is applied each year as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff, with the indexation applied at the same time it is applied to the remuneration of the GMCA Elected Mayor and Co-opted Members.

- (xii) The Panel further recommends that the recommended SRAs for Members and Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are backdated to 24 June 2022 or any date thereafter than the GMCA deems is appropriate.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 16 December 2022

Subject: A review of Special Responsibility Allowances for Members appointed to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report of: Gillian Duckworth, GMCA Monitoring Officer & Steve Wilson GMCA Treasurer

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To report the recommendations of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the remuneration of the Members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The GMCA is requested to:

1. Note and accept the recommendations of the report of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel.
2. Note that the levelling up bill is still proceeding through parliament and therefore the GMCA does not yet have legislative power to pay allowances directly to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee members.
3. Recommend that the GM Districts consider paying such allowances to their appointees to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the interim.

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

4. Request the Treasurer to ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place with GM Districts to enable the payment of the allowances, subject to reimbursement from the GMCA.
5. Recommend that any SRAs for Members and Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are set as recommended in the report and are backdated to 24th June 2022 when the new scrutiny arrangements were put in place.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Gillian Duckworth, Monitoring Officer, GMCA.

Steve Wilson, Treasurer GMCA

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment: N/A

Risk Management: N/A

Legal Considerations:

As set out in the report.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

Financial Consequences – Capital

Number of attachments to the report: 1

Background Papers

[Independent Review of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Function](#) – June 2022

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

No

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency? No

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011, as amended by the GMCA (Amendment) Order 2015 and the GMCA (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 provides for the appointment of a GMCA Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). At their meeting on 24 February 2017 the GMCA agreed to establish in accordance with relevant statutory provisions, its own Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.2 Following consideration of the Independent Review¹ of the GMCA Scrutiny function undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny at their meeting on the 24 June 2022, the GMCA agreed to re-convene the IRP to consider a special responsibility allowance for members and substitutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PROCESS

- 2.1 Membership of the Greater Manchester Independent Remuneration Panel consists of:
- Dr Declan Hall –Independent Chair
 - Clive Memmott – Chamber of Commerce
 - Vicky Knight – UNISON Northwest
- 2.2 The Panel met in July 2022 to begin the process of reviewing the remuneration for the Members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Their final report was completed in November 2022 but was not considered immediately by the GMCA as it was anticipated that the reference to the payment of allowances to Scrutiny, Audit and PCP Committee members within the Levelling Up White Paper was imminently to become law.

¹ <https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s21088/4%20Final%20GMCA%20scrutiny%20report%202022.pdf>

2.3 The Panel formally convened to conduct the review and it interviewed members of Scrutiny, members the GMCA and relevant officers. In addition, all Scrutiny members were sent a short questionnaire for those who were unable to meet with the Panel were given the opportunity to make a written submission.

2.4 The Panel wishes to thank those Members and officers who assisted them with their review and submits its recommendations for consideration by the GMCA.

3. RENUMERATION PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The recommendations of the GMCA's Independent Remuneration Panel are –

- a) The IRP recommends that the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an annual SRA of £3,228.
- b) The IRP recommends that the Substitute Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an SRA consisting of two components:
 - A Standing SRA of £536 per year
 - A Variable SRA of £134.52 for every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish group attended
- c) The IRP recommends that the SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be £9,684.
- d) The IRP recommends that if the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoint a Vice Chair then that post holder should receive an SRA of £4,035.
- e) The IRP recommends that the SRAs recommended for the Members, Substitutes, Chair and if so appointed a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also annually indexed in accordance with the annual percentage cost of living increase that is applied each year as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff, with the indexation applied

at the same time it is applied to the remuneration of the GMCA Elected Mayor and Co-opted Members.

- f) The Panel further recommends that the recommended SRAs for Members and Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are backdated to 24th June 2022 or any date thereafter than the GMCA deems is appropriate.

Appendix 1 – full report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – November 2022.

**A Review of
Special Responsibility Allowances**

For Members

Appointed to the

**Greater Manchester Combined
Authority Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

By the

**Greater Manchester Combined
Authority**

Independent Remuneration Panel

**Dr Declan Hall (Chair)
Vicky Knight
Clive Memmott OBE**

November 2022

**An Independent Review
Of
Special Responsibility Allowances
For
Members appointed to the
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
By the
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Independent Remuneration Panel
November 2022**

Introduction: The Regulatory Context

1. This report contains the recommendations to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) made by the independent remuneration panel (Panel or IRP) for the GMCA on the remuneration of the Members appointed to the new single GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority was established under the *Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011* (SI 2011/908). The GMCA is made up by the ten metropolitan boroughs that make up Greater Manchester. The Order provided for each constituent authority to have one formal member. These are the Leaders (or elected City Mayor in the case of Salford) of the ten Greater Manchester Councils and also constitute the GMCA 'Combined Authority Cabinet' in that they each hold a Greater Manchester-wide policy

portfolio alongside representing their local authority. Under this Order the GMCA was assigned economic and transport powers.

3. In May 2017 the GMCA became a Mayoral Combined Authority with an elected Mayor who was also assigned the functions of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner. In addition, under The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Fire and Rescue Functions) Order (2017/469) from the 8th May 2017 the functions of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority (GMFRA) were transferred to the GMCA and the GMFRA was abolished. The Mayor now exercises the vast majority of the fire and rescue functions previously exercised by the GMFRA in addition to many transport functions. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Fire and Rescue Functions) (Amendment) Order 2020 [SI 2020/641] which came into force on 26 June 2020, authorised the Mayor of the GMCA to arrange for fire and rescue functions to be exercised by the deputy mayor for policing and crime.

The role of the GMCA Independent Remuneration Panel

4. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011 (as amended by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 [SI 2017/612]) and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Amendment) Order 2018 [SI 2018/444] sets out the statutory remuneration framework for the GMCA IRP. It provides authority for the GMCA to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel primarily to make recommendations for the remuneration of the elected Mayor of the GMCA. The IRP may also make recommendations to the GMCA and to the constituent councils regarding the allowances payable to (i) members appointed to the GMCA; and (ii) members of a committee or sub-committee of the GMCA. Currently, the Order expressly prohibits payment of remuneration by the GMCA to Members of the GMCA (other than the Mayor) or members of a committee or sub-committee of the GMCA who are not an elected member of a constituent council.
5. However, the constituent councils may, in accordance with their own scheme of allowances, pay an allowance not exceeding the allowance recommended by the independent remuneration panel to an elected member of that council. In addition, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (Clause 65), which has just passed its second reading and is expected to pass into law within the next 12 months, will specifically enable Combined Authorities to directly remunerate members appointed to their Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees.
6. Subsequently, in anticipation of these new powers the Authority at its Annual Meeting on 24th June 2022 decided that Members appointed to its new single Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be remunerated. To achieve consistency and avoid duplication of effort by the IRPs of the constituent councils the Authority asked its IRP to provide advice on the appropriate levels of remuneration for Members appointed to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. In this context, as in previous reviews the IRP has been cognisant of the principles that underpin the work of statutory IRPs at the nominating Councils by paying regard where relevant to the 2006 Statutory Guidance and the requirements of the 2003 Regulations in arriving at the recommendations for SRAs of Members appointed to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee..

The IRP

8. The members of the GMCA IRP are:
- Dr Declan Hall (Chair):
 - a former lecturer at the Institute of Local Government, the University of Birmingham, currently an independent consultant specialising in Members Allowances and support
 - Vicky Knight:
 - Regional Manager UNISON North West
 - Clive Memmott (OBE):¹
 - Chief Executive of Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
9. The work of the IRP was supported by the following
- Nancy Evans: Graduate Management Trainee, Governance, Scrutiny & Business Support, GMCA
 - Nicola Ward: Governance & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
 - Gwynne Williams: Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA

The IRPs Terms of Reference

10. The IRP was given the following terms of reference
- i. To make recommendations to the GMCA on the level of SRA payable to
 - a. Members appointed to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - b. The Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - c. Substitute Members appointed to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

¹ For transparency purposes Clive Memmott made a declaration of interest, namely he was the independent Chair of the Independent Review of the GMCA Scrutiny Function

The IRPs approach to the review

11. The IRP convened virtually via MS Teams on the following occasions:
 - 20th July 2022
 - 18th August 2022
 - 19th August 2022
 - 23rd August 2022
12. The first meeting was a scoping meeting where the IRP met with relevant Officers to plan and organise the review. At the subsequent meetings the IRP received briefings from Officers, interviewed Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members and the GMCA Mayor and Deputy Mayor and considered other relevant written evidence and data, including relevant benchmarking figures. In addition all GMCA and Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members were sent a short questionnaire so as to enable all stakeholders to exercise a voice during the review, three questionnaire returns were received.
13. For further details on the range of evidence and written material the Panel considered in its deliberations and in arriving at its recommendations see:
 - Appendix 1:
 - list of written material and other relevant documentation included in the information pack for the IRP
 - Appendix 2:
 - the Members of the GMCA and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who made representations to the IRP and the Officers who provided a factual briefing to the IRP
 - Appendix 3:²
 - relevant benchmarking data namely:
 - BM1 – Basic Allowance, Executive and Scrutiny SRAs paid in the 10 GM Councils
 - BM2 – SRAs paid to appointees via constituent Councils by other English Combined Authorities (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority only) or directly (West Yorkshire Combined Authority only)

Key Messages/Observations - A new Overview and Scrutiny Model

14. One of the key messages that came through to the IRP by a review of written evidence and representation received was how the new Overview and Scrutiny structure was different from that which it replaced. A great deal of consideration and effort had gone into the new Overview and Scrutiny arrangements with the

² The IRP also reviewed where relevant the SRAs paid by the 10 Greater Manchester Constituent Councils for their appointees to other GMCA Committees

aim to make it more effective and enhance Member involvement. The new Overview and Scrutiny Committee is an important committee of the GMCA and recent changes in its structure reflects the growing maturity of the GMCA.

Remuneration as key to underpinning work of Overview and Scrutiny

15. The concomitant message arising out of the new emphasis on enhanced Overview and Scrutiny is that remuneration of Overview and Scrutiny Members is important to support Members to fulfil their various expected roles. As Overview and Scrutiny will be vital to ensuring the work of the Authority and Mayor is more informed and robust remuneration is essential in delivering that outcome.

Remuneration at a realistic level

16. Finally, the other key message that came through via the interviews was that any remuneration that the IRP recommended should reflect the importance of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the roles that Members appointed to it will be required to carry out. While the recommendations should not reflect 'market' rates, there is an implicit element of public service built into Member remuneration it does need to be at a level that supports the demands put upon Members who are appointed to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Making recommendations without meaningful experience

17. A central dilemma for the IRP is that it is being asked to make recommendations without meaningful experience of how Overview and Scrutiny will operate in reality. As such, any recommendations are based on the oral and written evidence rather than experiential evidence. The recommendations to the Combined Authority only represent what is known at this particular juncture, they are in effect interim recommendations. Therefore, the IRP would welcome the opportunity to revisit the recommendations contained this report after experience of the operation of Overview and Scrutiny has been gained, in time for the 2024 Mayoral elections.

The GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee – the context

18. At the Authority's Annual Meeting on 24th June 2022, the Authority decided to discontinue the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees and replace it with a single Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This decision arose out of the recommendations from an independent review of the overview and scrutiny function by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, which published its full findings in June 2022.

19. There are 20 full Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, appointed by the GMCA from elected Members of the Constituent Councils, with at least one Member from each Constituent Council and so far as reasonably practicable to reflect the political balance of political parties prevailing among members of the Constituent Councils when taken together.
20. In addition, 20 Substitute Members are also appointed who may be invited to attend as full members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when apologies have been received. Substitute Members also reflect political balance amongst the Constituent Councils as far as practicable. There is also an expectation that Substitute Members, as with full Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, will take part in the work of task and finish working groups.
21. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has appointed its own Chair, who must be a Member of one of the Constituent Councils and who is not a member of a registered political party of which the Mayor is a member, or if the Mayor is not a member of a registered political party then who is not a member of a registered political party which has the most representatives among the members of the Constituent Councils on the GMCA. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may also appoint a Vice Chair who also must not be from the same political party as the Mayor. At the time of the review, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has chosen not to appoint a Vice Chair.
22. At present there are 11 scheduled meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee per year. It is intended that Committee meetings will be followed by short 'wash up sessions', to reflect on the outcomes of the full meetings and where potential improvements may be identified. There will also be at least six knowledge briefings per year, to bring Members up to date with particular topics. All Members will be expected to attend at least two training sessions per year. Finally, there will be up to 3-4 task and finish groups per year that will look at topics in greater depth, meeting no more than 3-4 times over a short period of time, probably no more than two months. Each task and finish working group will consist of a mixture of full Overview and Scrutiny Committee and relevant Substitute Members.
23. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will determine its own work programme but there are three main areas where it will be expected to strengthen the role of overview and scrutiny:
 - To review and evaluate the performance of the Mayor and the GMCA , and the way it works with its partners to deliver for local people
 - To contribute to policy development in respect of high profile, complex issues affecting the whole of Greater Manchester
 - To investigate more complex cross-cutting issues with a particular focus on the delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy

24. A new and central process in delivering Overview and Scrutiny will be the task and finish working groups. They will provide the opportunity for the Substitute Members to get involved in scrutiny without sitting on the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with membership of the task and finish working groups being a mixture of full Committee and Substitute members with regard to the interests, skills, knowledge and priorities of the task and finish working group Members.
25. If it is envisaged that there is a need to delve more deeply into a topic it will lend itself to deliberation in a task and finish working group, which will be focused on teasing out new policy directions both to challenge and support the Mayor and GMCA. Other issues, will be more likely to be more appropriate to consider in the more formal setting of the full Committee where activity is more likely to be focused holding the Mayor and GMCA to account as well as asking the Mayor and GMCA to give an account.

Arriving at recommendations – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members

Benchmarking/seeking analogous roles I – other Combined Authorities

26. The IRP considered a number of different approaches in arriving at the recommended SRA for the full Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. An obvious starting point was to consider what other English Combined Authorities pay their members of Overview and Scrutiny. The only Combined Authority that directly remunerates its Members of their Overview and Scrutiny Committees is West Yorkshire (by designating them as co-opted Members). It pays those Members £648 apiece per annum. However, there are some important differences. In West Yorkshire there are three overview and scrutiny committees and the scope of the budget and policy items they are required to scrutinise does not compare with GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, where the GMCA revenue budget for 2021/22 was £1.93bn, by far the largest of any Combined Authority. As such the remuneration for Overview and Scrutiny Members at West Yorkshire Combined Authority is not relevant for benchmarking purposes.
27. Similarly, the IRP referred to all the allowances schemes of the nominating councils to other English Combined Authorities and the only English Combined Authority that remunerates their appointees to Overview and Scrutiny via the allowances schemes of the constituent councils is Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and even then two of the constituent councils, Peterborough and Fenland have decided not to pay such an SRA. The average SRA paid to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Members is £1,326, with a median SRA of £1,303. However, the IRP has not been guided by this level of remuneration for the same reasons it has not been guided by the SRA paid to Overview and Scrutiny Members in West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the size, scope, workloads and responsibility of GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Members is much

more broader than is the case in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

Benchmarking/seeking analogous roles II – Other GMCA bodies

28. The IRP then considered the SRAs paid by the 10 Greater Manchester constituent councils to their appointees to other GMCA bodies via their own allowances schemes, namely the Transport Committee and Waste and Recycling Committee. This exercise did not throw up a great deal of useful comparisons. It is noted that only three of the GM Councils remunerate their appointees to the Waste and Recycling Committee. The one GM Council that has specifically reviewed remuneration for the appointee to the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee (Bury) pays an SRA of £1,500.
29. It is noted that Bury has recently specifically reviewed the SRA for its appointee to the GM Transport Committee (which is a joint committee of the ten constituent councils, the GMCA and the Mayor) and set it at £3,000. It is also noted that transport is largely a mayoral function and there is no requirement for the GMCA to have a Transport Committee, whereas the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a statutory committee that has a wider brief. Nonetheless, the Bury SRA of £3,000 paid to its appointees to the GM Transport Committee established a base point for the IRP – it would not be unreasonable for Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive an SRA greater than £3,000.

Benchmarking/seeking analogous roles III – The 10 GM Constituent Councils

30. As a further benchmarking exercise the IRP explored whether there were any analogous roles in the 10 Greater Manchester (GM) Constituent Councils. It is noted that in no GM Council are Members remunerated for sitting on an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, their Basic Allowance is deemed to cover such duties. This review did not throw up any analogous roles to the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the Constituent Councils

Benchmarking/seeking analogous roles IV – Other remunerated roles paid directly by the GMCA

31. Finally the IRP considered the annual remuneration paid to the Independent Person (£988) and the co-opted Member appointed to the GMCA Audit Committee (£1,627). Once again the IRP rejected drawing an analogy with the remuneration of these roles at GMCA as the time commitment and breath of work of Overview and Scrutiny Members is greater than that of the Independent Person and the Co-opted Member on the GMCA Audit Committee.

Adopting the time assessment multiplied by rate of remuneration approach

32. However, the IRP did note how the recommended remuneration for the Co-opted Member of the Audit Committee was arrived at, in its March 2018 Review. This was done by assessing a time input and then multiplying it by an appropriate rate of remuneration. The IRP also noted that this approach is utilised by most IRPs from the Constituent Councils (and advised by the 2006 Statutory Guidance) when arriving at their recommended Basic Allowance. As such the IRP has adopted this approach in arriving at the recommended SRA for the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members - Assessing time required

33. The IRP recognises that the Overview and Scrutiny Members also undertake a responsibility and their roles do not just involve workloads. However in the absence of any meaningful comparisons and benchmarking data and the fact that this approach has precedent the IRP has decided this is the most transparent and simple to understand approach to adopt.
34. In arriving at the estimated required time input by Overview and Scrutiny Members the IRP has settled on a figure of two days per month, or 24 days per year. In arriving at this time estimate the IRP has included:
- Attendance at 11 Overview and Scrutiny Committees per year, plus follow up wash up sessions
 - Attendance at six Knowledge Briefing sessions per year
 - Attendance at least two Training sessions per year
 - Sitting on and attending at least one task and finish working group with three meetings per year
 - Individually to keep a watching brief on portfolio business to assist with performance monitoring and policy development
 - Engage with their respective local authorities to ensure relevant GMCA-related information is circulated between local authorities and the GMCA
 - All reading, preparation and additional research where required
 - An element for travel time

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members – rate of remuneration

35. In arriving at an appropriate rate of remuneration the IRP has adopted a day rate that replicates the day rate utilised by the IRP when arriving at the recommended remuneration for the Co-opted Member on the GMCA Audit Committee, namely the mean gross daily earnings of all full time employees within the metropolitan county of Greater Manchester as set out in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) Table 7.1a (2021). A similar rate of remuneration is adopted by IRPs in the Constituent Councils when arriving at a recommended Basic Allowance. It is a robust and defensible rate of

remuneration as it links Members' remuneration to the average earnings of those they represent and therefore cannot be seen as excessive.

36. ASHE Table 7.1a (2021) shows that the mean gross weekly earnings of all full time employee jobs in Greater Manchester is £672.60.³ To arrive at a daily rate of remuneration the IRP has simply divided the mean weekly figure by five working days, which equates to £134.52 per day.

Arriving at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members SRA

37. In arriving at the recommended SRA for Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee the IRP has multiplied 24 days expected input per year by a daily rate of remuneration of £134.52, which equates to £3,228. Viewed another way, an SRA of £3,228 sizes of the role of a Member of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee at 28 per cent of the role of being a Member of a Constituent Council. The IRP felt that this relative sizing was fair, by definition being a Member of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee is does not entail the same commitment and responsibility as being an elected Member of a Constituent Council but it can reasonably be estimated to be at least quarter of the size of that role.
38. **The IRP recommends that the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an annual SRA of £3,228.**

Substitute Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

39. The term 'substitute' member is somewhat of a misnomer. Their role extends beyond that of the traditional substitute Member in that they are expected to do more than only stand in when a Committee Member sends their apologies, although that is one aspect of their role. They will be explicitly drawn upon to sit on the task and finish working groups, alongside full Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. While it cannot be known at this stage the number of task and finish working groups and the number of meetings these working groups may hold it is a reasonable assumption that all Substitute Members will have the opportunity to serve on at least one task and finish working group each year, even if the actual level of involvement does not work that way in practice.
40. Again the IRP was unable to find any analogous role in other English Combined Authority's or across other GMCA bodies. The Substitute role on the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee and associated task and finish groups is unique to the GMCA.

³ See

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/earningsandhoursworkedallemployeesashtable7>

41. The IRP decided not to recommend a flat rate SRA for Substitutes as the reality is their workloads will be variable. In any one year, it is not inconceivable that a Substitute could stand in at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee a couple of times a year and attend up to three task and finish working groups, with each task group meeting up to 3-4 times. Conversely, it is equally conceivable that a Substitute will attend no Overview and Scrutiny Committee or task and finish working group meetings in any one year. Then again, an SRA that solely relates to the number of meetings a Substitute Member may attend does not recognise the common roles and responsibilities that all Substitutes are expected to undertake.

Adopting a hybrid approach to recommending Substitute Members SRA

42. Consequently, the IRP has adopted a hybrid approach in arriving at the recommended SRA for the Substitute Members that is made up of two components. The IRP is recommending a standing SRA of £538 per year. This standing SRA is to recognise that all Substitute Members will be expected to undertake relevant induction and training sessions, liaise with their respective Overview and Scrutiny Committee Member and generally to keep abreast of the broader workings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to be prepared to step in when required. In arriving at the Standing SRA of £538 the IRP has assessed the common time commitment of all Substitute Members regardless of attendance at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any task groups at 4 days per year and multiplied that by the adopted rate of remuneration of £134.52, which equates to £538.
43. The second element is the variable SRA. Substitute Members should also receive a variable SRA that relates to the number of meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish working group meetings they attend. For each meeting attended the IRP has simply decided that they should be paid a SRA set at the adopted rate of remuneration of £134.52 per meeting.
44. **The IRP recommends that the Substitute Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an SRA consisting of two components:**
- **A Standing SRA of £536 per year**
 - **A Variable SRA of £134.52 for every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish group attended**
45. To check that this hybrid approach does not lead to the anomalous situation where a Substitute Member could be paid more than a full Member of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee the IRP modelled potential scenarios for Substitute Member remuneration under this recommended hybrid model. It is noted that a Substitute Member would have to attend 20 meetings a year before they equalled the recommended SRA (£3,228) for Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This was arrived at by taking the Substitute

Members standing SRA of £536 and adding it to a hypothetical attendance of 20 meetings per year multiplied by £134.52 per meeting attended (£2,690), which totals £3,226. It is extremely unlikely that a Substitute Member will be attending 20 meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish working groups per year. As such, the IRP is assured that the hybrid model would not lead to Substitute Members receiving a higher remuneration than Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members.

The Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

46. Obviously the workload and responsibility of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair will be greater than that of the Members of the Committee. The Chair will not only be required to Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings effectively to ensure that all Members can contribute effectively but also to work with relevant Officers to develop the work programme on behalf of the Committee, taking into account the upcoming work of the GMCA and areas where scrutiny must be carried out, i.e., on the annual GMCA budget. The Chair will also attend Overview and Scrutiny pre-meetings with relevant Officers to review agenda and point out any issues that they think need attention.
47. Furthermore, the Chair will also be expected to facilitate strong team-working between committee members during formal meetings, informal meetings and task group meetings. The Chair will also be expected to monitor the progression of the task and finish working groups to ensure that they are meeting their declared targets.
48. The Chair will also be primarily responsible for liaising with the Mayor and relevant Members of the GMCA, plus relevant Officers to lead in the co-ordination of the work of Overview and Scrutiny with that of the Mayor and GMCA. The Chair has a standing invitation to attend GMCA meetings and it is expected that they will at the very least attend when Overview and Scrutiny issues are discussed and speak on the same issues.

Benchmarking/seeking analogous roles to Overview and Scrutiny Chair

49. The IRP also considered analogous roles that may provide some appropriate benchmarking providing guidance in arriving at the recommended SRA for the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair. It is noted that where the GMCA has a co-opted (independent) Chair of the Audit Committee that their remuneration is £4,067, which was arrived at by factoring the Co-opted Member remuneration of £1,627 by 2.5. The co-opted (independent) Chair of the Standards Committee is remunerated £1,234, which was arrived at by factoring the remuneration of the Independent Person by 1.25
50. Looking at the remuneration for the three Chairs of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees they each receive an

SRA of £7,341. In the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority none of the constituent authorities make provision for the remuneration of the Chair of its Overview and Scrutiny Committee through their allowances scheme.

51. The IRP chose not to be guided by the remuneration paid to the Chairs of the GMCA Audit and Standards Committees nor the Chairs of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees for similar reasons it was not guided by the remuneration of Members of these committees – the role of the Chair of a single GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee is broader and deeper than these other Chairs reviewed by the IRP.
52. One suggestion put to the IRP was the role of Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee could be seen as similar to that of Chairing a parliamentary Select Committee, who are paid £16,865 (as of April 2022). The IRP has not accepted this comparison: while the work of Select Committees can be similar to that of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee in terms of process and outputs in that they have a specific scrutiny role, Select Committees have a national rather than sub-regional dimension and while tending to have a specific focus they deal with much larger topics that can be both national and international in scope.
53. The IRP also considered whether chairing the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee is comparable to chairing an Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the Constituent Councils, where the mean SRA is £8,471 and median SRA £8,426. The IRP concluded the roles were not comparable. At the Constituent Councils there are normally more than one Overview and Scrutiny Committee and their focus is narrower than the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, they are also scrutinising a smaller budget. This was a view that was supported in the representation received. Nonetheless, by doing this comparison the IRP concluded that the recommended SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be larger than the mean SRA (£8,471) paid to Overview and Scrutiny Chairs at the Constituent Councils.
54. On the other hand the IRP rejected a comparison with Cabinet Members at the Constituent Councils, who receive a mean SRA of £15,901 and median SRA of £15,579. While the roles may well compare in terms of time commitment they do not in terms of constitutional powers. Cabinet Members at the Constituent Councils have extensive decision making powers, the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee does not have similar powers as the Committee is not a decision making committee, its role is to inform, influence, affect and steer the work of the Mayor and the GMCA where the decisions are made.
55. Again the IRP reviewed the SRAs paid via Constituent Council Members' Allowances schemes to see if they have provision for paying SRAs for when their Members are Chairs of other GMCA bodies. The only relevant example was in Wigan, which pays an SRA (£8,039) for GM Transport Chair and was specifically reviewed about two years ago as at the time a Wigan Member was

Chair of the GM Transport Committee. It was set with reference to the SRA paid to Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny at Wigan, a comparison the IRP has already rejected.

Adopting the Factor approach to arrive at Overview and Scrutiny Chair's recommended SRA

56. In arriving at the recommended SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee the IRP has adopted the same approach it utilised in arriving at the recommended SRA for the Chairs of the GMCA Audit and Standards Committee, namely by factoring the recommended remuneration for the co-opted Member of the Audit Committee. This approach is also suggested in the 2006 Statutory Guidance that is applicable to IRPs at the Constituent Councils and commonly utilised by Constituent Councils IRPs in setting other SRAs. This is known as the 'factor' approach. Once the remuneration for an ordinary Member has been determined the Chair's SRA is arrived at setting it at an appropriate multiple of the ordinary Members remuneration.
57. In adopting an appropriate factor for arriving at the remuneration of the Chair of the Audit Committee the IRP adopted a multiple of 2.5 times the recommended remuneration for the Audit Committee Co-opted Member. The IRP has not been guided by a multiple of 2.5 times the recommended SRA for the Members of Overview and Scrutiny to arrive the recommended SRA for the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny. The IRP has taken the view that the chairing Overview and Scrutiny is a larger role, in terms of numbers of meetings and workload and a greater responsibility with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee having a wider strategic remit.
58. The IRP noted that the differential between the mean Basic Allowance (£11,654) and the mean SRA (£40,568) for Leaders/City Mayor paid across the 10 Greater Manchester Councils is a factor of 3.5. Similarly, the IRP has not been guided by this differential. The difference in workload and responsibility between a GM Council ordinary Member and the GM Council Leaders/City Mayor is greater than that between the Members and Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, by virtue of the Leaders/City Mayor of the GM Councils having all executive functions vested in their role.
59. As such the IRP has adopted a factor of 3 times the recommended SRA (£3,228) for Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members to arrive at recommended SRA for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which equates to £9,684. This differential reflects the difference in workloads and responsibility. This level is also proportional, a message that came through from the representation was that there should not be too great a differential between the SRAs for the Members and the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, their relationship should be proportionate. An SRA of £9,684 meets this representation. Furthermore it also meets the test of assessing the role as larger than the Chairs of Scrutiny at the 10 GM Councils.

60. Consequently the IRP has adopted a multiple of 2.5 times the recommended SRA (£3,228) for the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to arrive at the recommended SRA for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
61. **The IRP recommends that the SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be £9,684.**

Issues arising I: The Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

62. It was not within the IRPs terms of reference to consider an SRA for a Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This was because at the time of the review the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee has decided not to appoint a Vice Chair. While the IRP was given no indication that this situation could change in the short term at least to future proof the allowances for the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee the IRP has decided to make a recommendation in the event that it decides to appoint a Vice Chair. By doing this it negates the need of the GMCA seeking further advice of the IRP if a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee were to be appointed.
63. It is difficult to assess the size of a role that is not in place but the role profile for a Vice Chair indicates that the post holder would be expected to replicate many of the duties of the Chair, although it would be expected that these duties will typically be undertaken in conjunction with and in support of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
64. Benchmarking revealed limited comparisons. Vice Chairs of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees in West Yorkshire Combined Authority each receive an SRA of £1,296, which is double the SRA paid to Members of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Once again the role on the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be much larger..
65. Looking for comparisons at the 10 GM Constituent Councils it is noted that only two Councils, Tameside and Trafford remunerate their Vice Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny, at £3,509 and £4,236 respectively. This is too limited data to draw any meaningful analogies. Moreover, the IRP does not know if the Vice Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny at Tameside and Trafford have particular discrete tasks or responsibilities. For instance it is often the case in principal councils that where a Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny is paid an SRA they have a designated responsibility such as chairing task and finish groups or lead on informal reviews, an expectation that is not explicit for a Vice Chair of GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
66. In arriving at the recommended SRA for a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee the IRP has continued with the factor approach. In

other words, the SRA for the Vice Chair has been set as a multiple of the recommended SRA for Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

67. The question remains what is the size of the role of the Vice Chair compared to the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee? Clearly the role is larger than that of an Overview and Scrutiny Member but from the role profile at least the IRP obtained no sense that it is as large as 1.5 times of the responsibility and workload of the Overview and Scrutiny Members. Clearly, there is a substantial time requirement, and may be broadly similar to that of the Chair but the Chair bears ultimate responsibility for the effective working of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
68. The IRP noted that the mean SRA (£6,709) paid to Assistant Executive Members (where appointed) in the 10 GM Constituent Councils when added to the mean Basic Allowance (total of £18,363) is about 1.5 times the mean Basic Allowance (£11,654)) paid to across the 10 GM Constituent Councils. The IRP rejected this multiple as Assistant Executive Members in the 10 GM Constituent Councils will not only support their respective Cabinet Member when required but also be given discrete responsibilities and tasks to undertake, such as being the lead on specific topics that fall within their relevant Cabinet Members portfolio.
69. As such, the IRP has arrived at the recommended SRA for a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee by setting it at 1.25 times the recommended SRA (£3,228) for the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair, which equates to £4,035. At this level it clearly assesses the role as being greater than that of ordinary Overview and Scrutiny Members but is also proportionate in that maintains a clear differential vis-à-vis the recommended SRA for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
70. **The IRP recommends that if the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoint a Vice Chair then that post holder should receive an SRA of £4,035.**

Issue arising II – the indexation of the Overview and Scrutiny SRAs

71. It was not within the IRPs terms of reference to consider whether the recommended SRAs should be indexed, i.e., uplifted annually in accordance with an appropriate linkage. However, the IRP noted that all other allowances paid by the GMCA are indexed linked. The relevant index being the annual percentage cost of living increase that is applied each year as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff, known as the 'NJC' index. It would be inequitable if the recommended SRAs arising from this review were not also indexed linked. The IRP also notes that it is common practice for the 10 GM Constituent Councils Members' Allowances schemes and indeed across English local government to contain provisions for the index mechanism.

72. **The IRP recommends that the SRAs recommended for the Members, Substitutes, Chair and if so appointed a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also annually indexed in accordance with the annual percentage cost of living increase that is applied each year as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff, with the indexation applied at the same time it is applied to the remuneration of the GMCA Elected Mayor and Co-opted Members.**

Implementation of recommendations

73. The establishment of the Member roles and the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee date back to the Authority's Annual Meeting on 24th June 2022. As such, it appears logical and equitable that the recommended SRAs should apply from that date. It is recognised that until the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is enacted that these SRAs will have to be paid on an interim basis via the allowances schemes of the Constituent Councils. Indeed, it was explicitly recognised by the Authority when it decided that Overview and Scrutiny Members should be remunerated.
74. However, the means of delivering the recommended SRAs in the absence of having express authority to do pay them directly at this moment is an issue that is not within the remit of the IRP, all it has been tasked with is to make appropriate recommendations on the remuneration of Members on the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
75. The IRP feels that it only reasonable for the recommended SRAs to be paid from the date of the establishment of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
76. **The Panel further recommends that the recommended SRAs for Members and Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are backdated to 24th June 2022 or any date thereafter than the GMCA deems is appropriate.**

Appendix One: List of Information considered by the Panel

1. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011 (SI 2011/908) 1 April 2011, updated July 2012
2. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Amendment) Order 2015 (SI 2015/960)
3. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011 (as amended by The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 [SI 2017/612])
4. GMCA Scoping Paper, Review of the allowance to be paid to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, that also sets out the IRP terms of reference
5. GMCA Report 24th June 2022, Independent Review of the GMCA Scrutiny Function, at which meeting established the single Overview and Scrutiny Committee, agreeing in principle to remunerate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members and authorising the IRP to review their remuneration
6. Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, Greater Manchester Combined Authority: Scrutiny Evaluation Report, Final June 2022, includes GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Member, Chair and Vice Chair Role and Responsibilities description
7. GMCA Constitution, June 2022, Part 4 Committees Section E that sets out the composition and terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
8. GMCA Constitution, June 2022, Part 5 Rules and Procedures, Section C Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules
9. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), average Weekly pay – gross – all full-time employee jobs in Greater Manchester (Table 7.1a Work Geography) 2021, Office of National Statistics
10. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI2003/1021)
11. New Council Constitutions, Guidance on Regulation for Local Authority Allowances, Department of Communities & Local Government, 5th May 2006
12. Allowances schemes from the ten constituent GMCA councils and other relevant benchmarking data - see appendix 3 for further details
13. All allowances schemes of Constituent Councils of the other nine English Combined Authorities were consulted

Appendix Two: Members and Officers who met with the IRP

Members interviewed by the IRP

Cllr Barry Brotherton	Member Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Trafford – Labour)
Andy Burnham	GM Mayor (Labour)
Paul Dennett	Deputy GM Mayor and City Mayor Salford (Labour)
Cllr Mark Hunter	GMCA Lead for Young People, Leader Stockport Council (Liberal Democrat)
Cllr Jim King	Member Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Salford – Labour)
Cllr Tom McGee	Substitute Member Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Stockport – Labour)
Cllr John Walsh	Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Bolton – Conservative)

Written Submissions from Members

Cllr M. Godwin	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Member (Oldham – Labour)
Cllr D. Molyneux	GMCA Member (Wigan – Labour)
Cllr G. Stanton	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Member (Manchester – Labour)

Officers who briefed the IRP

Eamonn Boylan	Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGMC
Julie Connor:	Assistant Director Governance & Scrutiny GMCA
Liz Treacy	Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA

Appendix Three: Benchmarking Data

BM1 GMCA BM Group - Other GM Mets: BA + Exec + Scrutiny SRAs (21/22 unless indicated)										
Comparator Council	Basic Allowance	Leader or Elected Mayor	Leader Total	Deputy Leader or Mayor	Executive Members	Assistant or Deputy Execs	Chair Main O&S	Chairs/Lead Scrutiny	V/Chairs Scrutiny	Chairs Scrutiny Subs/WGs
Bolton	£11,644	£31,294	£42,938	£18,775	£7,140			£5,100		
Bury (22/23)*	£10,791	£38,373	£49,164	£19,424	£14,568	£2,185		£8,093		
Manchester (22/23)	£17,798	£44,413	£62,211	£18,680	£18,680	£7,475		£11,220		
Oldham* (22/23)	£10,151	£36,542	£46,693	£21,317	£18,272	£7,613	£9,135	£9,135		
Rochdale*	£11,172	£39,395	£50,567	£16,758	£15,082	£3,016	£8,379	£8,379		
Salford (22/23)	£11,043	£54,654	£65,697	£33,296	£14,901	£11,175		£9,315		
Stockport	£10,717	£32,151	£42,868	£17,683	£16,075			£6,430		£1,286
Tameside	£12,787	£39,588	£52,375	£25,812	£22,081	£9,176		£10,526	£3,509	
Trafford (22/23)*	£7,061	£38,678	£45,739	£19,770	£14,122	£7,060	£8,473	£8,473	£4,236	
Wigan* (22/23)	£13,380	£50,589	£63,969	£26,093	£18,087	£5,969		£8,039		
Mean	£11,654	£40,568	£52,222	£21,761	£15,901	£6,709	£8,662	£8,471		
Median	£11,108	£39,037	£49,866	£19,597	£15,579	£7,268	£8,473	£8,426		
Highest	£17,798	£54,654	£65,697	£33,296	£22,081	£11,175	£9,135	£11,220		
Lowest	£7,061	£31,294	£42,868	£16,758	£7,140	£2,185	£8,379	£5,100		
Mean Ratios	Leader = 3.5 X BA	100%		54%	39%	42%	21%	21%		

* Leaders' SRAs for Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, Trafford & Wigan include 2nd SRA for role on GMCA

BM2 GMCA BM Group Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Appointees Remuneration July 2021						
Constituent Council	Leader - Combined Authority Board Member	Deputy Leader - Combined Authority Deputy Member	O&S Appointees	Audit & Governance Appointees	Substitute Members	Other
Cambridgeshire	£3,170	NA	£1,585	£1,585	NA	NA
Peterborough	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Cambridge City	£5,210	NA	£1,303	£521	NA	NA
East Cambridgeshire	£5,138	£1,541	£1,541	£822	NA	CA Committee Member if not on Board - £822
Fenland	May 2021 Review looked at COMBINED AUTHORITY SRAs but made no recommendations					
Huntingdonshire	£5,100		£946	£946	£1,655 (CA Board)	O&S & Audit Chairs £3,068
South Cambridgeshire	£5,010	NA	£1,253	£501	NA	NA
Mean	£4,726		£1,326	£875		
Median	£5,100		£1.303	£822		
West Yorkshire Combined Authority – Appointees 2021/22						
	Chairs	Deputy Chairs	Members	Engagement Leads		
Overview & Scrutiny Committees	£7,341	£1,296	£648			
Transport Committee	Chaired by CA Board Transport Portfolio Holder	£13,731	£2,616	£3,663		