

Public Document Pack

Chief Executive

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

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Our Ref	rl/Council
Ask for	Robert Landon
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Date	

Dear Councillor,

You are hereby summoned to attend an **ORDINARY MEETING** of the Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council to be held on **Tuesday, 5th March, 2024 at 5.00 pm** in the **Conference Room, Guardsman Tony Downes House, Droylsden** 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.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
2.	MINUTES	1 - 8
	That the Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Council held on 5 December 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair of Council Business (or other person presiding) (Minutes attached).	
3.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	To receive any declarations of interest from Members of the Council.	
4.	CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
	The Civic Mayor to make any appropriate announcements.	
5.	COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS	
	To receive any announcements or communications from the Chair of Council Business, the Executive Leader, Members of the Executive Cabinet or the Chief Executive.	
6.	COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION	
	To consider any questions submitted by Members of the public in accordance with Standing Orders 31.12 and 31.13.	
7.	JOINT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET AND OVERVIEW PANEL	9 - 48
	To receive the minutes of the Meetings of Executive Cabinet held on 20 December 2023 and 24 January 2024 and the Joint Meeting of Executive Cabinet and Overview Panel held on 14 February 2024 and to agree the recommendations contained therein.	
8.	2024/25 BUDGET REPORT	49 - 240
	To consider the attached report of the Director of Resources.	
9.	PLACES FOR EVERYONE - JOINT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT	241 - 256
	That consideration be given to the attached report of the Executive Member (Planning, Transport and Connectivity)/Director of Place.	
10.	CORPORATE PLAN 2024-27	257 - 270
	To consider the attached report of the Executive Leader/Chief Executive.	
11.	MEETING OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP	271 - 276
	To receive the minutes of the meeting of Democratic Processes Working Group held on 19 February 2024.	
12.	MAYORALTY	
	To seek nominations for the position of the Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor for	

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.

2024/2025.

13. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

277 - 286

To consider the attached report of the Executive Leader/Chief Executive.

14. APPOINTMENTS TO COUNCIL BODIES

To consider any changes to appointment to Council bodies.

15. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANNUAL COUNCIL

To note that the Annual Meeting of Council (both Mayor Making and Business) will commence at 5.00pm on Tuesday 21 May 2024.

16. QUESTIONS

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

17. 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.

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.

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COUNCIL

5 December 2023

Commenced: 5.00pm

Terminated: 6.15pm

Present: Councillors Affleck, Alam, Axford, Beardmore, Billington, Bowden, Bowerman, Boyle, Bray, Chadwick, Colbourne, Cooney, Costello, Dickinson, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, Ferguson, Fitzpatrick, Glover, A Holland, B Holland, J Homer, S Homer, Howarth, Jackson, Jones, Karim, Kitchen, Lane, Martin, McLaren, McNally, Mills, Naylor, Newton, North, Owen, Patel, Pearce, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Robinson, Roderick, N Sharif, T Sharif, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, Tilbrook, Ward, Warrington and Wills

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Choksi and Gwynne

43. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor began by announcing, with great sadness, the recent loss of Basil Beeley, who represented Stalybridge South as an elected member from 2006 to 2018. Deepest sympathies were extended to his family.

The Civic Mayor made reference to the recent season of remembrance in November 2023 and informed Council that she had attended many ceremonies including an Armistice Day silence at Dukinfield Town Hall and the annual Civic Service and wreath-laying in Ashton-under-Lyne. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Betty Affleck, had attended many of the events held in Hyde.

The Civic Mayor announced that they had been present at the dedication of Kingsman Sean Dawson Way in Stalybridge, who was a former Buckton Vale and Copley Academy pupil who had tragically lost his life at 19 years old. His fellow soldiers from the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment described him as a 'true lion of England' and it was comforting to know that his name would live on in the borough, fulfilling the Council's pledge to honour fallen ex-service personnel.

The Civic Mayor commented that it had been a very busy time and they had entertained many people and groups in the Mayor's Parlour, who were a source of pride for Tameside, including Patrick Cashin, Wes Ninian and Reece Lindsay, members of the bin crew who had assisted an 84-year-old man in Mossley; Peter Rewko, who received an MBE in recognition of his tireless work for the Ukrainian community; members of Tameside Youth Council, and Florence, a delightful child who suffered from a rare life limiting degenerative condition and her mum, who had relentlessly raised funds for a better life for her. The Civic Mayor extended her well wishes to them all.

Other events the Civic Mayor had attended were outlined including, the very popular 'Fridays on the Square' event in Ashton and the Stalybridge 'Street Fest'; the judges' procession in Manchester marking the start of the legal year alongside the Chief Executive; Onward Homes' mental awareness day; Tameside Rotary's fashion show and the opening of the community Hub at Oasis Broadoak Academy, Ashton; the Amazing Ashton Awards and Diwali at two Temple's Mela celebrations.

Ceremonies attended included Independence Day for Nigeria, Spain, Turkey, and many others. A special mention was made to the Home-Start 25-year anniversary, Khush Amdid 25-year anniversary, St John's Ambulance awards evening and Diversity Matters volunteers' celebration, congratulations were wished on them all.

It was commented that a key feature of the work of the Civic Mayor was to raise money for their charity appeal and a Bollywood curry night fund-raiser at the award-winning Indian Plaza restaurant in Audenshaw had been organised by the Civic Mayor where an impressive £1,800 was

raised. Thanks were extended to all those who attended, and special thanks were given to Councillors Denise Ward and David McNally, who helped to organise the event and supplied Manchester United and Manchester City items for the raffle and auction.

Christmas events were highlighted and the Civic Mayor commented that her and her family's favourite event was the very popular lantern parade through the streets of Ashton. It was a magical, colourful, and spectacular family event, which drew huge crowds. Words relaying the message of peace and community spirit were spoken at the event and thanks extended to all those who took part or helped in its organisation. Other Christmas events comprised of light switch-ons and market fairs in Hattersley, Stalybridge and Mossley – both at the top and bottom and in Micklehurst – and Willow Wood Hospice's Lights of Love celebration.

The Civic Mayor reminded Council that she was a big advocate of children, and over the last few months, she had visited many schools including The Heys Primary School, Godley Primary School, Greenside Primary School in Droylsden, Broadoak Primary School, Buckton Vale Primary School, Yellow Day Nursery in Hyde, Mossley Hollins High School and Tameside College. She passed comment on the delightful children and mentioned their intriguing questions.

She informed Council that she had visited Ashton Central Mosque for a Macmillan Cancer Support Fundraiser and was pleased to announce that they were the winner of the best run mosque in the country in the recent British Beacon Mosque Awards for community engagement and positive change. She commended their work, which she had personal experience of, including yoga classes, a foodbank, scout groups and 250 school visits schools. She also congratulated and thanked her Chaplain, Imam Ghulam Moyhuddin who had won the most impactful Imam in the country. She bestowed praise on them and extended congratulations to them on behalf of the Council.

The Civic Mayor concluded by thanking everyone for their support, with special thanks extended to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Betty Affleck. She offered season's greetings and a happy, peaceful new year to all and was confident that 2024 would be another busy year as she strived to do her utmost to best represent Tameside and its residents.

Councillor Kitchen, Chair of Council Business, in the Chair

44. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 3 October 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

46. COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader began by welcoming Members and officers of the Council, to the final meeting of Full Council for 2023, which he outlined had been another challenging and eventful year for Tameside and the country as a whole. In addition to the ongoing cost of living crisis, he commented that the financial sustainability of the entire local government sector was now in serious jeopardy with several council's forced to declare a Section 114 notice as a result of being unable to balance their budget, and it was unfortunately highly likely that other councils could join

them in the months ahead.

He stated that much of the focus in 2023 had been on taking a hard look at how to deliver vital services, in order to improve outcomes, manage demand and make every single penny count. He highlighted what this had meant in practice, covering both the achievements over the past year and the challenges, which needed to be addressed in the year to come.

The Executive Leader made reference to the ageing population; it was estimated that by 2030 the proportion of residents in Tameside aged 65 or over would double from 15.59% to over 30% and entrenched issues with poor health outcomes in many of the communities. He said that one of the most important responsibilities was ensuring that the elderly and vulnerable were given the opportunity to live in dignity and comfort.

He emphasised that fulfilling the new adult social care obligations under the White Paper and new CQC inspection regime, while simultaneously maintaining financial sustainability, would require radical and innovative approaches. Wherever possible, people would be given the tools in order to manage their own health and wellbeing, however, for those who required dedicated support, the focus would be on person-centred care and providing help at home wherever possible. This would keep choice, control and the means to lead an independent life firmly in the hands of service users. He said that in order to make these ambitions reality, a new Adult Social Care Strategy had been developed, laying out the key principles and priorities in a comprehensive strategic framework, which had been further complimented by a co-produced Carers Strategy and Ageing Well Strategy.

The Executive Leader informed Council that there had been a substantial investment into the service itself, including recruiting two new Heads of Service, creating an entirely new service area focusing on Safeguarding, Quality and Practice, and the development of a robust Transformation Programme coordinated and supported by a senior programme manager.

He highlighted that healthy life expectancy in Tameside was 1.5 years below the England average for men, and 5.7 years below the average for women. There were also significant health inequalities, driven by socio-economic disadvantage, within the borough, with residents in the most deprived areas living nearly a decade less than their counterparts in the least deprived areas.

The Executive Leader advised that one of the most serious challenges the Council had faced was the continuing improvement journey in Children's Services. He stated that whilst significant progress had been made, it was acknowledged that more needed to be done to bring vital services up to the level residents wanted and expected. This would need to be done in the face of significant demand with twice as many children in care than the national average, which reflected the poverty and neglect in Tameside communities.

He further advised that a new management team was in place to deliver the improvement journey, backed up by increased investment in the service, and the workforce in Children's Services was almost 10% bigger compared to 2019. He commented that the improvement effort was underpinned by a new Children and Young People's Plan released in August 2023, which had been co-produced with young people and was based around four over-arching priorities; Supported Families, Healthy Lives, Positive Lives and Building Skills for Life. Actions had been developed around these four themes, with progress being reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board through a comprehensive annual review. He said he was confident that the Council was now in a position to address once and for all the long-standing challenges in Children's Services and embed a transformational approach in how service users in adult social care received and interacted with support.

The Executive Leader was proud to announce that Tameside was one of the first local authorities in the country to establish a Family Hub and Best Start for Life offer, which would form the cornerstone of focus on Early Help, supporting children, young people and their families with the right interventions at the right time and in the right place to prevent issues from escalating.

Another area of focus was managing the difficult transition from childhood to adulthood. Along with two other pilot sites in Greater Manchester, Tameside was implementing an Adolescent Framework to encourage a more cohesive partnership approach and co-locate services that responded to and reduced the risk of extra-familial harm. This included Youth Justice, Complex Safeguarding, Sexual Health and the first SHIFT practice outside of London.

He informed Council that the cost of placements, impacted by high levels of inflation and demand, still constituted one of the biggest risks to the financial sustainability of Children's Services and the local authority as a whole. In order to address this, he said that the aim would be to increase rates of local foster recruitment and retention, which would not only reduce reliance on more expensive placement options but also allow children in foster care to maintain valuable links to their communities, family, friends and schools.

The Executive Leader made reference to the cost-of-living crisis and the first-hand accounts of Tameside residents experiencing the reality of poverty. In addition to the Poverty Truth Commission, he advised that the Council had launched a new Anti-Poverty Strategy at the start of the year, which was backed up by a comprehensive Needs Assessment. These documents brought together statistical data, resident's testimonies and other information to clearly lay out the challenges facing Tameside and what needed to be done to address them. Also, he said that the Council had joined a number of other councils across the country in voluntarily signing up for the socioeconomic duty, which compelled council's to deliver better outcomes for those experiencing poverty and other forms of socioeconomic disadvantage.

He highlighted that this complemented the Council's ambition of strengthening the local economy to better deliver high-wage and high-quality employment. He stated that Tameside had the lowest proportion of Living Wage jobs in Greater Manchester, and the share of high productivity and knowledge intensive sectors, such as Digital and Creative, and Business, Financial and Professional Services, was poor compared to the rest of the city region and the country as a whole. The Council's ambitions had been articulated through the Inclusive Growth Strategy, which set out a framework around boosting performance in key areas such as investment, employment, skills, productivity, transport, place, the digital economy and housing. The Strategy also closely reflected, and was designed to work in alignment with, wider Greater Manchester priorities such as Places for Everyone, the GM Local Industrial Strategy, 2040 Transport Plan and Digital Strategy.

He added there was a desire to invest in Tameside's town centres and the wider public realm, transforming them into local economic centres fit for the 21st century, and to line up investment and planning to make town centres the beating hearts of communities once again and fundamentally tackle the social and economic inequalities that had driven poverty, deprivation and need in the borough for too long. He advised that following submission of the planning application for the Godley Green Garden Village, the Secretary of State was satisfied that it did not require calling in for further consideration meaning that the plans for Godley Green would now move ahead, providing over 2,000 homes and associated infrastructure for generations of future Tameside residents to come.

The Executive Leader was pleased to announce that the Destination Denton project, which aimed to regenerate and promote the town's hospitality sector, had been provisionally awarded almost £17 million in Levelling Up funding. This was in addition to money that had already been allocated from previous rounds of the Levelling Up fund and other sources to infrastructure programmes such as the Ashton Mayoral Development Zone and Stalybridge Heritage Action Zone.

He emphasised that the Council had carefully listened to residents' concerns around anti-social behaviour and were in the process of finalising a new Anti-Social Behaviour policy to sit alongside the existing Community Safety Strategy and an over-arching Enforcement Strategy was also currently in development. This would be overseen by a strong Community Safety Partnership and ensure that Tameside was a safe, welcoming and tolerant place for everyone.

He stated that another important part of making sure Tameside was truly a place for everyone was

accounting for and taking action against the socioeconomic and health inequalities that many residents faced. He provided an example of disabled residents in Tameside still finding it more difficult to find employment than their non-disabled counterparts, with the disability employment gap standing at 29.1% as of 2022. He informed Council that the Equalities Strategy had been refreshed, including a review of adopted protected characteristics, the Equality Impact Assessment process and a specific look at how equalities data in services and systems was recorded. He said it was hoped that, when this was fully rolled out, it would give every resident the confidence that their particular circumstances and characteristics would be considered and respected in service delivery.

The Executive Leader reminded Council that in February 2020, the Council formally declared a climate emergency and had committed to reducing the borough's carbon impact to "net zero" by 2038, which was 12 years ahead of the UK Government's stated date of 2050. It had been acknowledged that this was an ambitious target but since then both a Local Area Energy Plan and a Low Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan had been successfully developed. He advised that this had been backed up with grant money through the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to reduce the carbon footprint of 18 buildings in Tameside. However, more resources would be necessary in order to meet the goals, and throughout the next year any grants, investments and funding that would help take the fight to the climate crisis locally would be sought.

He concluded by saying that whilst complacency about the difficulties ahead was not an option, steps could be made forward into 2024 with confidence and purpose. There was an ongoing need to carefully balance investment in services where needed, ensuring they remained sustainable in the most hostile financial environment ever faced by local government. He said it was important to be clear on goals and priorities to justify them to residents and it was likely that difficult decisions would need to be taken at times, as they had been in the past. He stated that foundations had been laid in 2023, and in 2024 the process of building upon them for a new, better and fairer Tameside, a place that everyone would be proud to call home, must begin.

47. COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION

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

48. MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings of Executive Cabinet held on 25 October and 22 November 2023.

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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Cabinet held on 25 October and 22 November 2023 be received.

49. MEETING OF OVERVIEW PANEL

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Overview Panel held on 21 November 2023.

It was moved by Councillor M. Smith and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and it was:

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Overview Panel held on 21 November 2023 be

received.

50. MEETING OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 7 November 2023.

It was moved by Councillor McNally and seconded by Councillor Kitchen and it was:

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Standards Committee held on 7 November 2023 be received.

51. DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP

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

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

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 20 November 2023 be received.

52. CONSTITUTION REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive, which set out proposed changes to the Council Constitution.

It was reported that the Local Government Act 2000, as amended, required a local authority operating executive arrangements to prepare and keep up-to-date a Constitution. The Monitoring Officer was required to monitor and review the operation of the Constitution on an on-going basis, and, where necessary, bring forward amendments to the Council. Although specific elements of the Constitution had been reviewed and amended, the Constitution as a whole had not been comprehensively reviewed for a number of years. It was also timely to ensure that the Constitution was fit for purpose prior to LGA peer review and to ensure that the Constitution reflected organisation and legislative changes.

The Constitution set out the basic principles that were especially important to the way that the Council works and the fundamentals of how the local authority operated. The current structure of the Tameside Council Constitution was outlined in the report and Members were reminded that certain sections: Financial Regulations, Contract Standing Orders and Members Code of Conduct had been reviewed and agreed by Council in recent years, therefore there was no need for those to be revisited other than a check that they still reflected current organisational and legal requirements. In addition, minor changes to the Constitution, to reflect changes in Council officer structure and changes in legislation requiring changes to delegations, had been made. There had also been various minor changes to ensure that the Constitution reflected current organisational and legislative requirements.

It was reported that no changes were proposed to Part 1 of the Constitution. A table of proposed changes to Part 2 – Articles of the Constitution and Part 3a – Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation, were appended to the report and included amendments and new sections adding to Part 3a: D (Resources). Also appended to the report were proposed changes to Part 3d Appointment of Statutory and Proper Officers.

Other proposed changes were outlined in the report and included an amendment to a section in Part 4 – Procedural Rules relating to Part 4f – Budget and Policy Framework. The Standards Committee endorsement of Part 5 – Standards of Conduct and Ethics at their meeting held on 7 November 2023 was noted. It was further noted that there were no planned changes to Part 6 – Members Allowance Scheme or Part 7 – Management Structure.

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

RESOLVED

- (i) That the changes to Part 3a: Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (ii) That Members note the intention to review sub-delegations by Directors and ensure recorded.
- (iii) That the updated Part 3d - Statutory and Proper Officers be noted as set out in Appendix 2.
- (iv) That the proposed changes to Part 4f: Budget and Policy Framework set out in Article 4 be approved.
- (v) That Part 5 Standards of Conduct and Ethics – Standards Committee endorsement of current contents and view that need to be better understood by Members and Officers be noted.

53. APPOINTMENT OF MONITORING OFFICER

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

RESOLVED

That pursuant to Section 5 of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, Linda Comstive, Interim Borough Solicitor / Assistant Director Legal Services, be appointed as the Monitoring Officer with immediate effect until a permanent appointment is made to exercise the delegated functions and responsibilities in the Council's Constitution.

54. MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL BODIES

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

RESOLVED

- (i) That following his appointment to the Executive Cabinet, Councillor Naylor be removed from membership of the Audit Panel, Overview Panel and Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group;
- (ii) That Councillor Naylor replace Councillor Sweeton on the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- (iii) That Councillor Naylor be appointed to the GMCA Employment Skills and Work Executive Member Forum;
- (iv) That Councillor Fitzpatrick be appointed as Chair of the Audit Panel and the Overview Panel;
- (v) That Councillor Pearce be appointed as Chair of the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group;
- (vi) That Councillor Colbourne replace Councillor Billington on the GM Pension Fund; and
- (vii) That Councillor M Smith replace Councillor Jones on the GM Pension Fund.

55. QUESTIONS

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

56. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR

EXECUTIVE CABINET

20 December 2023

Commenced: 1.30pm

Terminated: 1.40pm

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

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Ashley Hughes	Director of Resources (S151)
Stephanie Butterworth	Director of Adult Services
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Debbie Watson	Director of Public Health
Tracey Harrison	Assistant Director of Adult Services
Ilys Cookson	Assistant Director of Exchequer Services
Alison Montgomery	Assistant Director of Social Care
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
Ben Middleton	Assistant Director of Strategic Property

Apologies: Councillors Fairfoull and Kitchen

84 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

85 EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 22 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

86 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED

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

87 PERIOD 7 2023/24 FORECAST OUTFURN – REVENUE AND CAPITAL.

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources. The report reviewed the financial position for the General Fund revenue budget, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Capital budget.

It was reported that overall, there were significant overspends on expenditure of £13.007m on the underlying position within the General Fund. This represented an improvement in position of £0.894m from month 6. This underlying position showed the total potential overspend, should management action not be taken to bring the expenditure down to within budget.

At Month 6 reporting, the forecast overspend of £13.901m was driven by a 3% forecast overspend on gross budgets in Adult Social Care, 5% on gross budgets in Place, 2% on gross budgets in Education and 9% on gross budgets in Children's Social Care. A recommendation was included that recovery plans, signed off by the Section 151 Officer, be presented to Executive Cabinet. Work had been undertaken by service areas in conjunction with Finance in the period between Month 6 and Month 7 reporting. To date, plans totalling £8.734m had been received reducing the overspend to £4.274m.

Only Adult Social Care had been able to present a recovery plan that balances for the year at Month 7, and even then it carried a level of risk on delivery.

It was stated that all members of the Senior Leadership Team recognise the needed to grip of their budgets and were working through their budgets line-by-line again to determine where there was more possibility to control their expenditure and improve their income generation. Recovery Plans were a standing agenda item at Senior Leadership Team meetings, and would remain so for the duration of the financial year to ensure corporate oversight.

Any pressures or undelivered savings within Directorates by the end of the financial year would need to be resolved in the next financial year, in addition to delivering MTFS proposals to meet the budget gap for 2024/25.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet APPROVES:

- (i) **The release of £1.344m contingency budget into Adults Social Care to reflect the impact of the cost of transitions on Service budgets.**
- (ii) **The release of a further £0.602m from contingency on a one-off basis to reflect modelling undertaken on the costs of transitions and complexity of need in residential settings, which are included within the MTFS to ensure budget available on an ongoing basis.**
- (iii) **The allocation of £0.186m to the Resources Directorate revenue budget from Contingency to support the in-year overspend on the Council's annual insurance premiums that include employee, buildings and contents and transport related policies.**
- (iv) **The release of £0.642m contingency budget into Place budgets to resolve inflationary pressures on the Facilities Management contract.**
- (v) **The transfer of £0.495m contingency budget to offset the budget reductions targets for the council tax single person discount review (£0.450m) and salary sacrifice schemes (£0.045m). The targets were budgeted in contingency to allow for performance reporting, however as the reductions will materialise in increased council tax income and directorate budgets respectively a transfer is required to offset budgets within Contingency. Both budget reductions have been achieved.**
- (vi) **The acceptance of the non-recurrent £0.541m grant sum awarded to the Council from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to support urgent and emergency care during the 2023/24 winter period and that the grant is allocated to the 2023/24 Adult Services revenue budget. The acceptance of the grant award is supported by a Memorandum Of Understanding that was formally signed by the Director Of Adult Services on behalf of the Council and returned to the DHSC by the required deadline of 29 November 2023.**

That Executive Cabinet NOTES

- (i) **The forecast General Fund revenue budget position of an underlying pressure of £13.007m, which is a favourable movement of £0.894m from Period 6 reporting.**
- (ii) **The update on the production of recovery plans to mitigate the shortfall in budgets, with mitigations of £8.743m identified.**
- (iii) **That there is a projected overall overspend for the Council of £4.274m, following the application of actions within draft recovery plans.**
- (iv) **The forecast deficit on the DSG of £5.317m, which has not changed from Period 6 reporting.**
- (v) **The Capital programme position of projected spend of £46.946m, following Cabinet approval to reprofile project spend of £1.024m from 2024/25.**

88 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources. The report presented a proposed budget for 2024/25 and an update to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

It was reported that the position has improved since the previous MTFS update in October 2023 due to the increase in budget reduction proposals from all service areas, a 2% reduction in employee pay award assumption, increases in general grants, council tax and business rates and a 2.1% reduction in the prevailing rate of Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation. The rate of CPI released in November 2023 was 4.6%.

The current MTFS had an imbalance of resources to expenditure of £39.817m to 2028/29, with a balanced budget for 2024/25. In the last update, the MTFS imbalance was £33.819m to 2028/29, with £9.651m required to be found for 2024/25. The “budget gap” in the MTFS as a percentage of the 2023/24 net expenditure requirement of £221.397m was 6.0% for 2025/26 and 18% to 2028/29.

The assumptions for future years were in line with the recent update from the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR). The OBR was forecasting “unprotected” departments, of which the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) was part of this cohort, would see a 1% planned rise in resources that, after the impact of inflation, would be equal to a 2.6% real terms reduction in resources. As such, since the MTFS was presented to Cabinet in October 2023, future years’ gaps had increased from 15% to 18% cumulatively.

The report detailed that in 2023/24, the Council had been facing significant pressures from demand-led services, alongside the sharp increase in costs that had been seen due to inflation rising to a peak of 11.1% in October 2022 and sitting at 4.6% in November 2023. This had been reflected in the forecast positions, with unmanaged overspends rising to £13.007m in quarter 2. The Council had instituted recovery planning, some of which was the escalation of proposals in this MTFS. At Month 7, the Council was still forecasting an overspend, however, it had much reduced due to the presence of recovery plans owned by officers at the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). They were still works in progress, as the Section 151 Officer continued to work with SLT members on closing their respective budget gaps. The worst case scenario was that the full overspend value of £13.007m would come to fruition, requiring the use of unearmarked reserves to balance the General Fund position.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet APPROVE:

- (i) The updated MTFS for 2024/25 to 2028/29.**
- (ii) The budget reductions and income increases proposed for 2024/25 for consultation.**
- (iii) The creation of a Parking Strategy to identify future financial options from 2025/26 to be brought to an Executive Cabinet before July 2024.**

That Executive Cabinet is recommended to NOTE:

- (i) The impact of changes to the inflationary and demand pressures on the MTFS from 2024/25 to 2028/29.**
- (ii) The impact of the proposed new funding on the MTFS from 2024/25 to 2028/29.**
- (iii) The impact of the proposed budget reductions on the MTFS from 2024/25 to 2028/29.**
- (iv) The impact of the proposed council tax and business rates assumptions on the MTFS from 2024/25 to 2028/29**
- (v) The consultation period opened 14 December 2023 and shall run for a period of no less than 7 weeks. Therefore the earliest date to close consultation is 1 February 2024.**

89 INCOME COLLECTION PERFORMANCE, RECOVERY AND DEBT

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) / Director of Resources / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services.

Members were advised that Tameside’s collection and recovery performance over the last 5 years was comparable to its Greater Manchester neighbours at 93.80% average in year Council Tax collection against a Greater Manchester average of 94.57%, and 95.88% in year Business Rates collection against a Greater Manchester average of 95.12%.

It was explained that even with an in-depth and strong recovery process for debt, there were

occasions when debts become irrecoverable and recommended to be written off. As part of good financial management, debt that was deemed to be irrecoverable should be written off the balance sheet periodically. The Councils' Risk Management and Audit service recommendations accords with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice which confirms that debts should be written off at the point they were judged to be uncollectible.

Whilst small scale debt write offs had been actioned across Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debtors, there remained a significant balance of debt that was now deemed irrecoverable. This position is based on an analytical review of all aged debt as at 30 September 2023.

Timely write off of debt deemed to be irrecoverable also allowed the Council to focus its finite staffing and financial resources towards collection of debt with the greatest chance of recovery. This was not to say that debt would be written off, as there was a full recovery process, inclusive of legal proceedings, before a write off was recommended.

The totals being recommended to be written off across three debt classes of Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debt is £10.905m. The Council did hold provisions for bad debt for all three debt classes and these were currently greater than the values proposed for write off.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet APPROVE:

- (i) The write off of irrecoverable debts totalling £10.905m analysed as:**
 - a. £8.742m of Council Tax debt between the period of 2000/01 and 2017/18;**
 - b. £0.382m of Business Rates debts and;**
 - c. £1.781m Sundry debts.**
- (ii) As of December 2023, debt write offs are processed quarterly under the following circumstances:**
 - a. The age of the debt is more than 6 years old, and;**
 - b. The debt is deemed irrecoverable, and;**
 - c. no payment has been received within 90 days, and recovery has been exhausted.**
- (iii) Bad debt less than 6 years old that can be deemed irrecoverable due to extenuating circumstances also be written off on a quarterly basis, from December 2023, as part of good financial management and outlined in the CIPFA Code of Practice.**
- (iv) Section 28 of the Council Financial Regulations be amended for the proposed debt write off amendments.**
- (v) The proposed quarterly write offs to form part of the financial monitoring reports to Executive Cabinet as part of streamlining the reporting process with details captured in relevant appendices to the monitoring reports.**

90 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY & STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Head of Assurance. The report presented the Council's refreshed Risk Management Policy & Strategy.

It was explained that The Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations required local authorities to have arrangements in place for the management of risk. The purpose of risk management was to effectively manage potential opportunities and threats to the Council achieving its objectives. Part of the remit of the Audit Panel is to 'monitor the effective development and operation of risk management'. Current best practice integrated the disciplines of risk management and internal audit into a model of assurance. This model was intended to give assurance to those 'charged with governance' that the Council's major / significant risks were being effectively managed as well as providing early 'red flags' where attention was needed. The report detailed the Institute of Internal Audits 'Three lines' model.

The report summarised the progress made against the action plan reported to the Audit Panel in August 2023. The key changes to the Risk Management Policy & Strategy were highlighted to the Board. These included:

- Update of role titles e.g., Head of Assurance, Assurance Team and complete refresh of roles and responsibilities at Appendix A in line with best practice.
- Inclusion of new governance arrangements now in place e.g., Assistant Directors Delivery Group, Strategic Risk Management Group.
- Update of risk management arrangements at 3.2 of the document to include the four T's (tolerate, treat, transfer, terminate) and a working description of the 'Three Lines approach'.
- A new risk appetite statement at Appendix 3.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet approve the Risk Management Policy & Strategy attached at Appendix 1.

91 CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE PLEDGE

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director for People and Workforce Development. The report detailed the introduction of the GM Pledge, which set out a series of commitments relating to the use of agency children's Social Workers across Greater Manchester with the ultimate aim of providing stability for vulnerable children and young people and tackling the high use of agency workers.

The report explained that Senior leaders across all 10 Greater Manchester boroughs including Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services, HR Directors and the GM Children's Board had agreed to introduce a GM Pledge in Children's Social Care from 1 November 2023.

It was further explained that Local government was facing significant recruitment challenges across all areas, with a particular challenge relating to the recruitment and retention of Social Workers. This had led to a buoyant agency market which allowed agency workers to demand higher pay rates, and to move easily between organisations. The result was instability for children and families, instability within the workforce, and rising cost pressures.

The GM Pledge set out a series of commitments related to the use of agency social workers across Greater Manchester with the ultimate aim of providing stability for vulnerable children and young people through a reduction in the use of agency workers.

Members were advised that Across the region there was significant numbers of children who were experiencing changes of Social Worker. Local authorities across Greater Manchester had come together to realise a collective ambition to improve the experience and lives of children and families through the provision of a stable workforce.

This, in turn, would support Tameside Council to reduce the costs associated with employee turnover and high numbers of agency workers. The GM Pledge also contributed towards tackling children's social care budget pressures caused by the high cost of agency staff. The GM Pledge recognised the need to respond to these challenges collectively and in co-operation, providing clear protocols and mechanism of control.

The commitments within the pledge were as follows:

- Agency social workers would be paid in line with agreed maximum rates of pay (set out in the report)
- A common referencing standard would be adopted ensuring that a reference was completed on termination of engagement for each agency worker
- Candidates leaving a permanent contract in any GM authority would not be able to take up an agency role within another GM authority for a minimum of 6 months
- Each authority would refrain from headhunting employees from other GM authorities, unless for promotional opportunities
- Authorities would work closely with the agency supply chain to better enable their support of permanent recruitment activities across GM

- Authorities would hold one another to account and provide mutual support and assistance to other GM local authorities e.g. short term provision of staff or leadership advice and support in specific areas
- Provide accurate and complete data to the GMCA's HR metrics service on a quarterly basis
- In order to qualify for agency appointments, candidates must demonstrate a minimum of 2 years' post-qualified experience within Children's Services Social Work (irrespective of their pathway to the profession). Authorities would not engage agency workers with less than 2 years' post-qualifying experience (Tameside did not currently engage any agency workers in this category)

RESOLVED

- (i) That all commitments contained within the GM Pledge (Appendix 1) are adhered to and implemented in the timeframes set out within this report.**
- (ii) That the organisation continues to engage with the requirements and agreements set out within the GM Pledge for an initial 12 month period with review at that time.**

92 LEVELLING UP FUND ROUND 3

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment / Director of Place / Assistant Director of Development and Housing. The report provided an update on the selection of Denton Town Centre as one of the projects nationally to be funded via Levelling Up Fund, Round Three. The report sought approval to progress delivery of the Denton 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 will be required once the full terms of the Grant Funding Agreement was available.

On 20 November 2023 it was announced that for Round Three of the Fund, the Government had undertaken an assessment of the highest scoring bids that did not receive funding in Round Two. Following an assessment process the Denton Town Centre bid had been selected as one of the projects nationally to be funded through Round Three of the Fund and therefore Council had been provisionally awarded £16.8m, subject to project validation, subsidy control checks, and departmental sign-off.

The bid for Denton was focused on public realm and active travel improvements to further strengthen the links across the Town Centre. This would also ensure all of the benefits from the significant new investment and development that was taking place in Denton such as new residential development at Crown Point and the new Denton Wellness Centre were fully captured. Further capital investment was also sought at the Festival Hall site and Denton Town Hall to make best use of the Council's estate. This would help the Town Centre to reach its full potential and deliver further comprehensive regeneration, attracting additional footfall and investment.

The bid was supported by match funding that the Council had been successful in securing from TfGM of £1,950,000 via the Active Travel Fund (ATF) for the Crown Point A57 Mayors Challenge Fund (MCF) scheme, providing an improved environment for walking and cycling.

Members were advised that due to the time that had passed since the application was submitted there was a need to review the scope of the interventions to take account of changes since the original bid. DLUHC would require a short project validation check to confirm that the original bid had not changed significantly, is still deliverable by March 2026, and still represented value for money.

It was explained that there is a need to revisit the scope of intervention at the Festival Hall site to ensure it provided a long term sustainable future for this location that supports the wider neighbourhood. This could ultimately result in the site being repurposed for an alternative use with the LUF funding utilised for enabling works that bring a new development forward, potentially working with a partner willing to bring forward a residential scheme that addresses identified housing needs. This would require initial discussion with DLUHC as part of the project validation process.

It was further explained that the specific scope of works for Denton Town Hall will need careful consideration to ensure that the funding available supports the best long term use of the space as a civic and cultural anchor, including the provision of community space with more flexibility. As the detailed design work for public realm improvements and the Denton MCF Crown Point scheme was progressed it would need to be mindful of any lessons learnt through the delivery of recent walking and cycling schemes in the Borough.

RESOLVED

- (i) The provisional award of £16.8m from the Levelling Up Fund, Round Three for Denton Town Centre be noted;**
- (ii) Approval be given to enter into the formal agreements for the receipt of funding and inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme, subject to satisfactory completion of project validation checks; and**
- (iii) Approval be given that the Director of Place be enabled to progress the project validation checks and manage the programme of works associated with the Levelling Up Fund allocation for Denton and to drawdown and incur all Levelling Up Fund expenditure related to delivery. On-going performance and reporting will be provided to Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring.**
- (iv) To approve the use of £1.95m from the Active Travel Fund (ATF) associated with the Crown Point Mayors Challenge Fund (MCF) project as match funding to the Levelling Up Fund programme.**

93 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY AMENDMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Environmental Services / Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods. The report proposes amendments to the implementation date for the hackney carriage and private hire age and emissions standards for existing Tameside licensed vehicles.

The current policy in relation to vehicle emissions stated:

- All new to licence vehicles to be emissions compliant.
- For existing licensed vehicles – to begin transitioning as soon as the policy is in place and to complete transitioning by 1 April 2024.

The original date of compliance by 1 April 2024 for existing fleets was proposed in anticipation of the Clean Taxi Fund being opened in February 2022. This fund would allow vehicle proprietors to apply for funding which would subsidise the cost of upgrading to a compliant vehicle.

The Clean Air Plan was paused in February 2022 and a revised plan was yet to be agreed with government. As such, there was no clarity on if, and when any funding provision would be available to the trade as part of a revised Clean Air Plan, but it is unlikely that any funding scheme would be available in 2023.

In February 2023 data produced by Transport for Greater Manchester showed that in Tameside, 67% (89 out of 133) of the Hackney Carriage fleet and 18% (111 out of 630) of the Private Hire fleet, were not compliant with the emission standards.

Therefore, without a change to the compliance date for these standards in Tameside, a significant proportion of the fleet will be unable to renew their vehicle licences from April 2024. Therefore the report proposed that the date requiring existing licensed vehicles to be emissions compliant be extended to 31 December 2025.

In addition, prior to the approval of Stage 2 of the Minimum Licensing Standards in October 2021, the maximum age limit for non-wheelchair accessible Private Hire Vehicles was 12 years. The amendment in 2021 allowed for a transitional period for existing vehicles to comply until 1 April 2024 and continue to renew licences of vehicles until they reach 12 years of age, until 1 April 2024. The

report proposed that Private Hire Vehicles which were not wheelchair accessible be allowed to stay on the fleet until they reached 12 years of age, until 31 December 2025.

RESOLVED

That Council be recommended to approve the following:

- (i) Extend the current emissions compliance date for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles to 31 December 2025.**
- (ii) Delay the implementation of the maximum age limit for non-wheelchair accessible Private Hire Vehicles to 31 December 2025.**

94 GRANT EXTENSION TO SUPPORT THE EXTENDED DUTIES OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEAD TEACHER TO INCLUDE CHILDREN WITH A SOCIAL WORKER 2023-25.

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Education, Achievement and Equalities / Assistant Director for Education. The report sought to summarise the details of two recently announced grant extensions by the DfE.

In September 2021 Local Authorities began receiving grant funding to extend the role of Virtual School Headteacher to include strategic responsibility for all children with a social worker. In spring 2023 it was confirmed by the DfE that all Local Authorities would continue to be eligible to receive grant funding to support Virtual School Headteacher in delivering this responsibility; and that this funding was confirmed until 2025. A grant determination letter detailing this and Memorandum of Understanding (**Appendix one and two**) was published on 19 June 2023.

The grant determination letter had confirmed that Tameside would receive £100,000 in financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25. This would be paid in three instalments per financial year; September, December and March. It was expected that a Memorandum of Understanding was read, signed and returned for each financial year. This outlined how the grant could be spent. It was expected that the LA provided an annual financial progress report on total receipt, expenditure of funding, and planned expenditure within the grant period. This was completed and returned for the period 2022-23.

The Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) grant for cared for children aged 4-15 is well established and was used to provide both individualised educational support and support for the cohort as a whole. However, historically this funding had ceased when a child reaches the age of 16, although the Virtual Headteacher duties and need for support continues for as long as a child is in care.

The Post-16 PP+ grant was to provide additional funding to support cared for children and care leavers at post-16. A pilot for this grant had been underway in 58 local authorities since 2021 and in the spring it was confirmed by the DfE that the pilot would be extended across all eligible Local Authorities. Grant determination letters were published on 27 June 2023 which have confirmed that Tameside will receive £67,770 for the period April 2023-March 2024. Unlike the 4-15 PP+, the funding formula was not calculated on a per head basis, but was calculated on a percentage rate basis. The grant would be paid in two instalments per year in September and January.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to APPROVE:

- (i) That the Council accepts the grant extension for extended duties of the Headteacher of the Virtual School for children with a social worker 2023-2025.**
- (ii) That the Council accepts the grant extension for Pupil Premium Plus for post-16 2023-2024.**
- (iii) That the grant agreements are entered into subject to the necessary due diligence having been undertaken.**

95 APPROVAL OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE CHARGING POLICY AND REVISED CHARGING SCHEDULE 2024/25 ONWARDS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report sought approval of the revised Adult Social Care Charging Policy and associated charging schedule for 2024/25. This updated the previous policy agreed February 2022 to simplify and explain more clearly, the charges for care in a single policy document.

The report recommended alignment of the cost of delivery to the current charges, in line with the fees currently paid. It also made clear the requirements to inform the Client Finance Team of any change of circumstances and how charges will be applied thereafter. The following proposed changes were set out in the report:

- **Change 1** – to have a single policy which simplified and explained more clearly all charging related to Adult Social Care, this would supersede the current non-residential and residential charging policies. A copy of the proposed policy could be found at Appendix 1 of this report.
- **Change 2** – to align charges to people who used services with the cost of care and support provided within the context of the national means test. A full copy of the proposed charges (alongside the current charges) could be found at Appendix 2.
- **Change 3** – It was proposed that the policy be subject to an annual review in conjunction with the annual care fee setting process. An annual schedule of charges would be published as an appendix to the annual fees report.
- **Change 4** – Service users or their representative must tell the Client Finance Team about any change within one month of the change happening and the service would then complete a new financial assessment from the date of the change. If people did not tell the Client Finance Team about any change within a month and the change meant that they had been paying too much for their care the service will only complete the financial assessment from the week they were told about the change. If people did not tell the Client Finance Team about any change within a month and the change meant they haven't been charged enough they would have to pay the extra charges going back to when the change happened.

It was estimated that the proposed changes outlined in section 5 of this report would generate a moderate increase in income for the council by up to £0.350m annually. In addition, it would simplify the Adult Social Care Charging Policy and explain more clearly, the way care was charged.

Furthermore if approved, this report made provision for a further phase of consultation where it had been determined that changes could have a more significant impact on individuals for the charges referenced in section 3.3 of this report. Should it be approved, adult services would ensure consultation during 2024 to bring forward recommendations for subsequent changes at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval is given to the revised ASC Charging Policy, and the associated charging schedule for 2024/25**
- (ii) That approval is given to implement the alignment of charges (Appendix 2) with fees paid for all people who use our services with effect from 1 February 2024 (Option 1)**
- (iii) To note and approve the need for public consultation on the charges referenced in section 3.3 of this report.**

96 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report sought approval for the award of the contract to the highest ranking and most economically advantageous provider for the Mental Health Supported

Accommodation service the contract to commence 1 April 2024 for a period of five years up to 31 March 2029.

On 24 August 2022 Executive Cabinet approved a tender process to commence in October 2023 and complete in November 2023 for the provision of a Mental Health Supported Accommodation service. The current contract was due to expire on 31 March 2024.

An open tendering exercise commenced 4 October 2023 and closed 3 November 2023. The tender was completed fully in accordance with Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Procurement Standing Orders and in conjunction with public procurement requirements via the CHEST (North West procurement portal).

It was explained that responses were received from ten organisations. The tender submission was weighted, in terms of significance, based on a 70% Quality (including 20% Social Value) and 30% Cost split. The requirement to weight tender submissions ensures compliance with European Union Regulations 2006. The Summary of Moderation Scores was included within the report and the report sought approval to approve the highest ranking company.

RESOLVED

That following the evaluation of tender submissions, Cabinet approve the award of the contract to the highest ranking and most economically advantageous provider namely: Company C - Creative Support.

97 HAWTHORN NEW SEND SCHOOL – PITCH SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) / Director of Place. This report provided a scheme update, a summary of the Football Foundations support including their standard Terms and Conditions for acceptance/approval, the operational proposals for the site and impact on the approved Hawthorns scheme capital budget.

A grant offer letter received by the Council on the 26 September 2023, confirmed the offer of grant to support the development of the facilities set out in the report. A copy of the letter was attached as Appendix 1. In order to accept the grant offer the Council must confirm that it was willing to abide by the Football Foundations standard terms and conditions of grant for awards over £0.100m. A copy of the terms and conditions was attached at Appendix 2. In addition to the standard terms and conditions the Council was required to accept a legal charge or restriction on the freehold title. A copy of the legal pack is attached at Appendix 3. The requirement for a legal charge or restriction stems from the Football Foundations need to protect its investment preventing the applicant from using the land for any other purpose without the written consent of the Foundation.

The delivery of the synthetic turf pitch element of the scheme was to be delivered through the Football Foundations Framework Agreement. A copy of the framework process and associated guidance was provided at Appendix 4 & 5. The framework was fully compliant with the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) procurement rules. The process required the Council to enter in to a JCT form of contract for the synthetic turf pitch and Form of Joining Agreement attached as Appendix 6.

The estimated cost of the new school and associated pitch scheme was set out in the 26 April 2023 Executive Cabinet report. In relation to the pitch element the total cost of the scheme was estimated to be £1.100m with 70% contribution provided as grant funding from the Football Foundation of £0.770m which required match funding of 30% of £0.330m from the Council. The total estimated cost of the new Hawthorns school project was £22.762m. This included the additionality of the football pitches development into the overall cost including an estimate of additional funding of £0.770m from the Football Foundation and the s106 funding of £0.075m from the redevelopment of the former 'Organ Inn' public house in Hollingworth.

The development of facilities such as this required the involvement of an "anchor" football club, which in this case was Hollingworth Juniors FC, they had been based in the area for circa 35 years.

Hollingworth Juniors FC is an FA Charter Standard Club. They had been proposed as the 'anchor' club by Manchester FA, who recognise them as a progressive and developmentally minded organisation providing a range of opportunities for local young people in the Hollingworth, Longdendale and Hattersley areas of the Borough. The requirement for an anchor club was key to a successful bid to the Football Foundation. Hollingworth Juniors were a joint applicant and will manage the facilities upon completion.

It was proposed that Hollingworth Juniors FC will occupy and manage the two pitches and changing pavilion by way of a lease in a form to be approved the head of legal services taking in to consideration the terms and conditions of the Football Foundation. The Football Foundations lease requirements were set out in the legal pack attached to the report as Appendix 3.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve:

- (i) That the Council accepts the Football Foundation grant funding and notes the terms and conditions of the award subject to the Section 151 Officer and Borough Solicitor being satisfied that the terms and conditions of the grant do not create any additional risk for the Council.**
- (ii) That the Council accepts the contribution of £0.020m from Hollingworth Juniors Football Club as the 'anchor' club on the site.**
- (iii) That the Council accepts a legal charge or title restriction as outlined in the grant terms and conditions.**
- (iv) That the Council provides a lease to Hollingworth Juniors FC.**
- (v) That the Council enters into the Football Foundation Framework Agreement to deliver the synthetic turf pitch element of the scheme as a condition of accepting the grant from the Football Foundation.**
- (vi) That the £0.020m contribution from Hollingworth Juniors is added into the Education Capital Programme.**
- (vii) That the £0.727m Football Foundation grant is added into the Education Capital Programme.**

98 PARKING ENFORCEMENT AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES FOR ON AND OFF STREET PARKING (INCLUDING CASH COLLECTION)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Connectivity / Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods. The report sought approval to award the contract for the provision of Parking Enforcement and Associated Services following the results of the joint procurement exercise undertaken with Trafford, Rochdale and Bolton Council.

Tameside, Trafford, Bolton and Rochdale Councils have undertaken a fully compliant Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) joint procurement process to establish four separate new contracts for Parking Enforcement and Associated Services. Tameside, Trafford, Bolton and Rochdale Councils are required to enter into individual contracts with the winning bidder.

The baseline service volume for Tameside Council is 90 enforcement hours per day, Monday to Saturday. As part of the negotiation process for the current extension it was determined that 90 enforcement hours per day delivered the best value for the Council. This was an increase from 76 hours per day that was provided 1 June 2022 – 31 March 2023.

It was explained that outsourcing to an Enforcement Contractor allows the Authority to draw on the flexibility this provided. The majority of Enforcement organisations also work in partnership with other Councils across the North West and they had the ability to draw resources from these areas to assist when required.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet approve the award of the contract for the provision of Parking Enforcement and Associated services for Tameside Council, following the results of the joint

procurement exercise undertaken with Trafford, Rochdale and Bolton Council.

99 ASHTON OLD BATHS MANAGEMENT PROCUREMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth Business & Employment / Assistant Director for Investment, Development and Housing. The report provided an update for Ashton Old Baths Innovation Centre. The existing management agreement with Oxford Innovation Space expires in February 2024. The report sought approval to extend the partnership arrangement with Oxford Innovation Space by 2 years to allow a full business case review to be undertaken to determine the future of the centre.

It was reported that the Council remained committed to futureproofing and building on the successes of Ashton Old Baths and its role as a catalyst in regenerating the deprived area within the Future St Petersfield masterplan. The role of Ashton Old Baths as an incubation hub for businesses had become even more pivotal to the future economic prosperity of Ashton and the wider Tameside area following the recent establishment of the Ashton Mayoral Development Zone where further growth was proposed to fulfil the potential of St Petersfield and the wider Ashton town centre area as a destination for investment and regeneration.

The UK Shared Prosperity Funding would provide the required investment to repair and futureproof this important heritage asset whilst creating new SME floorspace inside the building to support inward investment, creation of new jobs for the local economy, and provide essential revenue to the Council to help to balance the expenditure relating to the operation of the centre.

It was explained that due to the existing contract ending in February 2024 and the requirement for a wider review of Council assets, an extension to the existing contract with Oxford Innovation was proposed. As outlined in the report, Oxford Innovation provided a good service with positive feedback from businesses that operate from there. Whilst Ashton Old Baths had not yet generated an annual surplus as previously forecast, there had been influences outside of the Council's or Oxford Innovation's control as to the reasons for the financial performance of the centre to date. There was an acceptance that the centre was not likely to generate significant revenue for the Council, even if occupancy was at 100% all the year round. However, in recent months, there had been some positive signs of recovery that Ashton Old Baths was performing well and had recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic. In the last six consecutive months, the centre had generated a surplus for the first time since opening its doors in 2017 following an upward trajectory in the financial position over the last 18 months. Occupancy was steadily increasing, deficits were reducing month on month, more jobs were being created, and new SME floorspace using UKSPF was to be introduced that would generate further income and future proof the building.

The regeneration and economic benefits were outlined in the report as well as the Council's ambition to deliver development, investment, and regeneration in St Petersfield as identified in the approved masterplan for the area. The centre also supported the Council's profile as a place to do business within the GMCA Ashton Innovation Corridor Growth Location and recently established Ashton Mayoral Development Zone.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the latest position of Ashton Old Baths Innovation Centre in respect of financial and economic performance be Noted;**
- (ii) Approval be given to a further contract extension to the existing agreement with Oxford Innovation for a period of 1 year with the option to extend by +1 year to enable a wider review of Council assets, whilst a full business case appraisal is undertaken by the Council;**
- (iii) Approval be given to review the ongoing management arrangement for the centre;**
- (iv) The update in respect of the recent successful bid for UK Shared Prosperity Funding and the projects within the centre that the funding will be utilised for be noted.**

100 PROPOSAL TO DECLARE ASSETS SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS (BATCH 4)

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy for Finance, Resources & Transformation / Assistant Director for Strategic Property. The report sought approval for proposed sites detailed in the report be declared surplus to the Council's operational requirements.

Officers were seeking approval from Executive Cabinet to declare the assets, detailed in the report at section 2 as being surplus to Council requirements.

It was explained that all Ward Members, who had an asset in their Ward which was proposed to be declared surplus, had been consulted week commencing 27 November 2023. Apart from some Members who sought clarification on the process or on details of the Council's ownership, no objections had been received to the proposed disposal of the assets.

RESOLVED

In accordance with the Disposal Policy, approval be given to declare the schedule of assets set out in Section 2 of this report surplus to the Council's operational requirements.

101 GODLEY GREEN: HOMES ENGLAND GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT – REMEDIATION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth Business & Employment / First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Place / Assistant Director of Investment, Development and Housing.

It was reported that Homes England's flexibility in agreeing to an early draw down of grant funding had significantly helped the Council to facilitate and deliver a full pre and post-planning submission process, that included 12 public and statutory consultation sessions, during the challenging COVID lockdown period.

In addition, this funding, aligned with the Council's significant investment of financial resources and political leadership, had helped to create a development platform that had seen the majority of the site now optioned for development. Meanwhile, the Council's controlling interest in the site also placed it in a strong strategic and commercial position when it came to selecting a delivery partner. The Council continued to remain fully committed to the delivery of the site and promotion of the allocation through the Places for Everyone process to remove it from the Green Belt and had made positive responses to the recent Main Modifications consultation accordingly.

It was explained that unfortunately the Council and Homes England had not been able to agree further extensions to the HIF Programme. However, Homes England had made an ongoing commitment to continue to work with the Council and GMCA to explore further funding and partnership opportunities as they arise and should they be needed, that would support the delivery of this key, strategic site.

RESOLVED

- (i) Approval be given to enter into the Deed of Termination Notice (targeted for before 31 December 2023, to avoid the risk of clawback of the £0.720m grant funding already drawn down).**
- (ii) That a resolution to grant outline planning consent was confirmed on 1 November 2023 and that the Secretary of State confirmed on 9 November 2023 that the application will not be subject to call in be Noted.**
- (iii) That the ongoing cooperation between the Council, Homes England and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to identify alternative sources of grant funding (if required) be Noted.**
- (iv) Approval be given to the promotion of the project to Homes England's Brownfield Land and Infrastructure (BIL) fund via GMCA.**

102 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR

EXECUTIVE CABINET

24 January 2024

Commenced: 1.00pm

Terminated: 1.50pm

Present: Councillors Cooney (Chair), Choksi, Fairfoull, Kitchen, Naylor, North, Jackson, Taylor, Ward and Wills

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Ashley Hughes	Director of Resources (S151)
Stephanie Butterworth	Director of Adult Services
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Debbie Watson	Director of Population Health
Tracey Harrison	Assistant Director of Adult Services
Ilys Cookson	Assistant Director of Exchequer Services

Apologies: Councillors Feeley and Kitchen

103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

104 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 20 December 2023 be approved as a correct record.

105 PERIOD 8 2023/24 FORECAST OUTTURN – REVENUE AND CAPITAL.

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources. This was the Period 8 monitoring report for the current financial year, showing the forecast outturn position. The report reviewed the financial position for the General Fund revenue budget, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Capital budget.

The underlying Month 8 position is an overspend of £11.997m, which represents a favourable movement on the month 7 underlying position of £1.010m due to the inclusion of delivered recovery plan actions into the underlying position.

Work has continued on the development and delivery of recovery plans by service areas, in conjunction with Finance, in the period between Month 7 and Month 8 reporting. To date, plans totalling £9.334m have been received, reducing the residual unmitigated overspend to £3.824m.

The total figure of planned actions within the recovery plans is £9.334m, an increase of £0.600m on the month 7 position, where management actions of £8.734m were estimated. Taking into account these recovery plan actions, the residual overspend at month 8 is projected to be £3.824m.

In regards to recovery plans it was reported that All Directors have submitted draft recovery plans. Each recovery plan requires sign off from the Director of Resources in line with the Financial Regulations and work is continuing to develop plans to meet the shortfall. Education has now developed a recovery plan which balances the pressures within the Service. Although Adult Social Care was previously balanced, additional pressures at month 8 have resulted in requiring further mitigations.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet approve:

- (i) The allocation of £0.024m to the Resources Directorate revenue budget from Contingency to support the in-year non-recovery of income towards a previous jointly funded post with a Greater Manchester local authority within the Assurance Service. This joint funding arrangement is no longer in place as the post now supports Council priorities only.
- (ii) The acceptance of, and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), by the Director of Resources and Director of Place for, the non-recurrent High Street Accelerator Programme RDEL Seed Funding of £0.237m. £0.050m of this is to be received and spent in 2023/24 with the remaining £0.187m to be received in 2024/25. This funding aims to bring together local stakeholders to support the long-term revival and regeneration of Hyde town centre. By entering into the MoU, the Council also confirms it will act as treasurer for the Accelerator Partnership.
- (iii) The acceptance of the non-recurrent Delivery Support Funding of £0.062m in 2023/24. This is to support local authorities meet programme and delivery costs associated with rolling out the expanded EY entitlements. This was subject to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed by the Director of Resources in their capacity as the S151 officer, which was completed by the deadline of 26 October 2023.
- (iv) The acceptance of Wraparound Childcare Programme Costs of £0.020m in 2023/24; £1.316m (up to a maximum of) in 2024/25 and £0.613m (provisional up to a maximum of) in 2025/26 - this is to support local authorities in England to increase the supply of wraparound places, to ensure or guarantee provision for all parents who may need it, meeting current demand and building further demand. This is a 3-year grant and was subject to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed by the Director of Resources in their capacity as S151 officer, which was completed by the deadline of 30 October 2023.

That Executive Cabinet note:

- (i) The forecast General Fund revenue budget position of an overspend of £11.997m if the Council did nothing, which is a favourable movement of £1.010m from Period 7 as a result of delivered mitigating actions.
- (ii) The update on the production of recovery plans to mitigate the shortfall in budgets, with mitigations of £9.334m identified, £1.010m of which is included in the underlying overspend above.
- (iii) That there is a projected General Fund overspend for the Council of £3.824m, following the application of actions within draft recovery plans.
- (iv) The forecast deficit on the DSG of £4.718m, which is an improved position of £0.599m on the month 7 position.
- (v) The Capital programme position of projected spend of £46.946m, following Cabinet approval to reprofile project spend of £1.024m from 2024/25.

106 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2024/25

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Resources. The report detailed the Council Tax base calculation which was a key part of the annual budget cycle. The calculated tax base was used by Financial Management to determine the level of Council Tax income that the Council could raise in the upcoming financial year, subject to agreement of the amount of Council Tax to be charged for each dwelling.

The law required that the calculation of the Council Tax base for tax setting must be made between 1 December 2023 and 31 January 2024. The calculated tax base was used to determine the level of Council Tax income that the Council can raise in the upcoming financial year, subject to agreement of the amount of Council Tax to be charged for each dwelling. Failure to set the Council Tax base for 2024/25 would prevent the Council from setting its budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

The calculation of the authority tax base for Council Tax setting purposes gave an estimated Band D equivalent of 66,382.0 properties. There were no Ministry of Defence properties in Tameside. An estimated collection rate of 97.5% gives a Council Tax base of 64,722.5 properties.

The calculation of the Mossley Parish tax base for Council Tax setting purposes gives an estimated

Band D equivalent of 3,576.5 properties. There were no Ministry of Defence properties in Mossley. An estimated collection rate of 97.5% gave a Council tax base of 3,487.1 properties.

RESOLVED

That pursuant to the figures set out in the Report of the Director of Resources, and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax base) (England) Regulations 2012

- (i) the amount calculated by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council as its Council Tax base for the year 2024/2025 shall be 64,722.5 properties.**
- (ii) the amount calculated by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council as the Tax base for the Town Council of Mossley for the year 2024/2025 shall be 3,487.1 properties.**

107 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2024/2025

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services. The report sought approval to continue the Council Tax Reduction Scheme adapted for 2023/24 and a hardship fund to assist severe cases of hardship.

In setting a Council Tax Support scheme for 2024/2025 it had been important to consider the current operation of the scheme in terms of demand, costs, equalities, support and risks. The scheme was operating as expected and therefore no changes were proposed to the scheme other than a change of wording in respect of the way the scheme is administered. Appendix 3 detailed Tameside's Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/2025.

It was reported that Council Tax Support claimant numbers had reduced, and scheme costs had increased from April 2021. Claimant numbers and costs fluctuated daily, however costs increase as the Council Tax level set increases each year. The highest number of claimants were those of working age. The scheme continues to operate as expected. The procedural requirements had been adhered to as the scheme would be adopted before 11 March 2024 before the start of the financial year to which the scheme applies. The prescribed requirements continued to be contained within the scheme and claimants of pension age continued to be fully protected within the scheme.

The scheme, when drafted, was designed to be as fair as possible and support would continue to be provided with a Hardship Fund of £50k to be administered by Exchequer Services as part of the Section 13A legislation and policy. Advice available from both the Council and partner agencies remains in place. No Tribunal directions had been received in respect of having to change the scheme and no legislative changes from DLUHC were expected. The Local Government Ombudsman had not issued any recommendations with regard to Council Tax Support schemes. Council Tax collection rates had been monitored throughout the year. Additional support would continue to be provided via the Hardship Fund, continuing to provide the on-line calculator, up to date web pages and self-service account access.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given to continue the Council Tax Reduction Scheme adapted for 2023/2024, known as the Council Tax Support Scheme, as set out in Appendix Three; save for the following:**
 - annual benefit uprating which are not yet released by Department of Work and Pensions;**
 - further guidance which may be issued by Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.**
 - the amendment to the wording in the scheme as detailed at section 4 of the report**
- (ii) That approval be given for a £50,000 hardship fund be in place to assist severe cases of hardship funded from existing budgets, to be administered by Exchequer Services under the existing Section 13A Policy.**

108 TAMESIDE VIOLENCE REDUCTION STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Towns and Communities / Director of Public Health. This report provides an outline of the Serious Violence Strategy for Tameside.

It was explained that this was a five year strategy in response to the new Serious Violence Duty which came into effect in January 2023 across England. This required a range of local 'specified authorities' to set out a strategy for how they would reduce and prevent serious violence in the local area. The strategy for Tameside was based on the findings and recommendations from the Tameside Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment which was completed in the Autumn of 2023.

This strategy aligned to wider priorities across the council including the Health & Wellbeing Strategy; Building Resilience, Tackling Poverty Strategy; and the Community Safety Strategy. This also reflected close working with the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit and aligns to work done at a Greater Manchester level.

This strategy would be delivered by, and have oversight from, the Tameside Community Safety Partnership Board, which had representation from each of the specified authorities with responsibility for delivering the duty. This report sought approval for the final public version of the Tameside Serious Violence Strategy to be published as per the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty. Ongoing delivery and monitoring of the priorities within the strategy will take place at the Tameside Community Safety Partnership Board, including the development of an action plan.

RESOLVED

That approval be given for the five-year Tameside Serious Violence Strategy for publication to ensure the council, along with other specified authorities, meets the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty.

109 LOCALLY COMMISSIONED SERVICES - PHARMACY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Population Health & Wellbeing / Director of Public Health. The report sought approval for a direct award to local pharmacies in Tameside to deliver the locally commissioned services.

It was explained that Public Health commissioned services from local pharmacies located in Tameside, which provided additional services for residents and preventative interventions under a standard NHS Contract. In July 2022 the GM NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) took over the management of this contract when Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) ceased to exist. More recently, following notification from the ICB of an issue with the transfer of this contract during the merger from the CCG to the ICB the contract was novated back to the council for a temporary period whilst the ICB undertake a review of locally commissioned service (LCS) provision. The proposal was that the contracts for these services in pharmacies would revert back to the previous arrangements aligned with the ICBs wider commissioning of LCSs in community pharmacies from April 2025 onwards.

The current contract was due to expire on 31 March 2024 and this report sought permission to issue a direct award to the relevant pharmacies in Tameside for a contract for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 at an estimated cost of £0.095m (dependent on activity) whilst the review of LCS provision is undertaken. The LCS provision in community pharmacies was crucial as part of the mandated public health functions of the local authority. A direct award route for this was being sought due to the specialist and localised nature of community pharmacy providers across Tameside.

RESOLVED

That approval be given for the direct award to local pharmacies in Tameside to deliver the locally commissioned services under this contract for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

110 STALYBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment / Director of Place / Assistant Director Investment, Development and Housing. The report provided an update on the preparation of a Development Framework for Stalybridge Town Centre and the ongoing work to facilitate the delivery of its regeneration.

It was explained that the Framework provided a strategic approach to the transformation of Stalybridge Town Centre, building on development activity undertaken to date and representing a significant acceleration in its scope and delivery. It set out the key actions identified for the period to March 2026 to progress the delivery of the Stalybridge Regeneration Programme against the principles of the Framework utilising the secured Capital Regeneration Projects funding whilst supporting further investment and development.

In order to ensure effective delivery, the Stalybridge Regeneration Programme Dashboard had been established and was monitored at meetings of the Stalybridge Strategic Project Board. The current status of project delivery in the Town Centre was as follows:

- Work to the Civic Hall building started on site in August 2023 and delivery is progressing as planned with completion scheduled by Summer 2024.
- Further survey and design work is being completed on the proposed works to the Ashley Cheetham Art Gallery and Library to enable works to start on this building in July 2024.
- Delivery of the Phase 1 public realm works on Market Street are on site. The first stage between Melbourne Street and the bus station opened to traffic in November 2023. The final stage between Melbourne Street and Trinity Street will complete by February 2024.
- The public realm strategy for future phases has been commissioned and is due to be completed in Spring 2024.
- A Development Prospectus has been prepared for the Council owned Stalybridge West sites. A strategy for delivery of the enabling infrastructure and procurement of a partner for future residential development is being prepared and will be subject to a future report in 2024.

The interventions supported by the Framework and the Stalybridge Regeneration Programme would support delivery of the Council's strategic priorities as set out in the Tameside Corporate Plan, the Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy, Places for Everyone, Unitary Development Plan and the emerging Homes, Spaces, Places, Plan.

RESOLVED

- (i) Approval be given for the Stalybridge Town Centre Delivery Framework to support implementation of the Stalybridge Regeneration Programme and act as a material consideration when consulting on planning applications in the area to guide proposals for development in accordance with the principles within the Framework.**
- (ii) To note the ongoing work in relation to delivery of the Stalybridge Regeneration Programme.**

111 PERMISSION TO CONSULT ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE CHARGES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report set out a request for approval to consult on a second phase of alignment of charges to the fee paid by the Council for care and support provided, the adoption of a revised Transport and Travel Policy along with the introduction of charges for some areas that were currently not charged for.

The proposed consultation would focus on a number of key areas:

- The further alignment of charges to people who use services, with the fee paid by the Council for care and support provided, within the context of the national means test
- The removal of a maximum weekly charge for non-residential services
- Introduction of new charges for discretionary non-eligible services

In addition, the public would be asked for general feedback on the draft Transport and Travel Policy and the simplified format that makes it easier for the public to access information relevant to them.

It should be stressed that any changes to charges were subject to the national means test and people would not be asked to pay for care that they cannot afford. Regardless of any charges, people would undergo a financial assessment to establish their financial contribution to the total cost of their care. As a result, some people may be required to:

- Pay the full cost of their care (self-funders)
- Pay a partial contribution
- Not pay at all.

The consultation would run for four weeks, commencing on Monday 29 January 2024 and closing on Sunday 25 February 2024. Every effort had been made to ensure people that could potentially be impacted by these proposals have had the opportunity to feed into the consultation during 2024.

It was estimated that the proposed would generate a moderate increase in income for the Council. In addition, it would simplify the Adult Social Care Charging Policy and explain more clearly, the way the service charges for care.

Furthermore if approved, this report made provision for a further phase of consultation where it had been determined that changes could have a more significant impact on individuals for the charges referenced in section 3.3 of this report. Should it be approved, Adult Services will ensure consultation during 2024 to bring forward recommendations for subsequent changes at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet approve:

- (i) **Consultation with the public on a second phase of alignment of charges in relation to:**
 - **Day Service**
 - **Supported Living**
 - **Respite Care – Learning Disability**
 - **Payroll and Managed Accounts for Direct Payments**
- (ii) **Consultation on a revised Transport and Travel Policy including proposed charges.**
- (iii) **Consultation on the introduction of charges for discretionary services that are currently not charged for.**
 - **Pet Care**
 - **Key Safes**
 - **Replacement costs for pre-payment cards**
- (iii) **Consultation on the removal of the maximum weekly charge for non-residential services.**

112 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF A RESPITE SERVICE FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report sought approval to award a contract for the provision of a respite service for adults with a learning disability.

Members were reminded that on 24 August 2022, approval was given by Executive Cabinet to tender a Respite Service for Adults with a Learning Disability to commence 1 October 2023 for a period of five years up to 30 September 2028. Further to this, on 27 September 2023 approval was given by Executive Cabinet to extend the current provision for 18 months from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025 to allow time for a complete review of supported accommodation for people with learning disabilities which included a number of other Adults contracts together with the Respite Service.

It was explained that the incumbent provider of the Respite Service for People with a Learning Disability contract had since confirmed its intention not to continue with the contract once it ended on

1 October 2023 but had agreed to continue with a six month extension only from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024.

To align with the previous governance obtained on 24 August 2022 by Executive Cabinet, the intention was to award a contract for a duration of four years and six months from 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2028, with no option to extend.

The Council had therefore completed a comprehensive competitive procurement process and the highest-ranking provider had been identified. This report sought approval by Executive Cabinet to award the contract as detailed in the report to Company H namely, Icare Solutions Stockport LTD.

That the award of the contract to the highest ranking and most economically advantageous provider namely: Icare Solutions Stockport LTD be approved

113 CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR THE PROVISION OF INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC HOME CARE MONITORING

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report sought approval for the extension for the provision of integrated electronic homecare monitoring and scheduling solution.

Members were reminded that on 27 September 2023, approval was given by Executive Cabinet to tender for the Provision of an Integrated Electronic Staff Monitoring and Scheduling Solution for a contract period of five years and 24 days to commence 7 March 2024 to 31 March 2029.

It had since been identified, that the solution should be linked to an electronic care management system for the Councils in house registered providers. The Government 10 year Strategy - People at the Heart of Care states - Technologies could complement and enhance the quality of care delivered by the workforce, while digitisation of care records would ensure care staff and multidisciplinary teams have the information they need to provide holistic, person-centred care in any setting. Following the Government 10 year Strategy recommendation for digitalisation the Council's external registered providers had been required to move to electronic care management systems. Therefore, there was a need to ensure the Councils internal provision were also adopting this change.

In order to carry out full market research, establish the correct route to market and seek governance for the electronic care management system to be procured in conjunction with the electronic staff monitoring and scheduling solution, this report sought an extension to the current Electronic Staff Monitoring and Scheduling Solution contract for a period of 12 months from 7 March 2024 to 6 March 2025.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given for the extension of the current contract for the Provision of Integrated Electronic Home Care Monitoring and Scheduling Solution with HAS Technology for 12 months to commence 7 March 2024 to 6 March 2025.**
- (ii) That approval be given for the commencement of a soft market test early 2024, to establish the market interest and the correct route to market to procure the required electronic social care management and staff monitoring and scheduling solution.**

114 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report sought approval to award a contract for the provision of mental health services.

Members were advised that on 24 August 2022, approval was given by Executive Cabinet to extend the current contract for the period of 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023 for a period of 12 months to allow

for an options appraisal of the different procurement options available to be considered with the support of STAR Procurement.

Following the appraisal and the completion of a Soft Market Test process, this report sought approval by Executive Cabinet to direct award the contract to the current provider namely; Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED

That approval be given for the direct award of the contract for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027 with an option to extend for 12 months to the incumbent provider namely: Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind.

115 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF HEALTHWATCH

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report sought approval to award a contract for the provision of the Healthwatch Service.

The core legislation for Healthwatch was the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) and Health and Social Care Act (2012). The Council had a duty to make provisions for the delivery of Local Healthwatch statutory activity in Tameside. NHS complaints was included in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Council were required to make arrangements, as it considered appropriate, for the provision of services in relation to its area, providing assistance to individuals in connection with complaints relating to the provision of services as part of the Health Service.

The Council is provided with Central Government funding to provide both services. On 24 August 2022, Executive Cabinet approved a tender process for a contract commencement date of 1 April 2024 for a Healthwatch Service for a contract period of six years to 31 March 2030.

This report sought to gain permission to award the provision of Healthwatch contract to commence 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2030 and to modify the current Independent Advocacy contract dated 1 September 2022 to 6 July 2027 to include NHS complaints Levels 1 to 4 from 1 April 2024 to 6 July 2027.

RESOLVED

- (i) Approval be given to the recommended Option 4 for the delivery of the Healthwatch and NHS Levels 1 to 4 complaints contract from 1 April 2024.**
- (ii) To direct award the provision of Healthwatch contract to Action Together to commence 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2030.**
- (iii) To modify the existing Independent Advocacy contract dated 1 September 2022 to 6 July 2027 to include NHS Level 1 to 4 complaints to commence 1 April 2024 to 6 July 2027.**

116 CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS ASSESSMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. This report sought approval to procure a new Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) of DoLS Assessments carried out by Best Interest Assessors and Section 12 Doctors.

Members were advised that the Council had a duty to act as a supervisory body for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) which imposed upon it a more general duty to act as a Human Rights Champion for those adults who might lack capacity to agree to actions taken by others. The role of the Human Rights Champion entailed the active promotion of the human rights of citizens. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards were an amendment to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and apply in England and Wales only. The Mental Capacity Act allowed some restraint and restrictions to be used

– but only if they were in a person's best interests and necessary and proportionate. The FPS would include:

- Lot 1 - Best Interest Assessors to select for both with and without a Mental Capacity Assessment, and select Council areas where the provider is able to deliver assessments;
- Lot 2 - Mental Health Assessors to selected for both with and without a Mental Capacity Assessment, and Council areas where the provider is able deliver assessments;
- Lot 3 – Court of Protection DoLS renewals.

On 27 October 2021 approval was given by Strategic Commissioning Board, to tender for a framework of DoLS Assessors to commence no later than 31 March 2023. The delays in the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) had unfortunately impacted on the procurement timescales and delayed the Councils ability to meet the tender requirements approved at Strategic Commissioning Board on 27 October 2021.

Given the notification on 1 April 2023 confirming the indefinite delay of the implementation of LPS it was now necessary to complete a further review of current provision to ensure that statutory responsibilities of the Council were met.

Therefore, permission was sought to continue with the current procurement arrangements to 30 September 2024, which would allow a full review and tender process to take place with a view to entering into a new five year contract commencing on 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2029.

RESOLVED

- (i) Approval be given for the continuation of the current procurement arrangements until 30 September 2024.**
- (ii) Approval be given to procure a new FPS containing 3 lots via STAR Procurement, to deliver Best Interest Assessments, Mental Health Assessments, and Mental Capacity Assessments, and CoPDoLS renewals to commence 1 October 2024 to 31 September 2029 for a period of 5 years.**
- (iii) That on each occasion the FPS is opened, any recommendations for contract award would be authorised and signed off by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care Homelessness & Inclusivity and the Director of Adult Services.**

117 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report sought approval for the award of a contract for the provision of support for older people.

The current service was delivered by Age UK Tameside at their premises at 131 Katherine Street Ashton – under- Lyne, in the community and on the telephone. The aim of the commissioned service was to support both the promotion of independence and maintenance of services and also the development of new initiatives in furtherance of agreed preventive principles. Central to this approach was reducing the development of a range of social problems, improving the quality of life for older people in Tameside and relieving pressure on statutory services.

It was explained that the support and advice offered to older people in Tameside by Age UK reduces demand into core services such as adult's social care and the hospital, and also mitigated other challenges such as financial difficulty, which was particularly important in the light of the current cost of living crisis.

Following the appraisal and the completion of a soft market test process, this report sought approval by Executive Cabinet to direct award the contract to the current provider namely; Age UK Tameside as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED

That the direct award of the contract for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027 with an option

to extend for 12 months to the incumbent provider namely: Age UK Tameside be approved.

118 URGENT ITEM - MEADOW STREET HYDE – STATEMENT ON MAJOR INCIDENT

The Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment delivered an update and made a statement in respect to the fire which occurred on Markey Street Hyde on the 22 January 2023.

The Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment thanked emergency services for their swift action in controlling the incident and shared relief that there were no reported casualties or injuries as a consequence of the fire.

It was reported that the fire had destroyed the business premises of Visual Architects, a vibrant and growing local business specialising in immersive decor and set design with a national and international profile. It was explained that they had a track record of supporting the local economy and residents through employment and event sponsorship as well as being passionate advocates of the future plans surrounding Hyde Town Centre. The team in Economy, Employment and Skills had been working with the business in the aftermath of Monday's devastating news and were providing a range of support to the team both immediate term but also looking at their longer term disaster recovery. Tameside were proud to be the home of Visual Architects and the Council was committed to providing business support to their team as they navigated through this difficult time.

RESOLVED

That the information provided be noted.

CHAIR

EXECUTIVE CABINET

14 February 2024

Commenced: 13:00

Terminated: 14:10

Present: Councillors Cooney (Chair), Fairfoull (Vice-Chair) Jackson, Kitchen, Naylor, North, Taylor, Ward and Wills

Overview Panel: Councillors Fitzpatrick, Billington Reid, Roderick, Sharif and M. Smith,

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Ashley Hughes	Director of Resources (S151 Officer)
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Stephanie Butterworth	Director of Adult Services
Debbie Watson	Director of Public Health
Tracy Brennand	Assistant Director for People and Workforce Development
Tom Hoghton	Policy & Strategy Service Manager
Alec Milner	Policy Officer

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Choksi

119 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

120 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 24 January 2024 be approved as a correct record.

121 SCRUTINY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive. The report provided a summary of the work undertaken by the Council's Scrutiny Panels during November 2023 to February 2024.

Members were advised that the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel on the 7 November 2023 met with the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment, Assistant Director for Investment, Development and Housing and the Head of Economy and Skills to receive an update on strategic priorities, work streams, local delivery and support for business and employment. The Panel also received the formal response submitted to the Executive Member for Towns & Communities on the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Policy. On the 9 January 2024 the Panel met the Executive Member for Planning, Transport & Connectivity, Director of Place and Planning Policy Team Manager to receive an update on developments and arrangements for Tameside. The Members also received the response letter sent to the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) and the Director of Resources following a mid-year budget update received on 6 November 2023.

It was reported that the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel on the 8 November 2023 met with the Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families), the Director of Children's Services and the Interim Head of Quality Assurance to review the Children's Social Care and Early Help Scorecard and to receive a summary of findings and learning from recent quality assurance work audits with a focus on practice improvement. On the 11 January 2023 the Panel met with the Executive Member

for Education and Achievement, Director of Children's Services and the Interim Lead for SEND to receive an update specific to the provision of SEND services and required improvements. The Panel received a response to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Focus Report, Parent Power: learning from complaints and personal budgets published November 2023. Further, the Panel reviewed the Quality Assurance Scorecard and a response to enquiries made previous and the Members received the response letter to the First Deputy (Finance Resources & Transformation) and Director of Resources following a midyear budget update.

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel on the 9 November 2024 met the Medical Director of Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust, Deputy Place Based Lead, Head of Mental Health Learning Disabilities and Autism to receive an update on mental health priorities for Tameside and an overview of services and support delivered by Pennine Care. On the 11 January 2024 the Panel met with the Independent Chair, Tameside Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board and Head of Safeguarding, Quality and Practice to receive the annual report. The Panel met the Manager of Healthwatch Tameside, to receive the annual report and to discuss opportunities regarding insight and information sharing, forward plans and the learning available by effectively capturing the voice and experience of patients and service users. Members of the Panel also received the response letter sent to the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) and the Director of Resources, following a mid-year budget update review on 6 November 2023.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report and summary of scrutiny activity be noted.

122 SCRUTINY ACTIVITY 2023/24

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which provided a summary of work undertaken by the Council's Scrutiny Panels for 2023/24.

Members were advised that at the start of the municipal year all Panel members were provided with the opportunity to comment and contribute to the list of topics included within the annual work programmes. The programme of work for each panel covers a two-year rolling period to be reviewed, updated and agreed on an annual basis. The report provided a breakdown of the activity undertaken by Scrutiny Panels for the period March 2023 to February 2024, with topics cited in Annual Work Programmes.

REOSLVED

That the content of the report and summary of scrutiny activity be noted.

123 SCRUTINY BUDGET CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel / Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Panel / Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel / Chief Executive.

It was reported that all Scrutiny members, along with the Chair, Deputy Chair and non-executive members of Overview Panel, were invited to attend one of two budget briefing sessions held on 15 January 2024. This followed on from a mid-year budget position for 2023/24, received in November 2023. The update on 15 January 2024 was provided by Councillor Jacqueline North (First Deputy – Finance, Resources & Transformation); and Ashley Hughes, Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer). Also in attendance were the Chief Executive and Directors. Scrutiny members received an overview of the 2023/24 financial outturn and budget planning for 2024/25. A collective response letter of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Chairs was sent to the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation); and Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

It was also reported that all Scrutiny members, along with the Chair, Deputy Chair and non-executive members of Overview Panel, were provided with an opportunity to attend one of two

budget briefing sessions held on 6 November 2023. The sessions provide members with the opportunity to receive a comprehensive appraisal, which included an overview of key financial assumptions, the current budget position and a forward view regarding risks and pressures. A collective response letter of the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Chairs was sent to the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation); and Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) – Appendix 2. The Chair of Overview and the Scrutiny Chairs received a direct response from the First Deputy and Director of Finance to the Scrutiny mid-year letter. The letter provided a detailed reply to the questions and comments shared in November. The letter had subsequently been shared with all Scrutiny members and was to be tabled at Scrutiny Panels in March 2024 – Appendix 3.

RESOLVED

That the summary and feedback based on recent scrutiny engagement on the budget position for 2024/25 and future planning be noted.

124 PERIOD 9 2023/24 FORECAST OUTTURN – REVENUE AND CAPITAL

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) / Director of Resources. The report detailed the forecast outturn for period 9 of the current financial year.

It was reported that overall there were significant overspends on expenditure of £10.370m on the underlying position within the General Fund. This showed the total potential overspend, should actions within the recovery plans to bring the expenditure down to within budget not be taken. As per the Council's financial regulations, Directors had a responsibility to manage within budgeted levels of expenditure and where overspends occur, Directors were required to present a recovery plan to the Section 151 Officer.

At month 8, recovery plans were presented to the cabinet, which included actions totalling £9.335m. Reviews of proposed actions had been undertaken by service areas in conjunction with Finance in the period between Month 8 and Month 9 reporting to ensure that actions could be delivered as planned. This had resulted in a reduction in the total value of plans of £2.321m, to £7.014m. This decrease in deliverable actions had increased the residual overspend from £3.824m at month 8 to £7.342m at month 9. Recovery Plans were a standing agenda item at Senior Leadership Team meetings and would remain so for the duration of the financial year to ensure corporate oversight. Any pressures or undelivered savings within Directorates by the end of the financial year would need to be resolved in the next financial year, in addition to delivering MTFS proposals to meet the budget gap for 2024/25.

A £4.731m overspend was forecast on the DSG fund, mainly due to unprecedented levels of growth on Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs), at which the work on the Delivering Better Value (DBV) project was targeted. The DBV project was in the final stages of consideration with the Department for Education (DfE) for a revenue grant to support the deliverables agreed between the Council and the DfE.

The Capital budget had forecast budgets of £11.885m to be reprofiled to future years in 2023/24, agreed at month 6, representing a reduction from previous reprofiling requested, due to schemes progressing more quickly than expected. This did not affect the overall programme budget which was forecast to underspend by £2.872m.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet approve:

- (i) **The extension of four posts within the Adult Services Moving with Dignity team (two manual handling practitioners, a senior practitioner and an occupational therapy assistant), for a further three-year period, 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027 funded through the Disabled Facilities Capital grant.**
- (ii) **Drawdown of £0.706m from the Complex Placements Reserve to support high-cost**

- high need placements in the Children's directorate.
- (iii) The acceptance of £0.050m ABEN Warm Winter Fund from GMCA which aims to provide enhanced capacity during the period 1 November 2023 to 31 March 2024 to support the delivery of the 'A Bed Every Night' grant funding programme within Homelessness.
- (iv) Draw down of £113k from the IT investment fund to commission SoCITM to undertake a digital maturity assessment, review and update the digital strategy, develop a digital roadmap and develop a Target Operating Model for the ICT service.

That Executive Cabinet note:

- (i) The forecast General Fund revenue budget position of an overspend of £10.370m, prior to any remaining recovery plan actions
- (ii) The update on the production of recovery plans to mitigate the shortfall in budgets, with total mitigations of £7.014m identified, of which £3.028m is due to be delivered in quarter 4, with the remainder included in the month 9 overspend.
- (iii) That there is a projected General Fund overspend for the Council of £7.342m, following the application of actions within draft recovery plans and the identification of additional pressures.
- (iv) The forecast deficit on the DSG of £4.731m, which is a slight adverse movement of £0.013m on the month 8 position.
- (v) The Capital programme position of projected spend of £46.946m, following Cabinet approval to reprofile project spend of £1.024m from 2024/25.

125 2024/25 BUDGET REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources. The purpose of this report was to set out and seek approval for the setting of a balanced budget for the Council for the financial year 2024/25, including a proposed Council Tax increase and an adult social care precept increase. This report also set out forecasts for the years up to 2028/29. The Council was required by law to set a balanced budget for the upcoming financial year. Provisional Council funding for 2024/25 was announced in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement in December 2023 and was expected to be confirmed in February 2024. The Council must set the budget and agree the level of Council Tax by 11 March 2024 at the latest.

The proposals set out in the report and the detailed appendices proposed a balanced Council budget for 2024/25 subject to the delivery of identified budget reductions, and agreement of a proposed increase in Council Tax. Appendix 1 to the report provided a summary of the Council budget for 2024/25 and forecasts for future years. Budget summaries for each Directorate were included in Appendices 6 to 11 to the report. Balancing the 2024/25 budget had only been possible through the agreement of challenging budget reductions, income generation and demand management. Demand and cost pressures were forecast to continue to increase during 2024/25 and as a result the Council still faced a significant budget gap in future years.

It was explained that the Council had been working on proposals to deliver suitable and sufficient budget reductions to bridge the gap in 2024/25 and to support delivery of the MTFS to 2028/29. As such, the budget reductions of £11.828m were proposed in 2024/25, with further costed and planned budget reductions to 2026/27 detailed in the report. Additional work would be undertaken to extend budget reduction proposals and transformation ideas to 2028/29 that were costed and considered to be deliverable.

The budget reduction proposals, as part of the wider budget, had been subject to public consultation since Cabinet in December 2023 and were going through both internal and external scrutiny with reviews with Political Groups, Scrutiny Panels, Star Chamber sessions and Neighbourhood forums all in January 2024. In addition to this, work had been ongoing for confirmation of deliverability by officers as part of the assurance process to set a balanced budget. Budget reductions totalling £14.429m had been identified, with £11.828m falling in 2024/25. Within Adults Social Care, a clear

theme of maximising independence was key to the proposals proposed to transform the Service, with a strong commissioning focus and review of provision, including resettlement into the Borough.

Significant budget reductions were proposed within Children's Social Care for 2024/25, with a clear focus on supporting children in familial settings as part of the Children's Improvement plan, moving away from external residential settings and with the knowledge that better outcomes for children, cost less. In addition, a full review of transport options across the Council, including home to school transport with a view to build resilience and independence were underway with a theme of maximising independence for young people. Additional budget reductions were anticipated as a result of the ongoing Children's Improvement Plan for future years, however following the Ofsted inspection in December 2023, it was prudent to fully review and consider the quantum and phasing of potential budget reductions in Children's Social Care to ensure the Council adequately supported the long-term transformation of practice and care provided to the young people of the Borough. The phasing of future reductions was dependent on the speed of improvement, however it was clear that Children's Social Care must contribute to delivering a balanced budget over that period.

Within the Place Directorate, a range of budget reductions had been put forward with a view to proactively addressing the rising demand for services, such as the increased demand for temporary accommodation (as a result of homelessness), through early intervention and prevention work as well as proposals to increase the sufficiency of suitable accommodation. In addition, the Directorate had reviewed fees and charges (with the exception of off-street car parking). The Parking Strategy would support the inclusion of on-street parking charges. The continuation of new contactless car parking payment machines will be fully rolled out, and standardised parking fees would be implemented across the Borough with the new machines.

RESOLVED

That Full Council be recommended to approve:

- (i) The budgeted net expenditure for the financial year 2024/25 of £266.984m as set out in section 4 and Appendix 1 to the report, noting the significant pressures outlined in Appendix 2 to the report.**
- (ii) The proposed budget reductions to be delivered by management outlined in section 5 and Appendix 3 to the report.**
- (iii) The uplifts to fees and charges as set out in Appendix 15 to the report.**
- (iv) The proposed resourcing of the budget as set out in section 6 of the report.**
- (v) A 2.99% increase to Council Tax and an increase of 2% in respect of the Adult Social Care precept for 2024/25.**
- (vi) The Director of Resources' assessment of the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of reserves as set out in Appendix 4 to the report. Following this, determine that the estimates are robust for the purpose of setting the budget and that the proposed minimum General Fund Balance is adequate.**
- (vii) The proposed minimum General Fund Balance of £27.537m set out in Appendix 5 to the report.**
- (viii) The Reserves Strategy and note the projected reserves position as set out in Appendix 5 to the report.**
- (ix) The Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25, which includes the proposed borrowing strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy.**
- (x) The Capital Strategy 2023/24.**
- (xi) The Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 as set out in section 12 and Appendix 19 to the report.**
- (xii) Delegated authority to the Directors (in consultation with the Section 151 officer) to agree any uplifts required to other contractual rates from 1 April 2024 which Directorates will manage within their approved budgets for 2024/25.**

That Full Council be recommended to note:

- (i) The significant financial challenges and risks set out in this report.**
- (ii) Note that the budget projections set out in section 6 assume a 1.99% per annum increase in general Council Tax from 2025/26 through to 2028/29. The budget projections also assume that there is no reduction to current levels of Government**

funding.

- (iii) **Note the position on the Capital Programme (Section 12 and Appendix 17) previously approved by Executive Cabinet, and the forecast future investment requirements.**

126 BUSINESS RATES ACT 2023

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services. It was explained that the Non-Domestic Rating Act 2023 was given Royal Assent on 26 October 2023. Detailed in the Act were changes to current reliefs, the introduction of new relief and the removal of reliefs that were now obsolete. The Act also provided for the future commencement regulations in respect of duties on ratepayers to provide information to the VOA and HMRC and gateways for the VOA to share information with ratepayers and HMRC to share information with billing authorities.

Members were advised that the Chancellor delivered the Autumn statement on 22 November 2023, and announced a package of support worth £4.3 billion over the next 5 years to support small businesses and the high street. Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Relief was to continue into 2024/25 at the rate of 75% for all eligible businesses. This would be fully funded by central government.

From 1 April 2024 the restriction in Section 47 (7) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 on backdating of discretionary relief had been removed. A local decision was now required to determine whether to continue with the existing process in accordance with current legislation regarding backdating of discretionary relief which was to only allow relief to be applied for a period of six months from the end of the previous financial year, or to amend the Discretionary Relief Policy with local rules.

The report recommended that a backdate of discretionary relief for a period of no more than 6 months from the end of a financial year, subject to eligibility, be awarded. This would have no financial impact on the Council's budget in respect of fully funded reliefs to businesses and would continue to support the economic wellbeing of local businesses, while being cognisant of the impact on the budget in respect of discretionary rate relief awards to charities and community groups as 99% of each award was funded by the Council. The costs of backdating discretionary rate relief would be monitored during 2024/25.

A further full review was proposed of the existing Discretionary Relief Policy to consider the amount of discretionary rate relief currently awarded to charities, CASC's and Not for Profit Organisations and Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Groups (VCFS) with a report being drafted for Executive Cabinet in summer 2024. Ratepayers must be notified 12 months in advance of any changes, in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, therefore notification letters must be issued to ratepayers prior to 31 March 2024 for any potential change to become effective from 1 April 2025.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That Retail, Hospitality and Leisure relief be administered and awarded as a discretionary relief in accordance with Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act.**
- (ii) **That the Discretionary Relief Policy be amended to include requests for retrospective awards of discretionary relief will be considered for a period of no more than 6 months from the end of a financial year, subject to eligibility, as detailed in Option 1 of this report at Section 2.10.**
- (iii) **That the Discretionary Relief Policy be reviewed during the financial year 2024 with changes taking effect from 1 April 2025 after the necessary 12-month notice has been given to ratepayers.**

127 MICROSOFT ENTERPRISE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) / Assistant Director for ICT & Digital. Members were informed that the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement would expire on 31 March 2024 and this report set out the proposed investment required to further strengthen the Councils security posture, improve data security, and ensure compliance. There were also additional benefits in terms of Teams telephony services and business intelligence, through Power BI to create data visualisations. The report also covered the licences to be purchased to unlock the automation, low code, and rapid development capabilities available through the Microsoft Power Platform.

The existing agreement consisted of E3 licences for all its laptop users, which provided 2,800 user licences and was at a cost of £1.750m over the three-year contract.

In addition to the E3 licences 1,600 licences were purchased for Teams telephony which allowed for the removal of desktop telephony, and this was at a cost of c. £0.285m. However, it had recently become apparent that the 1,600 licences purchased had all been allocated to users and additional licences had been purchased to ensure users had the Teams telephony capability to support their role and to avoid allocating them with a mobile phone. To support hybrid working, there were also a few licences purchased for the facilitation of Teams meetings within the meeting rooms, allowing those working from home to join meetings hosted within the meeting rooms at Tameside One. The total cost for the current contract over the three years was £2.200m.

It was proposed that as part of the new Enterprise Agreement, Tameside Council move from the current M365, E3 licensing to E5, which meant there would be an increase in the revenue commitment over the next three years. The move to E5 licences would unlock considerably more capabilities in addition to those already received as part of the E3 licences and included Teams telephony as standard, therefore not needing Teams telephony licences to be purchased separately.

The Microsoft E5 licence provided increased security, compliance, and data loss prevention features, plus a few additional capabilities around telephony and data visualisation tools. E5 licences, would provide several benefits to the organisation but also to the ICT & Digital service, some of which were:

- A standardised set of tools, making it easier to manage and maintain services.
- A standardised training approach for staff, as staff will not need to maintain their skills in various technologies.
- Simpler to recruit, as the skill set required was defined to a core standardised architecture.

It was explained that the Council was barely touching the surface when it came to realising the benefits of M365. It was planned that an M365 Programme was stood up in the very near future, through which a capability roadmap would be developed to ensure the Council was making the most of the licences purchased as quickly as possible. The capabilities once made available would also increase security as well provide services with the tools to work more digitally and remove low complexity manual processes and transform agile working.

The proposed change to E5 licences and the inclusion of the minimum Power Platform licences as part of the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement would result in a total increase of £0.492m over the length of the contract (3 years). The total cost over the term of the contract was c. £2.692m.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet approve:

- (i) **The procurement of Microsoft 365 E5 licences for the authority over a period of three years from 31 March 2024 – 31 March 2027.**
- (ii) **A further report be presented to Executive Cabinet in 2024/25 detailing the full benefits realisation from the implementation of the E5 licences.**

That Executive Cabinet note:

- (i) **The gross increase in costs of £0.492m over a three-year period**
- (ii) **The gross budget reductions of £0.250m over a three-year period from decommissioning licences no longer needed**
- (iii) **The additional funding for the licence cost increase is captured in the 2024/25 Budget at Full Council.**

128 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE UPDATE, JANUARY 2024

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Chief Executive. The report detailed the corporate scorecard attached to the report and the progress towards achievement of the Corporate Plan and improving the services provided to residents, business and key stakeholders within the locality.

The Corporate Plan outcomes scorecard attached at Appendix 1 to the report, contained indicators focused on long term outcomes across the eight corporate plan priorities. The measures within this scorecard were chosen to illustrate how the Council's work directly and indirectly impacted the lives and experiences of Tameside residents.

The report highlighted that the rate at which Tameside residents aged 65 years or older were permanently admitted to residential or nursing care was 181.6 per 10,000 in Quarter 2, up from 152.8 in the same quarter the previous year. This change has been identified as administrative due to an ongoing piece of work to transition service users on long-term temporary contracts to permanent contracts. The percentage of service users who reported finding it easy to find information about the services they receive climbed to 69.5% in 2022/2023, up from 57.7% in the previous year and higher than the national average of 67.2%.

It was reported that the percentage of Tameside children meeting the expected level in phonics decoding was 75% in 2023, up from 72% in 2022 but below the national average of 79%. 81.1% of three and four year-olds placed in Early Years settings that were rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted in the Autumn term, down from 92% in the previous Autumn term. Provisional Key Stage 2 figures for 2023 showed no improvement in outcomes, with the percentage of pupils meeting expected standards remaining at 57% compared to the national average of 59%. Looking specifically at reading, the percentage of Tameside pupils meeting the expected standard has fallen from 76% in 2022 to 72% in 2023, again below the national average of 73%. Demand for Children's Social Care had increased significantly; the service conducted 1,229 child and family assessments in Quarter 3, an increase of 25.5% on the same quarter last year. There had also been an increase in the number of domestic abuse incidents reported to Children's Social Care 876 incidents were reported in Quarter 3, up 13.9% from the 769 incidents reported to the service in the same quarter last year.

It was also reported that the number of Tameside children and young people aged 10 to 17 years old, who entered the criminal justice system for the first time had increased significantly over the previous year. In October 2022- Sept 2023 there were 59 young people (a rate of 257 per 100,000 10-17 year olds) compared to 39 young people in October 2021- Sept 2022 (a rate of 170 per 100,000 10-17 year olds). This was partly attributed to the renewed focus of GMP as part of their improvement plan, to conduct more stop and searches, make more arrests, and detect more crime. Further analysis was required to truly appreciate the opportunities to reverse this trend.

In regards to Place, the median annual gross income of full-time workers living in Tameside was £30,909 in 2023, below the national average of £35,100. The percentage increase in Tameside median wages was 6.1% from the 2022 figure, compared to a headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) annual inflation rate of 8.7% (Office for National Statistics consumer inflation estimates, April 2023).

The percentage of Tameside residents in employment in the 12 months to June 2023 was 71.3%, down from 75.8% in the 12 months to June 2022 and below the national average employment rate of 75.8%.

It was reported that the number of Tameside residents receiving Universal Credit was increasing, with 28,498 residents with open cases in October 2023, up 10.4% on the same month in 2022. In the same month, 38% of Universal Credit recipients were in work, down from 39% on October 2022 and below the national average of 38.7%. The percentage of Tameside residents working in skilled employment (standard occupation classifications 1, 2, 3, and 5) had fallen slightly, from 50.8% in the 12 months to June 2022 to 50.4% in the 12 months to June 2023. Tameside residents were significantly less likely to work in skilled employment than across England, with the national average sitting at 61.3%. The number of households homeless or at risk of homelessness, and consequently owed a prevention or relief duty from the Council was 3.43 per 1,000 chargeable dwellings in Quarter 1 of 2023/2024, up from 2.99 in Quarter 1 of the previous year and higher than the national average of 2.98 per 1,000 chargeable dwellings.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report and scorecards Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 and the glossary of indicators Appendix 3 are noted.

129 CORPORATE PLAN 2024-27.

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Chief Executive. Members were reminded that Tameside Council’s current corporate plan was agreed pre-Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis. Reflecting on those significant events and other changes it was timely to undertake a review and refresh of the corporate plan. This report summarised the process undertaken for that review and refresh.

It was explained that Tameside Council’s current corporate plan was agreed in 2019 as a joint plan between Tameside Council and Tameside & Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group (CGG). Priorities were arranged across the life course with a heavy focus on health and wellbeing. The plan was well adopted by the workforce, being cited as the start point for strategy and service development. The CCG was disbanded in 2022 and became part of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership (GMIC). There had also been significant leadership changes at the council – both political and officer – since the plan was agree. Reflecting on those significant events and other changes it was agreed to undertake a review and refresh of the corporate plan in 2023 with an ambition to have a new plan in place by the start of the 2024 municipal year.

The evidence gathering stage had been completed and a new set of proposed aims, objectives and priorities developed by officers. The next stage was for Executive Cabinet to review, comment and amend. It was also proposed to get some LGA support to review the draft for discussion – through a facilitated workshop and then the LGA peer challenge. Once these stages were completed it was proposed to bring a further report brought to outline a process to finalise and agree the new corporate plan.

The evidence sources outlined in the report identified a range of objectives and priorities that officers recommend should be reflected in the new plan. These was a mix of key issues identified from data such as needs assessments; through feedback from residents, elected members and partners; and areas for action in key strategies. A tiered approach was proposed as shown below.

Vision <i>“A place where everyone can achieve their hopes and ambitions”</i>
Priorities (see below)
Objectives (see below)
Strategies (list on the website alongside the corporate plan)
Key Delivery Projects (listed within the corporate plan document)

The five priorities were:

- Best start in life.
- Opportunity to learn and earn.
- Safe, green and supportive communities.
- Healthy and active lives.
- Financially sustainable public services (underpinning priority).

The report detailed the 24 objectives covering the Best Start in Life, Opportunity to Learn and Earn, Safe Green and Supportive Communities and Healthy and Active Lives.

A draft corporate plan document for discussion for member input was attached at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED

That the new Corporate Plan for the period 2024-27 be approved.

130 HYDE TOWN CENTRE - MASTERPLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Town Centres Communities / Director of Place. The report provided an update on the final Hyde Town Centre Masterplan including the results of the public consultation. Along with Hattersley and Godley Green, Hyde Town Centre is one of Greater Manchester's Growth Locations known as Hyde Triangle. The town centre Masterplan was a key component in ensuring that these major drivers for change support the wider regeneration of Hyde.

It was reported that following the success of the fact-finding exercise, over 1600 people responded with their views and thoughts on the draft vision and Masterplan for Hyde Town Centre. The focus of this phase of the consultation was set out into two key sections: to understand the public's views on the Masterplan vision and vision principles and to better understand people's thoughts on key interventions proposed within the Masterplan. A key focus of the consultation was understanding residents support for the key vision principles that were proposed to support the overall delivery of the Masterplan vision. All vision principles were positively received by the public with all receiving over 66% support. The most positive response from the public was for the principle of Celebrating Hyde by bringing heritage buildings into use, improving the look and feel of the town centre with high quality public and shopfront improvements. This principle received over 88% positive response.

It was explained that in general, the feedback and consultation responses re-enforced the draft Masterplan ideas and vision for Hyde particularly around the proposed role for Hyde Town Hall, principles to re-develop Market Square and the potential for new town centre living. Other recurring messages within the consultation feedback included a strong public support for the former Hyde Library Building, the desire to improve links to Hyde Park and the need to support existing community groups.

Members were advised that the objective of the High Street Accelerators Pilot Programme was for local stakeholders to work in partnership to support the long-term revival and regeneration of declining high streets. At its core, a High Street Accelerator was a partnership intended to empower and incentivise residents, businesses, community groups and other stakeholders to work together with the local authority to develop and deliver a long-term vision to revive and regenerate the high street.

It was stated that following the successful involvement of the High Street Task Force, Hyde had been nominated as the town centre for the Accelerator Programme. Running until March 2025, the aim of the programme was to offer local places the initial support and seed funding to establish the partnership structures and begin delivering projects, but a crucial component of the programme would be assisting partnerships to transition into a durable and long-lasting structure. The

Programme would therefore also support each Accelerator to explore funding options that may help the partnership transition towards a financially sustainable model.

Initial seed funding of £237,000 would be made available to all local authority Partnerships taking part in the programme. The funding was to be used to establish a vision and Partnership for Hyde. Tameside was in a fortunate position in having recently established a Town Centre Delivery Group as well as an agreed vision outlined in this report as part of the master planning process. It was for the Partnership to agree how this funding would be spent.

It was proposed that the existing Hyde Town Centre Delivery Group membership was incorporated into the Hyde Accelerator Programme Delivery Group, with responsibility for oversight, delivery and performance management of the Accelerator Pilot Programme. A non-local authority Chair of the group would be appointed and the Council would act as Treasurer. The Group would also change to a delivery body with decision-making powers. A draft Terms of Reference was included attached at Appendix 3 to the report.

Each Accelerator pilot would also be able to apply for up to £500,000 of additional funding (majority capital funding) to be used for greening projects within the Town Centre. An expression of interest to apply for this funding must be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities by 1 March 2024. The Accelerator Programme Delivery Group would need to agree the basis for the submission.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet agree to:

- (i) Note the findings of the 4-week public consultation;**
- (ii) Note the next steps for delivery and implementation of the Accelerator Programme and UKSPF;**
- (iii) Approve to adopt the Masterplan for Hyde. The Masterplan will steer regeneration in the town and will be a material consideration in determining planning applications in the town;**
- (iv) Approve the establishment of the Hyde Town Centre Accelerator Programme Delivery Group (the Accelerator Partnership), subject to advertising the position for independent chair, and by repurposing the existing Hyde Town Centre Delivery Group. The Partnership will be responsible for the submission of an expression of interest to apply for up to £500,000 of green space improvement projects.**

131 LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS FUNDING AND ASHTON TOWN BOARD

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment / Director of Place / Assistant Director for Investment, Development and Housing. The report provided an update on the selection of Ashton as one of the 55 towns nationally to receive £20m to invest in local regeneration priorities over a 10 year period, subject to confirmation of further details from Government. Approval was also sought for the formal establishment of the Ashton Town Board and commencement of the draft Ashton Town Plan. A further decision by the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment to formally accept the funding would be required once the full terms of the Grant Funding Agreement were available.

It was reported that the Long Term Plan for Towns was a new government regeneration programme to support improvements to towns in the UK with a ten year commitment of funding and the creation of new local decision making bodies, Town Boards. The guidance released on 18 December 2023 set out a requirement to establish the Towns Board by April 2024 with a Town Plan prepared for submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by 1 August 2024. The government would then make funding available to support the interventions set out in the Town Plan, subject to assessment of the Plan by DLUHC.

It was explained that within the financial year 2023/2024 the Council would receive £50,000 of capacity funding to support establishment of the Town Board by 1 April 2024 and commence the

planning and initiating of community engagement. On 1 April, DLUHC would provide a further £200,000 of capacity funding to support the development of the Long-Term Plan, including additional community engagement activity to support the submission of the Town Plan before 1 August 2024.

The £20m revenue and capital funding (split 25% revenue and 75% capital) would be awarded to the local authority, acting as accountable body on behalf of the Town Board, and be released over a seven year period with flexibility to spend it over a ten year period. Town Board would need to be properly constituted to assure good governance and respect for the purpose and objectives of the fund. The Levelling Up Funds Local Authority Assurance Framework would apply, requiring the Council's s.151 Officer to provide assurance updates around the proper administration of the funding, including in regard to conflict of interest, subsidy control, procurement, counter fraud and risk.

Additional support would be provided by the Towns Taskforce that will be established as a unit of DLUHC to support the delivery of Town Plans. The Towns Taskforce will report directly to the Secretary for State for Levelling Up and the Prime Minister.

It was stated that the Town Board will be responsible for developing the Town Plan and reviewing this prior to submission to DLUHC. The local authority were required to act as secretariat to the Town Board.

There was a requirement for the Town Board to be established by 1 April 2024 and be responsible for:

- Identifying the issues and priorities to focus on within the Town Plan, including supporting a process of ongoing community engagement.
- Working with the Council to develop the Town Plan, setting out how local partners will use their knowledge, powers, assets and new funding to deliver for their communities.
- Identifying opportunities for Board members to utilise specific powers to deliver the Town Plan.
- Identifying opportunities to bring in additional investment.
- Overseeing the delivery of projects set out in the Town Plan.

Due to the requirement that the Town Board should be established by April 2024 and the impact of local elections and the associated pre-election period, it will be necessary to hold a first meeting in March 2024 where the proposed Terms of Reference (Appendix 2) can be considered for approval.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet:

- (i) Note the allocation of £20m from the Long Term Plan for Towns for Ashton;**
- (ii) Approve entering into the formal agreements for the receipt of funding, subject an Executive Decision Notice once the full terms of the Grant Funding Agreement are available;**
- (iii) Approve the proposed governance arrangements for the Ashton Town Board and the programme of works associated with the preparation of a draft Ashton Town Plan;**
- (iv) Enable the Director of Place to manage the programme of works associated with the preparation of a draft Ashton Town Plan to inform the first meeting of the Ashton Town Board.**

132 STALYBRIDGE STREET FEST 2024

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business and Employment / Director of Place / Assistant Director for Investment, Development and Housing. The report sought approval to continue Stalybridge Street Fest in 2024 with future delivery brought in-house to support a more financial sustainable delivery model.

It was reported that the Stalybridge Street Fest events were now a well-established events that had delivered on its aim of engaging residents and businesses, increasing footfall in the town centre, supporting local SME traders and increasing the profile of Stalybridge as a desirable location to visit. Demand throughout the programme in the last three years and there was a clear opportunity for the Council to continue to deliver this event for the benefit of the local economy in Stalybridge.

Feedback from attendees had included the high quality offer available, and the social value of having an opportunity to get out and meet friends and family as being significant factors of the events success. In respect of economic growth, footfall and visitor spend was being spread to other town centre businesses who had reported an increase in their own activity and takings. The analysis of footfall data for Street Fest dates showed an average increase of 36% more people in the town centre during Street Fest than compared to the same day at other times of the week. The success of Street Fest had acted as a catalyst for businesses who have taken the opportunity to develop their offer (such as Magpie's Nest), extend their opening times (such as Florence & Amelia's), and establish a new customer base.

Based on success and experience of delivering these events over the last three years, it was proposed that a total of eight Street Fest events be delivered in 2024. The first would be held in April followed by monthly events up to October and a further festive Street Fest at the end of the year.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet:

- (i) Approve the delivery of eight Stalybridge Street Fest events in 2024.**
- (ii) Approve the proposed delivery model and a maximum budget of £31,592 via the repurposing of UKSPF (Communities and Place) funding from projects delivered under budget.**
- (iii) Approve the purchase of ten gazebos for Stalybridge at an estimated cost of £9,000 (ex VAT) from the Capital Regeneration Project grant funding.**
- (iv) Note the intention to work towards a sustainable offer following the expiry of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) revenue grant.**

133 DETERMINATION OF SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Leader (Children's and Families) / Interim Director for Education. The report set out the proposed admission arrangements for Tameside community, and voluntary controlled schools for admission in September 2025.

It was reported that there were no proposed changes to the admission arrangements for September 2024. The latest information on school place planning was presented which concluded that there were currently sufficient places to meet expected demand for mainstream primary and secondary schools with rising levels of surplus capacity in primary schools due to the current birth rate pattern in the borough.

It was explained that the report concluded that there was a need to continue to develop capacity for specialist places given the predicted continuing rise in demand set out in the SEN Sufficiency Strategy.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet approve the determination of admission arrangements for all Tameside community and voluntary controlled schools for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

134 ADULT SOCIAL CARE FEES 2024-25

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report outlined proposals in relation to revised prices to meet the increasing cost of providing adult services for 2024-25.

Members were advised that Demand for service provision had been rising - the increasing number of older people and younger adults with complex and life limiting conditions and disabilities continued to add further pressure to services provided. As would be expected the increasing complexity of care needs did mean an increasing number of staff was required to support individuals and therefore an associated increase in costs to the Council.

It was explained that in line with Councils across the country the period of the Covid pandemic and the time since had seen increasing numbers of people requiring care and support – seen most acutely in services supporting people to remain living in their own homes. To illustrate this point in domiciliary care, in February 2020, the Council commissioned 9,958 hours per week to support 947 people: In October 2023 this figure had risen to 14,938 hours for 1,202 people which was an increase of 50% in hours and 27% in numbers of people. In staffing terms an increase of 4,980 hours equated to an increased requirement of 135 full time equivalent (FTE) staff members.

It was further explained that the rise in the demand for care and support had not been matched by an increased ability to attract sufficient numbers of staff to keep pace with the demand for support. The sector had seen a significant number of workers leaving the profession for a number of reasons – primarily rates of pay, attractive pay in other sectors (including the retail and hospitality sectors), and general illness and fatigue brought on by the intensity of working through the pandemic and supporting people with increasingly complex needs.

The concerns in relation to workforce needed addressing to ensure that the social care sector was able to offer roles that were attractive in terms of pay and conditions, had positive recognition, and were valued employment options. An increased supply of workers in the sector would be essential in meeting both the current and projected future demand of an aging population for care and support.

It was explained that affordability of fee increases for the Council was a critical consideration given the financial pressure it was under but given the pressures the adult services providers were facing the balance of restrictive fee uplifts could mean that an adequate supply of care and support cannot be maintained to meet the level of demand required. In developing proposals for fee uplifts for providers for 2024-25 a number of options had been considered. The report proposed that fees be increased from 1 April 2024 that include the increase for Real Living Wage and non-pay inflation based on the average inflationary increase of 3.6%. Appendix 1 provides the proposed rates for 2024/25.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet note the content of the report and approves the

- (i) proposed new rates for care home placements as detailed in appendix 1 table 2 of this report.**
- (ii) increase in Nursing & Nursing with Dementia fees (appendix 1 table 2) by the increase to the Funded Nursing Care weekly rate effective from 1 April 2024 once confirmed by the Department of Health. There is no additional cost to the Council for this increase as it is fully funded by the NHS.**
- (iii) proposed new rates for Support at Home and Standard Home Care as detailed in appendix 1 table 3 of this report.**
- (iv) spot purchase rates for sleep-in and waking nights as detailed in appendix 1 table 3 of this report.**
- (v) proposed uplifts of Adult Services commissioned contract prices highlighted in appendix 1 table 4 of this report**
- (vi) proposed revised rate for additional hours commissioned in Extra Care of £19.24 per hour. Please refer to paragraph 4.13 of this report.**

- (vii) proposed revised rate for additional hours commissioned in Active Day Services contract of £16.19 per hour. Please refer to paragraph 4.16 of this report.
- (viii) revised Direct Payment rates as detailed in in appendix 1 table 5 of this report
- (ix) rate increases for Shared Lives Carer payments detailed in appendix 1 table 6 of this report
- (x) increase of any fee not included in appendix 1 by 3.6%
- (xi) delegation to the Director of Adult Services to increase any fee in excess of those stated in appendix 1 by a greater percentage rate with supporting evidence.
- (xii) all payment rates detailed in the report to be effective from 1 April 2024.
- (xiii) related impact of care package fee increases on the financial assessment of the service user is from 1 April 2024.

135 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF AN E-CONTRACT PERFORMANCE SYSTEM

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report sought approval to award the contract as detailed in the report with a contract commencement date of 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2026 with the option to extend for one year.

It was reported that PAMMS had previously been demonstrated to GM Heads of Commissioning, as well as being implemented by Bolton Council, Salford City Council and Oldham Council in 2019 and Stockport MBC in 2023. Tameside MBC was also considering adopting PAMMS in 2019 but the impact of the pandemic delayed this.

A group was established to view PAMMS and Sundown which consisted of people involved in overseeing contracts performance within the Adults Commissioning and Homes for All Team as well as colleagues from NHS GM ICB (Tameside). Overwhelmingly, those who viewed both products preferred the PAMMS system.

Following an in-depth review of the available systems and advice from STAR Procurement, it was recommended that Executive Cabinet approve the direct award via a call off contract from the UK Government G-Cloud Framework to the Access Group, for the procurement of the Provider Assessment and Market Management System (PAMMS) for a period of 2 years from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2026 with the option to extend for one year.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet approve the direct award of the contract to the Access Group to procure the Provider Assessment and Market Management System (PAMMS), as a call off contract, procured via the Government G-Cloud Framework.

136 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR

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Agenda Item 8

Report To: COUNCIL

Date: 5 March 2024

Executive Member / Reporting Officer: Cllr Jacqueline North – First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation)
Ashley Hughes – Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)

Subject: BUDGET 2024/25

Report Summary: The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the information required to set a balanced budget for 2024/25 as required by law under the Local Government Finance Act (1992). The report sets out the detailed revenue budget proposals for 2024/25 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the 5-year period 2024/25 to 2028/29, including the proposed council tax increase for 2024/25.

The budget report proposes a balanced net budget of £266.984m for 2024/25. To deliver this balanced net budget, all budget reductions proposed must be delivered in full in-year and Council approves a maximum increase in Council Tax.

Government has provided another one-year financial settlement for Local Government, including some increases in funding. Whilst the additional funding is welcome, growth in cost and demand pressures continues to significantly exceed funding levels. As a result, the budget can only be balanced with further budget reductions and the maximum 2.99% increase in Council Tax plus 2% Adult Social Precept.

There remain a number of significant financial risks for 2024/25 and beyond which the organisation will need to manage during the forthcoming years.

Recommendations: Full Council are asked to **APPROVE:**

- 1) The budgeted net expenditure for the financial year 2024/25 of £266.984m as set out in section 4 and **Appendix 1**, noting the significant pressures outlined in **Appendix 2**.
- 2) The proposed budget reductions to be delivered by management outlined in section 5 and **Appendix 3**.
- 3) The uplifts to fees and charges as set out in **Appendix 15**.
- 4) The proposed resourcing of the budget as set out in section 6.
- 5) The formal Council Tax Resolution set out at **Appendix 20**. This proposes a 2.99% increase to Council Tax and an increase of 2% in respect of the Adult Social Care precept for 2024/25.
- 6) The Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding the Mossley Parish precept) as being £117,867,412. The Council Tax Requirement including the Mossley Parish precept is £117,903,412 for the 2024/25 financial year.
- 7) The Director of Resources' assessment of the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of reserves as set out in **Appendix 4**. Following this, determine that the estimates are robust for the purpose of setting the budget and that the proposed minimum General Fund Balance is adequate.
- 8) The proposed minimum General Fund Balance of £27.537m set out in **Appendix 5**.

- 9) The Reserves Strategy and note the projected reserves position as set out in **Appendix 5**.
- 10) The Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25, which includes the proposed borrowing strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (**Appendix 16**).
- 11) The Capital Strategy 2023/24 (**Appendix 18**).
- 12) The Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 as set out in section 12 and **Appendix 19**.
- 13) Delegated authority to the Directors (in consultation with the Section 151 officer) to agree any uplifts required to other contractual rates from 1 April 2024 which Directorates will manage within their approved budgets for 2024/25.

Full Council are asked to **NOTE**:

- 14) The calculation of Aggregate Amounts in the Council Tax Requirement as directed by Section 31A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as set out in **Appendix 20**
- 15) That the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Police, Crime and Fire Panel met on 30 January 2024 and set their Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner precept at £16,588,377 for the financial year 2024/25. This results in a Band D Council Tax equivalent figure of £256.30.
- 16) That the Greater Manchester Combined Authority met on 9 February 2024 and set their Mayoral General (including Fire and Rescue) precept at £7,310,406 for the financial year 2024/25. This results in a Band D Council Tax equivalent figure of £112.95.
- 17) That Mossley Parish Council met on 17 January 2024 and resolved to set a parish precept for the financial year 2024/25 of £36,000. This results in a Band D equivalent figure of £10.32.
- 18) The significant financial challenges and risks set out in this report.
- 19) Note that the budget projections set out in section 6 assume a 1.99% per annum increase in general Council Tax from 2025/26 through to 2028/29. The budget projections also assume that there is no reduction to current levels of Government funding.
- 20) Note the position on the Capital Programme (Section 12 and **Appendix 17**) previously approved by Executive Cabinet, and the forecast future investment requirements.

Policy Implications:

Budget is allocated in accordance with Council.

**Financial Implications:
(Authorised by the Section
151 Officer)**

As contained within the report.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the Borough
Solicitor)**

As set out in **section 15**.

Risk Management:

Associated details are specified within the presentation. Failure to effectively manage and monitor the Council's budgets will lead to service failure and a loss of public confidence. Expenditure in excess of budgeted resources is likely to result in a call on Council reserves, which will reduce the resources available for future investment. The use of, and reliance on, one-off measures to balance the budget is not sustainable and makes it more difficult in

future years to recover the budget position.

Background Papers:

Background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting: Stuart Munro, Senior Finance Manager

 e-mail: stuart.munro@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

- 1.1 Tameside Council's Corporate Plan and underpinning strategies are the guiding line for decisions taken around prioritisation of resources and how the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Strategy are built. The MTFS sets the framework for a balanced and sustainable revenue budget, which is a key duty for the Council.
- 1.2 The financial position set out in this report is based on the 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS), for which the provisional settlement was received on 18 December 2023, with announcement of a further £600m for the sector on 24 January 2024 following consultation. Of the £600m, £500m has been provided to top-up the Social Care Grant to support Adults and Children's Social Care pressures. The remainder is balanced through a Services Grant top-up, Rural Services Delivery Grant top-up and Core Spending Power Guarantee before local tax policy decisions rising to 4% from 3%. The final settlement, setting out the changes above was provided 8 February 2024 with changes reducing the use of the Collection Fund surplus and supporting further emerging pressures in Social Care.
- 1.3 As reported to Budget Overview and Scrutiny on 15 January 2024, the provisional LGFS was worse than anticipated for Metropolitan Districts. Whilst it provided for an uplift in Social Care Grant, further supplemented in the 24 January 2024 announcement, it was more than offset by a sharp reduction in general grants that supported universal services. Changes in the headline rate of inflation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from 4.6% to 4% alongside additional resources from the Trailblazer Devolution Deal (which has extended the 100% business rates retention principles), have enabled the presentation of a balanced budget for 2024/25.
- 1.4 Research from the Local Government Association has identified that the local government sector as a whole requires £4 billion additional funding to help deliver good quality services against a backdrop of rising costs from inflation and demand. In Tameside, if this £4 billion was distributed using current relative needs formulae, similar to the Social Care Grant, the Council would be in receipt of £19.232m of additional funding. Furthermore, the single-year settlement is the 5th in an eight-year period. Single-year settlements, along with the funding gap make planning and setting balanced budgets more difficult.
- 1.5 In line with the one-year finance settlement this report sets out a balanced one-year budget for 2024/25 and estimated position for the years 2025/26 to 2028/29. The medium and longer-term implications have been considered, alongside a strategy to deliver financial sustainability over the longer term. The report sets out risks, uncertainties, and the approach the Council is to take to deliver financial sustainability.
- 1.6 The report not only contains the considerations in relation to the one-year LGFS. It also covers recommendations and decisions on Council Tax and business rates.
- 1.7 The Executive have considered officer recommendations, feedback from Overview & Scrutiny Committees and listened to the outcome of the Big Budget Conversation that ran from 19 December 2023 to 2 February 2024.
- 1.8 The 'golden thread' running through to the proposed budget flows from the Council's Corporate Plan. The proposals for the 2024/25 budget continue to reflect the Council's priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan.
- 1.9 The budget must be delivered within the resources available to the Council. This is a statutory requirement laid out in the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Therefore, this report must consider the resources available from Central Government as well as those raised locally through taxation and fees or charges. This report must consider unavoidable cost pressures that require funding and where to invest funding to meet Council priorities. This report brings

all this together alongside the Council's statutory duties, recent funding announcements and consultation responses.

1.10 The Corporate Plan was reviewed in 2023. The key strategic themes are:

- Best Start In Life
- Opportunity to Learn & Earn
- Safe, Green and Supportive Communities
- Healthy & Active Lives

The budget is aligned to the Corporate Plan as outlined in the 2 charts below:

Chart 1: Net Budget by Corporate Plan Priority

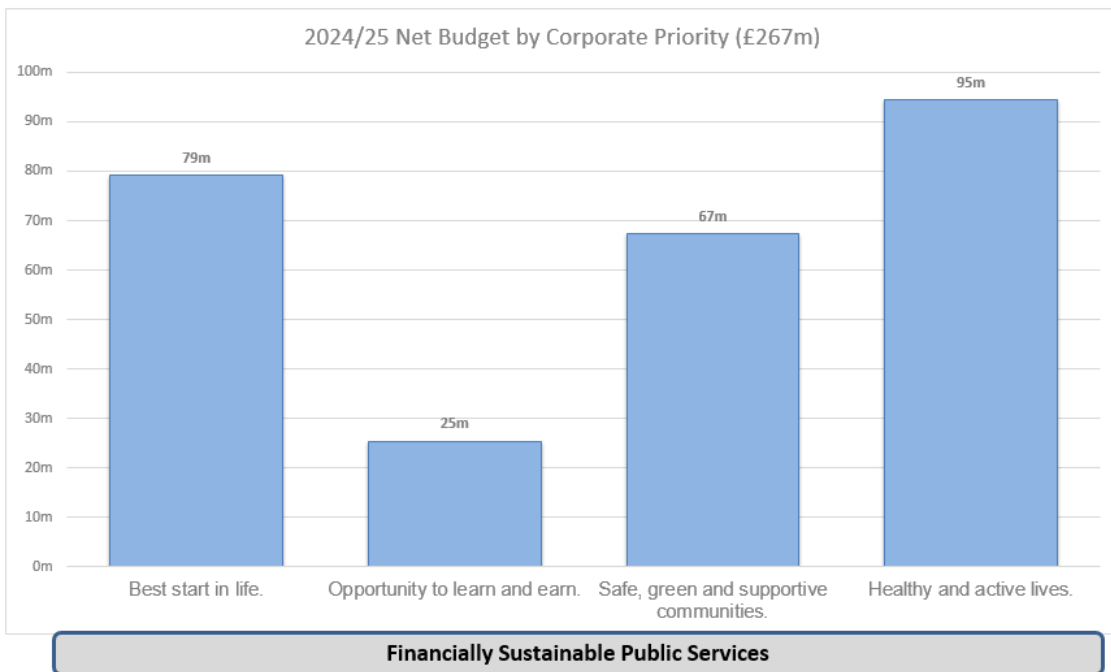
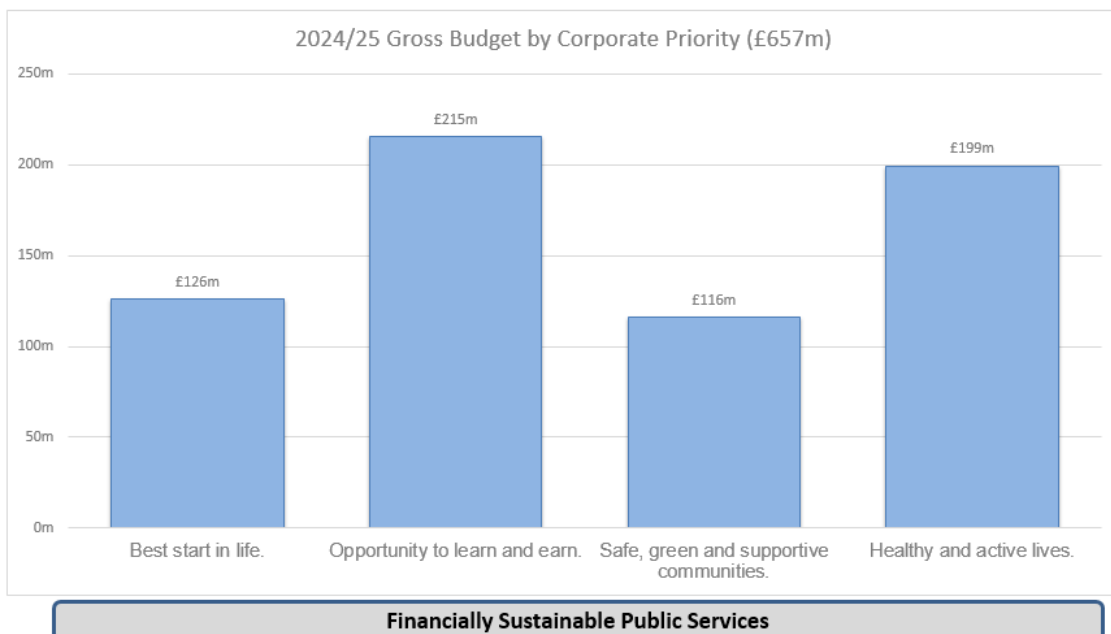


Chart 2: Gross Budget by Corporate Plan Priority*



*Opportunity to learn and earn includes the Dedicated Schools Grant and Safe, green and supportive

communities includes Housing Benefits both of which are passported through to schools and resident respectively.

1.11 **Financial Context:** The Council’s revenue budget can be financed from five sources – Council Tax, Business Rates, Government Grant, Reserves and Fees & Charges. Since 2010/11 funding from central government has reduced and retention of business rates introduced; this means the ability to grow and maintain the locally raised resources is more important than ever to ensure financial sustainability. The Council’s Inclusive Growth Strategy is the foundation of the Council’s ambitions to grow locally raised resources and is a key plank of the Corporate Plan. It is, therefore, integral to longer-term financial planning. The charts below show the Council’s resource make-up in 2010/11 and for 2024/25:

Chart 3: Resources 2010/11

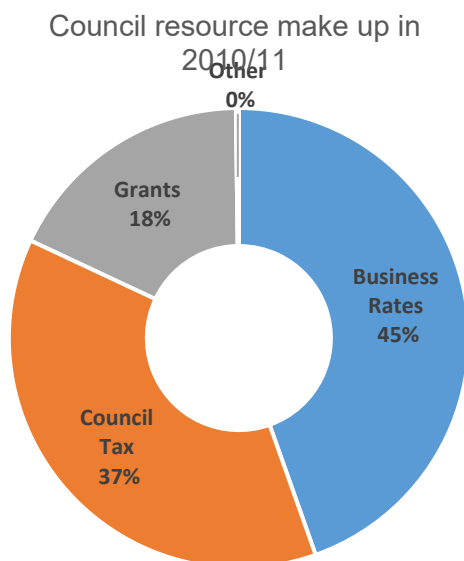
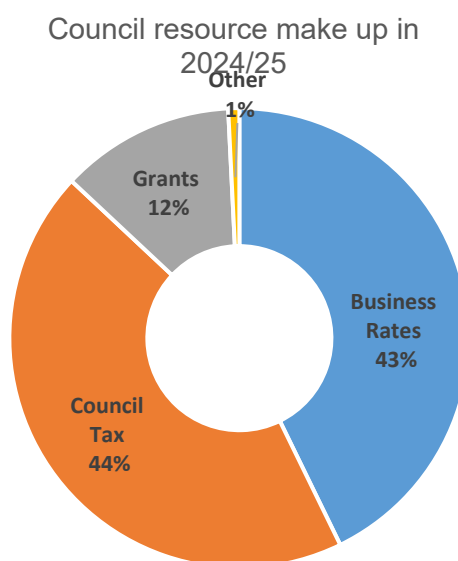


Chart 4: Resources 2024/25



1.12 Since 2010/11, the Council has made local decisions about how much to raise Council Tax. Business Rates are set nationally, and Government have chosen to freeze multipliers and postponed ratings revaluations due to COVID-19. The impact of both these decisions has changed the quantum of how much is raised locally through Council Tax (increased as a percentage of income) and Business Rates (decreased as a percentage of income)

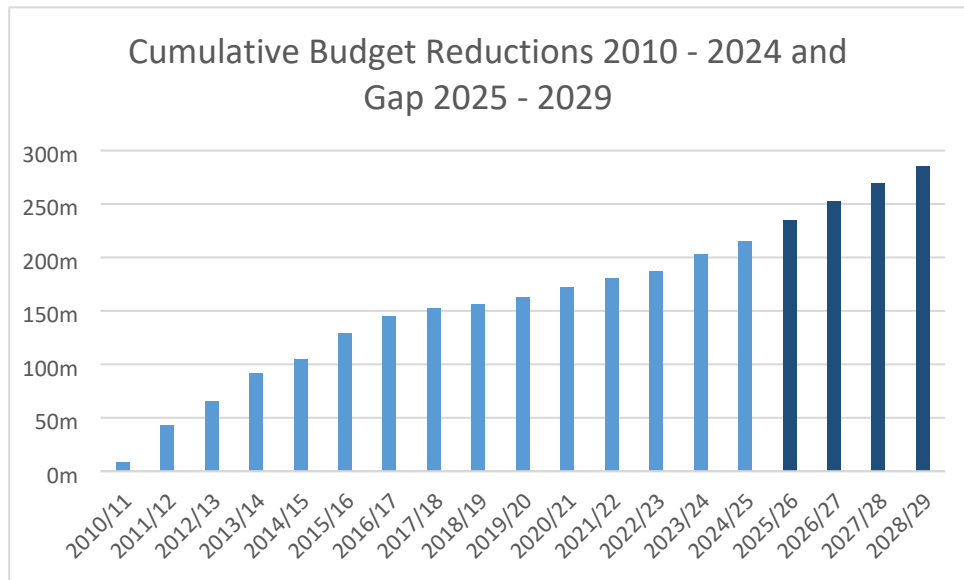
1.13 The budget for 2024/25 follows over a decade of austerity which began with the 2011/12 budget process. In that period, the Council’s real terms spending power reduction is 22.4%, compared to an England average of 18.9%. This equates to a £700 per household reduction or a £318 reduction per head in real terms. The England average is a £581 per household reduction.

1.14 Tameside and similar authorities have been disproportionately impacted by the cuts in central government grants. This is because the methodology applied before 2016/17 didn’t take into account the ability to raise Council Tax – penalising councils with a low Council Tax base who had historically been more dependent on central government funding. Tameside has 88% of its Council Tax base in Bands A – C. 75% are in Bands A – B. This constrains the Council’s ability to raise funds from this source.

1.15 Nationally, the provisional LGFS for 2024/25 provided for a Core Spending Power (CSP) increase of 6.5%. Following the announcement on 24 January 2024, this rose to 7.5% in cash terms – a cash increase to the sector of £4.5bn. However, this assumes that every local authority will raise their Council Tax by the maximum permitted – 2.99% for the general uplift and 2% for the Adult Social Care precept.

1.16 The chart below outlines the cumulative budget reductions the Council has made since 2010. When setting the 2023/24 budget, the Council had had to deliver £180m of reductions already, with further reductions in 2023/24 and for 2024/25 taking this figure to £215m. A further £70m is currently forecast to be required to balance the budgets to 2028/29. This means that in the space of 19 years, £285m of reductions to budgets will have had to have been made. For context, the net expenditure requirement in 2024/25 is £267m.

Chart 4: Cumulative budget reductions and gap 2010 to 2029.



1.17 The Council’s Inclusive Growth Strategy sets out the framework underpinning the MTFs to maximise revenue as a means to mitigate against budget reductions wherever possible. Whilst the strategy was approved in March 2021 by Executive Cabinet, it takes time to see and measure the impact it will have. The development at Godley Green will bring 2,000 new homes around Hyde; the Levelling Up Funds at Ashton-under-Lyne and Stalybridge are sparking regeneration in the respective town centres; and the creation of the Mayoral Development Zone (covering Ashton Moss and St Petersfield amongst other areas) all point to a future where both housing supply and new business will increase the availability of locally raised funding. Other means the Council has taken to become more resilient include:

1.17.1 **BUSINESS RATES:** Tameside has been part of the Greater Manchester (GM) business rates 100% retention pilot since 2017/18. This is now subsumed in the ten-year Trailblazer devolution deal for Greater Manchester, allowing all parties to retain 100% of business rates growth locally since the start of the Business Rates Retention Scheme in 2013. The Council has benefitted by £15.768m to date with a further £3m forecast to be achieved in 2023/24.

1.17.2 **COUNCIL TAX:** Tameside has encouraged housebuilding where possible, despite the constraints of significant Green Belt land. The GM Places for Everyone scheme, as part of the borough’s Local Plan, (will establish/has established) a requirement to deliver 8,245 new homes between 2022 and 2039 in Tameside. With potential to provide around a third of these through allocations at Godley Green and the South of Hyde, alongside significant capacity within the borough’s existing urban area. New homes will be delivered across a range of types and tenures, with a focus on addressing specific needs including the provision of larger family homes, which would typically be in bands D-H. Council Tax collection has held up well in Tameside, with further investment in Exchequer to digitise and automate processes and procedures to free up staff to focus on proactive contact and financial vulnerability and prevention work. Despite this, the Council still has a low tax base from which to raise Council Tax.

1.17.3 **INVESTMENT INCOME:** The Council only holds shareholdings in Manchester Airport Group (MAG). In 2019/20, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Tameside earned £4.1m dividends from its MAG investments. Income at this level is currently nor expected to resume until 2027/28 at the earliest. The interest from loans advanced to MAG pre-2018, in 2018/19 and 2020/21 continue to contribute £3.137m each year to support revenue and capital financing budgets. The Council also holds significant cash balances as income and expenditure aren't always fully aligned. These cash balances are invested to ensure the funds work for the Council. In 2023/24, the Council adopted a short-term investment plan, allowing deposits to mature and be returned for overnight investment in high-quality money market funds. Owing to the higher interest rate environment this is forecast to deliver £5.4m in 2023/24 and similar levels in 2024/25.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council set a balanced budget for 2023/24 in February 2023, but the process was difficult. This was achieved through the utilisation of one-off funding, particularly challenging budget reductions targets and an increase in Council Tax. The budget assumed pay inflation, an expectation that services absorbed general inflation (but the Council funded known demographic and cost pressures in Adults and Children's Social Care) with a challenging budget reductions target for Children's Services.
- 2.2 Since setting the Council Budget in early February 2023, the economic landscape has changed, with significant inflationary pressures impacting both generally and in specific service areas. These changes present both cost pressures and challenges in delivering budget reductions and additional income budgets, and, without a robust, proactive response, the Council is facing significant presenting risks to the delivery of a balanced position in 2023/24.
- 2.3 The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) was published on the 18 December 2023, by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). The LGFS included changes to Tameside's Core Spending Power (CSP) which are detailed in this report and factored into the 2024/25 Budget. The final LGFS was published on 6 February 2024. The increase in Social Care Grant and small uplift to general grants translated into a CSP uplift of 7.45% - subject to Council taking the full 4.99% increase in Council Tax.
- 2.4 The Government's planned review of local authority funding, the Fair Funding review, has been delayed until 2025/26 at the earliest. This review was expected to allocate resources on the basis of refreshed need, which for Tameside could be of substantial benefit. This delay and lack of multi-year funding settlements makes it harder for the Council to develop its MTFS as the level of uncertainty introduces greater risk into the planning process.
- 2.5 Taking the above into account with the wider financial picture for Local Government, and the potential for MAG dividend income being delayed beyond 2027/28 leaves the Council's MTFS weaker than might have previously been planned for without taking positive and proactive steps to manage the financial position.

3 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to set out and seek approval for the setting of a balanced budget for the Council for the financial year 2024/25, including a proposed Council Tax increase and an adult social care precept increase. This report also sets out forecasts for the years up to 2028/29.
- 3.2 The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget for the upcoming financial year. Provisional Council funding for 2024/25 was announced in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement in December 2023 and is expected to be confirmed in February 2024.

The Council must set the budget and agree the level of Council Tax by 11 March 2024 at the latest.

- 3.3 The proposals set out in this report and the detailed appendices propose a balanced Council budget for 2024/25 subject to the delivery of identified budget reductions, and agreement of a proposed increase in Council Tax. **Appendix 1** provides a summary of the Council budget for 2024/25 and forecasts for future years. Budget summaries for each Directorate are included in **Appendices 6 to 11**.
- 3.4 Balancing the 2024/25 budget has only been possible through the agreement of challenging budget reductions, income generation and demand management. Demand and cost pressures are forecast to continue to increase during 2024/25 and as a result the Council still faces a significant budget gap in future years.
- 3.5 This report makes reference to further detail in the appendices which cover the following areas:
- Appendix 1)** Revenue Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy Summaries
 - Appendix 2)** Budget Pressures
 - Appendix 3)** Budget Reductions
 - Appendix 4)** Section 151 Officers' Risk Assessment and Statement on the Robustness of the Budget Estimates
 - Appendix 5)** Reserves Strategy and General Fund Minimum Balance
 - Appendix 6)** Director of Adults
 - Appendix 7)** Director of Children's
 - Appendix 8)** Director of Public Health
 - Appendix 9)** Director of Place
 - Appendix 10)** Director of Resources
 - Appendix 11)** Chief Executive's Office
 - Appendix 12)** Dedicated Schools Grant
 - Appendix 13)** Corporate Charging Policy
 - Appendix 14)** Budget Conversation
 - Appendix 15)** Fees and Charges 2024/25
 - Appendix 16)** Treasury Management Strategy 2024/25
 - Appendix 17)** Capital Investment
 - Appendix 18)** Capital Strategy 2024/25
 - Appendix 19)** Pay Policy 2024/25

4 NET EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENT UPDATE

- 4.1 The Net Expenditure Requirement comprises the Council's running costs and related income streams. The Net Expenditure Requirement is net of income from fees and charges, revenue grants and interest earned.
- 4.2 The macro-economic environment continues to be challenging. Inflation in the MTFS is currently assumed to be at 4% for commissioned goods and services. On social care placements and utility costs the expectation is that these will increase by more than the 4% uplift, for these costs the Council is assuming a 6.7% increase. The inflation assumptions in the MTFS are detailed in Table 1a below.

Table 1a: Inflation Assumptions assumed in the MTFS

Annual Inflation Assumptions MTFS Update	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Non-Pay Inflation (%)	4.00%	3.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Social Care Placements Inflation (%)	6.70%	3.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Utilities inflation (%)	6.70%	3.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%
Pay Inflation (%)	5.00%	5.00%	4.00%	3.00%	2.00%
Fees & Charges Uplift (%)	4.00%	3.00%	2.00%	2.00%	2.00%

- 4.3 The assumptions around employee-related cost pressures arising from the Local Government pay award have been adjusted in line with the most recent award. The Council have built in a 5% uplift for 2024/25 in the MTFS to reflect the overall impact of the latest award.
- 4.4 A budgetary increase for demographic pressures has been included in the MTFS. Demographic pressures include modelling on Adults, temporary accommodation, and SEN transport. As the MTFS is iteratively updated, further modelling of activity data is required to ensure a realistic multi-year model for the MTFS. Other service pressures include adjustments to correct for income budgets no longer achievable due to changes in offer from directorates. Details of the total pressures of £35.342m in 2024/25 is provided in **Appendix 2**.
- 4.5 Table 1b below shows the pressures and service reductions for the period 2024/25 to 2028/29.

Table 1b: Revision to total pressures and other reductions

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Previous Year's Net Budget	221.397	266.984	285.239	306.863	327.784
Budget adjustments ⁽¹⁾	27.010	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Opening Net Budget	248.407	266.984	285.239	306.863	327.784
Staffing related cost pressure	9.252	6.752	5.672	4.424	3.038
Demographic pressures	7.922	5.084	6.084	7.084	7.353
Inflationary pressures	14.885	11.881	10.801	10.868	10.938
Other service pressures	3.283	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316
Total service pressures	35.342	24.033	22.873	22.692	21.645
Budget reductions	(11.828)	(3.123)	0.522	0.000	0.000
Budget resources redirected	(0.353)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Fees & charges	(3.605)	(2.656)	(1.771)	(1.771)	(1.771)
Service grants	(0.978)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total service reductions	(16.764)	(5.779)	(1.249)	(1.771)	(1.771)
Net Expenditure Requirement	266.984	285.239	306.863	327.784	347.659

⁽¹⁾The budget adjustment of £27m is to reflect that in prior year's grants in the LGFS were directly allocated to services. In 2024/25 these are held corporately with other resources such as Council Tax with service expenditure budgets remaining at 2023/24 levels plus growth and reductions.

- 4.6 General fees and charges have been assumed to increase by inflation, 4.0%. This will generate additional income for the Council that will offset increased rising costs from inflation. Table 1c below shows the increase in fees & charges assumed in the MTFS. Further work is required to move towards full cost recovery on fees & charges. A full schedule of fees & charges for 2024/25 is detailed in **Appendix 15**.
- 4.7 Social Care contributions are client contributions to their care following a financial assessment. The increases in client contributions will partially offset any increases in care package costs.
- 4.8 Parking charges were uplifted following a full parking review in 2023/24. At this stage, the MTFS does not assume any increase in parking charges in 2024/25 following the increases in 2023/24. Work undertaken on a wider Parking Strategy indicates the Council has the opportunity to extend parking charges to its on-street parking bays and is planned for the second half of 2024/25.

Table 1c – Fees & Charges increases assumed in MTFs

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Fees & charges inflation uplift	(0.839)	(0.582)	(0.388)	(0.388)	(0.388)
Social Care contributions	(2.766)	(2.075)	(1.383)	(1.383)	(1.383)
Total Fees & Charges	(3.605)	(2.656)	(1.771)	(1.771)	(1.771)

5 PROPOSED BUDGET REDUCTIONS 2024/25 TO 2028/29

5.1 The Council have been working on proposals to deliver suitable and sufficient budget reductions to bridge the gap in 2024/25 and to support delivery of the MTFs to 2028/29. As such, the budget reductions of £11.828m proposed in 2024/25, with further costed and planned budget reductions to 2026/27 are outlined in Table 2 below. Additional work will be undertaken to extend budget reduction proposals and transformation ideas to 2028/29 that are costed and considered to be deliverable.

Table 2: Budget reductions proposals by directorate

Budget reductions proposals by directorate	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m	Total £m
Adults	(2.200)	(1.600)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(3.800)
Children's (including Education)	(4.107)	(0.350)	0.000	0.000	0.000	(4.457)
Place	(1.698)	(2.421)	(0.300)	0.000	0.000	(4.419)
Corporate	(3.679)	1.248	0.822	0.000	0.000	(1.609)
Population Health	(0.144)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	(0.144)
Total	(11.828)	(3.123)	0.522	0.000	0.000	(14.429)

5.2 A full list of budget reduction proposals are provided in **Appendix 3**.

5.3 The budget reduction proposals, as part of the wider budget, have been subject to public consultation since Cabinet in December 2023 and are going through both internal and external scrutiny with reviews with Political Groups, Scrutiny panels, Star Chamber sessions and Neighbourhood forums all in January 2024. In addition to this, work has been ongoing for confirmation of deliverability by officers as part of the assurance process to set a balanced budget.

5.4 As shown in Table 3, budget reductions totalling £14.429m have been identified, with £11.828m falling in 2024/25. Within Adults Social Care, a clear theme of maximising independence is key to the proposals proposed to transform the Service, with a strong commissioning focus and review of provision, including resettlement into the Borough.

5.5 Children's Social Care are on a journey of improvement over the life of the MTFs. The focus is to ensure children and young people receive the right support at the right time to deliver better outcomes. This improvement journey has required additional investment from the Council to support its delivery. In 2023/24, the Directorate has been able to draw on a staffing investment reserve to fund additional posts as required to support the delivery of the Plan. Additional grant funding through the Department for Education as well as access to the Corporate Transformation Fund has also been made available to invest in the Improvement Plan. As this improvement plan takes effect, fewer children and young people are expected to be Looked After. This planned reduction in numbers of Looked After Children will naturally result in less expenditure in the Directorate, although it is recognised there may be delays in the reduction of LAC as the Plan takes effect. In recognition of this, the Council is holding sufficient budget in contingency to ensure any delays in planned improvements (and numbers of children requiring care and support are higher than planned) can be offset. The Council also holds contingency budgets in 2024/25 on a one-off basis for the delivery of the

Improvement Plan, with the intention that it is replenished in full in each year of the MTFs. Whilst this section describes budget reduction proposals, it is important to note that the Council has increased the gross budget for Children's Services by 168% between 2016/17 and 2023/24. As previously described, placement inflation is budgeted at 6.7% - for Children's Social Care this amounts to a further £2.540m in the Placements Budget. The 5% budgeted for salaries inflation represents a further £1.568m of investment in Children's Services.

- 5.6 A full review of transport options across the Council is also being undertaken, including home to school transport, with a view to building resilience and independence with a theme of maximising independence for young people where it is suitable and appropriate.
- 5.7 Additional budget reductions arising from fewer Looked After Children were anticipated because of the ongoing Children's Improvement Plan for future years, however following the Ofsted inspection in December 2023, it is prudent to fully review and consider the quantum and phasing of potential budget reductions in Children's Social Care to ensure the Council adequately supports the long-term transformation of practice and care provided to the young people of the Borough. The phasing of future reductions is dependent on the speed of improvement. At this point in time, no further reductions are programmed into the MTFs.
- 5.8 Within the Place Directorate, a range of budget reductions have been put forward with a view to proactively addressing the rising demand for services, such as the increased demand for temporary accommodation (as a result of homelessness), through early intervention and prevention work as well as proposals to increase the sufficiency of suitable accommodation. In addition, the Directorate have reviewed fees and charges (with the exception of off-street car parking). The Parking Strategy will support the inclusion of on-street parking charges. The continuation of new contactless car parking payment machines will be fully rolled out, and standardised parking fees will be implemented across the Borough with the new machines.
- 5.9 Proposals within Corporate Services include the use of a proactive Treasury management strategy, to maximise benefit from higher interest rates in the market, locking in advantageous rates where available to increase the return on the Council's cash balances. Key focus on digital enhancements across the Directorate will enable different ways of working, to ensure that services are delivered in a cost effective and efficient way.
- 5.10 The full year effect of 2023/24 proposals relating to service reviews and contract negotiations within Population Health have enabled the delivery of a further £0.144m from the function in 2024/25.

6 GENERAL FUNDING SOURCES FROM 2024/25 TO 2028/29

- 6.1 Resources comprises: Council Tax, Business Rates, General Grants, and transfers from reserves. All these funding sources are general and do not have to be matched against a specific type of expenditure.
- 6.2 Council Tax and Business Rates are collected and managed in a ring-fenced account (called the Collection Fund). The Council's share of Council Tax and Business Rates is paid out of the Collection Fund over to the Council's revenue budget. The Council's share is always agreed prior to the start of each financial year, so the amount paid over is always an estimate. The estimate includes the Council's share for the next financial year as well as an adjustment for projected variances relating to previous estimates (the Collection Fund surplus/deficits).
- 6.3 General Grants mainly relate to the redistribution of funding between Local Authorities and are linked to Business Rates. Tameside Council's ability to raise Business Rates is less than its assessed funding need according to national formulas, so receives an additional Top Up grant.

- 6.4 General Funding can be increased by transferring unallocated balances from reserves. However, earmarked reserves can only be used once.
- 6.5 General Funding from 2024/25 to 2028/29 has been updated following the 2024/25 provisional LGFS. Table 3 below details the updated general funding. The proposed council tax requirement has been revised following Government's announcement to allow a general increase to council tax of 2.99%, an increase for Adult Social Care precept of 2%, an update to the Council Tax Base and the council tax collection rate. Business rates also has been updated following the LGFS and factors in an increase in the Business Rates multiplier. The LGFS provided for a 7.45% increase in Core Spending Power, however in arriving at this increase, the settlement assumes all Council's will take the maximum amount available in Council Tax percentage increases

Table 3: Updated Resources 2024/25 to 2028/29 (Revised MTFS).

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Resources	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Business Rates	(114.040)	(115.180)	(116.332)	(117.495)	(118.670)
Council Tax	(117.867)	(120.666)	(123.529)	(126.457)	(129.454)
New Homes Bonus	(0.173)	(0.085)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Grant funding	(34.904)	(31.964)	(31.964)	(31.964)	(31.964)
Total resources	(266.984)	(267.895)	(271.825)	(275.916)	(280.088)

- 6.6 **Council Tax** income makes more than 44% of General Funding. Council Tax income is the result of the Band D Tax Rate multiplied by the Band D Equivalent Tax Base.
- 6.7 The Band D Tax Rate is set by the Council. It is a single average measure calculated according to regulations (the Local Authorities Calculation of Council Tax Base Regulations 2012). The starting point is the number of households in the district, approximately 105,000. These household numbers are then expressed as equivalent numbers by adjusting for discounts and the Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme.
- 6.8 There are further adjustments. Each household is allocated a Council Tax Band from A to H, based on dwelling values. Each Council Tax Band incurs a Council is a fixed ratio of Band D, for the purposes of Council Tax Billing. These fixed ratios are shown in Table 4a below:

Table 4a Council Tax Bands fixed ratios to Band D

Band	Property Value at 1 April 1991	Fixed ratio to Band D
A	Up to 40,000	6/9ths
B	40,000 - 52,000	7/9ths
C	52,001 - 68,000	8/9ths
D	68,001 - 88,000	9/9ths
E	88,001 - 120,000	11/9ths
F	120,001 - 160,000	13/9ths
G	160,001 - 320,000	15/9ths
H	Over 320,000	18/9ths

- 6.9 It is because each band is a fixed ratio to Band D that household numbers, after discounts and CTS, can be averaged out as the Band D Equivalent Tax Base.
- 6.10 Council Tax income is summarised in Table 4b overleaf:

Table 4b: Council Tax Assumptions in MTFS

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Band D Equivalent Tax Base (250 growth from 25/26)	66,382.04	66,632.04	66,882.04	67,132.04	67,382.04
Collection Rate (Bad Debt Adjustment)	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%	97.5%
Band D Equivalent Tax Base	64,722.5	64,966.2	65,210.0	65,453.7	65,697.5
Band D Council Tameside Precept*	1,557.99	1,594.23	1,631.19	1,668.88	1,707.32
Band D Adult Social Care Precept**	263.13	263.13	263.13	263.13	263.13
Band D Council Tax	1,821.12	1,857.36	1,894.32	1,932.01	1,970.45
Council Tax - subject to approval	117.867	120.666	123.529	126.457	129.454

* 2.99% in 2024/25 and 1.99% afterwards

** 2% in 2024/25 and no increase after then

- 6.11 Table 5b shows an assumption of a 2% increase in the Adult Social Care (ASC) Precept in 2024/25. Current Government announcements allow for ASC precept increases in 2024/25, although not for subsequent years, as the legislation is not in place to extend this. The Council did factor a continuation of current levels of increase into its scenario plans reported to Cabinet in the October 2023 update on the MTFS.
- 6.12 The MTFS also allows for a 2.99% increase in Tameside's precept for 2024/25, which again is allowed for by Government announcements. The percentage increases for the years after 2024/25 remain at 1.99% in line with current referendum limits.
- 6.13 The increases in the general precept and the ASC precept have a cumulative impact, so increasing Council Tax income for the years after 2024/25.
- 6.14 Table 4b also shows an increase in the Council Tax Base (CTB) for 2024/25, this represents the number of Band D equivalent households in Tameside following reductions for discounts and the CTS scheme as at September 2023. The tax base also includes an assumption that 437 new Band D equivalent households will be built and be liable for Council Tax. These are based on current growth projections provided through Planning and Exchequer. This equates to an additional £0.912m of Council Tax.
- 6.15 An increased collection rate of 97.5% has also been assumed in 2024/25, previously 96.5% in 2023/24. This 1% increase will be monitored throughout 2024/25 to track progress against the new collection target. This equates to an additional £1.152m of Council Tax. The Council has historically collected to 97.5% over a multi-year period and is investing in further improvements in Exchequer as part of the MTFS to support delivery of collection.
- 6.16 **Business Rates and Related Grants** are the other main element of General Funding. For background, Business Rates are calculated via a chargeable rate multiplied against the rateable value of commercial premises. The chargeable rate (multiplier) is set by the Government. Rateable Value is set by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA).
- 6.17 There is a related Top Up Grant because from 2013/14, the Business Rates system was also used to redistribute funding between Local Authorities. Funding is redistributed based on the difference between a Local Authority's assessed funding need and its ability to collect tax. Because Tameside's assessed need is higher than its tax collection, it will receive a projected Top Up grant of £33.447m in 2024/25.
- 6.18 There are Section 31 Grants because the Government helps businesses by providing discounts (called reliefs) and freezing the chargeable rate (the multiplier). These decisions reduce Tameside's share of Business Rates. It receives compensation via additional Section 31 Grants.
- 6.19 There are a number of postponed reforms of the way assessed need is calculated and the workings of the Business Rates system. These changes are now expected from 2025/26.

The revised MTFS assumes that these changes will not make Tameside Council worse off, however there is a risk that the “reset” of Business Rates could be disadvantageous. As the Council understands the likelihood and impact of any reset, the MTFS will be updated accordingly.

- 6.20 Table 4c below details the assumptions for Business Rates in the MTFS. The Business Rates and Section 31 is based on the latest forecast and the LGFS that confirms the Business Rates multiplier rate will increase in line with inflation. The Top Up Grant the Council will receive was confirmed in the LGFS.

Table 4c: Updated Business Rates and Related Grants

Business Rates and Related Grants	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Business Rates	(57.158)	(57.730)	(58.307)	(58.890)	(59.479)
Top Up Grant	(33.447)	(33.782)	(34.119)	(34.461)	(34.805)
Section 31 Grants	(23.434)	(23.669)	(23.905)	(24.144)	(24.386)
Sub-total Business Rates Grants	(114.040)	(115.180)	(116.332)	(117.495)	(118.670)

- 6.21 Table 4d below details the total grant funding Tameside will receive following the final LGFS. The Services Grant is a general grant that was used to support homelessness pressures and the cost of running universal services such as waste and highways, Tameside have seen a significant reduction of £1.884m in this grant from 2023/24 where it was £2.277m. This has been offset by increases to Social Care Grant, ASC Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund and Discharge fund.

Table 4d: Total Grant Funding

Grant Funding	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Services Grant	(0.393)	(0.393)	(0.393)	(0.393)	(0.393)
Social Care Grant	(26.521)	(26.522)	(26.522)	(26.522)	(26.522)
ASC Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund	(5.049)	(5.049)	(5.049)	(5.049)	(5.049)
Discharge Fund	(2.941)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total New Funding	(34.904)	(31.964)	(31.964)	(31.964)	(31.964)

7 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY

- 7.1 The revised MTFS presents that the Council has balanced the 2024/25 budget. However, there is a budget gap in 2025/26 and future years.

Table 5 – MTFS

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Previous Year's Net Budget	221.397	266.624	284.999	306.623	327.544
Budget adjustments	27.010	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Opening Net Budget	248.407	266.984	285.239	306.863	327.784
Staffing related cost pressure	9.252	6.752	5.672	4.424	3.038
Demographic pressures	7.922	5.084	6.084	7.084	7.353
Inflationary pressures	14.885	11.881	10.801	10.868	10.938
Other service pressures	3.283	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316
Total service pressures	35.342	24.033	22.873	22.692	21.645
Budget reductions	(11.828)	(3.123)	0.522	0.000	0.000
Budget resources redirected	(0.353)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Fees & charges	(3.605)	(2.656)	(1.771)	(1.771)	(1.771)
Service grants	(0.978)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

Total service reductions	(16.764)	(5.779)	(1.249)	(1.771)	(1.771)
Net Expenditure Requirement	266.984	285.239	306.863	327.784	347.659
Resources					
Business Rates	(114.040)	(115.180)	(116.332)	(117.495)	(118.670)
Council Tax Proposed *	(117.867)	(120.666)	(123.529)	(126.457)	(129.454)
New Homes Bonus	(0.173)	(0.085)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Grant funding	(34.904)	(31.964)	(31.964)	(31.964)	(31.964)
Total resources	(266.984)	(267.895)	(271.825)	(275.916)	(280.088)
Budget reductions to find - cumulative	(0.000)	(17.344)	(35.038)	(51.868)	(67.571)
Budget reductions to find - incremental	(0.000)	(17.344)	(17.695)	(16.830)	(15.702)

* Council Tax is subject to approval at Full Council.

8 ROBUSTNESS OF THE BUDGET ESTIMATES (APPENDIX 4) AND RESERVES (APPENDIX 5)

- 8.1 The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget for the upcoming financial year. This balanced budget must be based on sound and sustainable assumptions about income and expenditure, the delivery of budget reductions and use of reserves.
- 8.2 Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Section 151 Officer is required to prepare a statement on the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves and the robustness of the budget estimates.
- 8.3 The Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) statement on the robustness of the budget estimates is set out in Appendix 4.
- 8.4 The statement concludes that:

In the light of the risk assessment and the details of the budget as set out in this report, which are based on the best information available at the time, and the strength of the Council's Internal Control Systems, it is the opinion of the Section 151 Officer as the Director of Resources that the budget estimates for 2024/25 are robust, and the level of reserves adequate for the time being.

However, the Council faces a significant budget gap beyond 2024/25, and this budget gap will increase if planned reductions and efficiencies are not delivered. The Council must ensure a relentless focus on delivery of reductions, to have any chance of closing the gap in future years. The Council has made use of reserves over the last few years, to provide services with the time to improve, but this is not sustainable in the long run and the Council needs to ensure robust and transparent transformation of services, and reduction of demand, to ensure the delivery of the improvement plans in place.

This statement is in compliance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003. This is not a guarantee that spending will be within every budget line, but it is reasonable to believe that the expenditure can be contained within the overall resource envelope agreed by the Council.

- 8.5 Section 26 of the Local Government Act 2003 places a duty on the Section 151 Officer to ensure the Council has established a minimum level of reserves to be retained to cover any unforeseen demands that could not be reasonably defined within finalising the proposed budget. The Director of Finance is recommending a proposed minimum level of general fund balances from 1 April 2024 at £27.537m, which is the same level as 2023/24. Keeping the level flat reflects the reduced level of financial risk facing the Council in respect of cost inflation, this is offset by an increased level of financial risk in relation to demand pressures and market fragility. There is also further risk associated with delivery of an ambitious budget reduction programme. Further information is set out in the reserves strategy in Appendix 5.

Targeted use of reserves

- 8.6 Reserves are a finite resource and continued use is equivalent to a household running down its savings. They should therefore be used strategically, and it is important that the Council holds a robust position on the level of reserves held. In 2024/25, the Council is reviewing all its reserves and balances in line with the Corporate Plan and a proposal to target reserves to drive better outcomes, revenue cost reductions and delivery of transformation will be presented to Full Council at the proper time. The MTFS is challenging, and the reserves held should be deployed strategically to deliver on planned outcomes such as Children's Improvement, Digitisation and Automation and Inclusive Growth. This targeted approach will allow services the time and opportunity to act to stabilise budgets and improve outcomes.

9 CORPORATE CHARGING POLICY AND FEES & CHARGES 2024/25

- 9.1 **Appendix 13** is the Corporate Charging Policy which was adopted in February 2022. This Corporate Charging Policy establishes principles and a framework for setting and reviewing non-statutory fees and charges and has been used to review fees and charges during the year. No changes have been made to the policy since adoption.

- 9.2 **Fees and charges** are reviewed annually to ensure that they are set at appropriate levels, seeking to ensure costs are recovered, and that they are comparable to similar authorities across Greater Manchester. Fees and Charges are usually uplifted annually by a minimum percentage, unless there are indications that the market conditions require a greater or lesser increase. In addition, a number of fees and charges are set nationally and cannot be influenced by the Council.

Fees and charges 2024/25

- 9.3 For 2024/25 the default position has been to increase fees and charges by the rate of CPI inflation in December 2023 or by adopting a full cost recovery methodology, as appropriate to the circumstances and in line with the Corporate Charging Policy. Uplifts of more or less than this percentage are applied where this does not reflect increases in costs or where the market determines a greater or lesser percentage is appropriate. **Appendix 15** sets out the proposed fees and charges for 2024/25 and the proposed increase for 2024/25 where relevant.

10 BUDGET CONVERSATION (APPENDIX 14)

- 10.1 It is important that Tameside Council understands the priorities of the public – local residents, businesses, and service users. A public engagement exercise was launched between 19 December 2023 and 2 February 2024 to understand their priorities for spending within the context of the financial challenges facing public services.

- 10.2 Members of the public were encouraged to fill out the online survey to have their say on what they feel our spending priorities should be for 2024/25, as well as any ideas for making budget reductions or efficiencies. The consultation was promoted on a number of different platforms:

- The Big Conversation, the authority's dedicated webpage where current consultation and engagement pieces are promoted based on relevance to the local community.
- Internal engagement within the organisation through platforms such as the Chief Executive's Brief, Weekly Comms Round Up and Information Ambassador's Network.
- Social media – the Council's X (formerly known as Twitter) and Facebook accounts have a combined followership of 60,000.
- Neighbourhood Forums

- 10.3 A total **214 responses** were received on the online survey. Further information can be found in **Appendix 14**.

- 10.4 These suggestions will be considered as part of the Budget setting process and will continue to be considered as part of ongoing reviews of service delivery and spending.

Statutory Consultation.

- 10.5 The Council also has a statutory duty to consult with businesses and other representatives of non-domestic ratepayers on its annual spending proposals. Businesses have had an opportunity to take part in the budget conversation, and this is being supported by a further process of sharing the Executive Cabinet budget 2024/25 report when published with non-domestic ratepayers with a deadline of 19 February 2024 for them to provide any comments which can then be considered in the report to Full Council.

Council Scrutiny

- 10.6 Members of the Council's scrutiny panels were also invited to consider this year's budget position and the proposals set out in this report. Feedback has been collated and shared with the Director of Resources.

11 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/25 (APPENDIX 16)

- 11.1 The Treasury Management service is an important part of the overall financial management of the Council's affairs. On 31 December 2023, the Council had £121m of investments which need to be safeguarded and £139m of long-term debt, which has been accrued over the years to help to fund the Council's capital investment programmes. The significant size of these amounts requires careful management to ensure that the Council meets its balanced budget requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Generating good value for money is therefore essential, in terms of both minimising the cost of borrowing and maximising the return on investments.
- 11.2 Treasury management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. This strategy is set out in **Appendix 16**.
- 11.3 The Treasury Management Strategy also sets out the estimated borrowing requirement for Tameside MBC, together with the strategy to be employed in managing the debt position. The costs of servicing the Council's long term debt balances, and the income earned on investment balances forms part of the Investment and Financing Budgets within Corporate Services.

12 CAPITAL INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL STRATEGY (APPENDIX 17 and 18)

- 12.1 The Council has limited resources available to fund Capital Expenditure and therefore has in place a thorough bidding process for the allocation of capital investment. In September 2021, Executive Cabinet approved the allocation of the remaining capital reserves to immediate priorities. Any additional priority schemes that are put forward for consideration and are not fully funded will need to be evaluated, costed and subject to separate Member approval. There will be a revenue cost for any new capital schemes that are not fully funded from external sources and the implications of this will need to be carefully considered, given the on-going pressures on the revenue budget. The current approved and earmarked programme is set out in **Appendix 17**.
- 12.2 The CIPFA Prudential Code (revised 2021) requires that the Council produces an annual Capital Strategy. The Strategy provides a long-term context in which capital decisions are made, the approach for governance for those decisions, and also information on the Council's

approach towards treasury management and other investments. The Capital Strategy for 2024/25 is attached at **Appendix 18**.

- 12.3 The Capital Strategy is the Council's framework for the allocation and management of capital resources within the authority, which takes account of the Council's key priorities in the Corporate Plan. It forms a key part of the Council's integrated revenue, capital, and balance sheet planning with a view towards deliverability, affordability, and risk.
- 12.4 The Capital Strategy identifies the current capital programme and the processes that are carried out to maintain an ongoing investment plan together with the links between its objectives and that of the Corporate Plan. It also gives an insight into how the strategy might develop in terms of achieving the priority outcomes in the next 5-10 years and beyond.

13 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 13.1 The Council is required to prepare a balanced budget for 2024/25. Wherever possible, the budget proposals seek to minimise costs and maximise efficiencies, whilst protecting public services. The Council has a specific equality duty to assess the likely impact of proposed policies and practices on protected groups under equality legislation to ensure that decisions are taken with due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.
- 13.2 The budget proposals include a number of budget reductions proposals across service areas which may have a direct or indirect impact on groups of people with protected equality characteristics. When submitting budget reductions proposals, service areas were required to submit a detailed template assessing the budget reductions proposal, including the anticipated impact of the budget reductions and whether an Equalities Impact Assessment was required. Services have or will undertake Equalities Impact Assessments where they have determined that the proposals will have an impact on service delivery.
- 13.3 The proposed increase in Council Tax will affect every household in the borough. Each year the Council aims to set a fair level of council tax as part of the balance between protecting public services within the resources available to finance the budget. The Council continues to operate a Council Tax support scheme for those on low incomes and we are satisfied that the potential negative impact of a Council Tax increase (section 6) is minimal and will continue to be monitored.

14 PAY POLICY STATEMENT (APPENDIX 19)

- 14.1 The Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25 is set out in **Appendix 19**. It sets out the Council's approach to pay policy in accordance with the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. This pay policy applies for the year 2024/25 unless replaced or varied by Full Council.
- 14.2 It does not cover teaching staff whose salaries and terms and conditions of employment are set by the Secretary of State. Academy Schools are an entirely separate legal entity from the Council and are covered by Academies Act 2010 and as a separate employer are responsible for setting salaries for their employees.
- 14.3 The purpose of the Pay Policy Statement is to ensure transparency and accountability with regard to the Council's approach to setting pay. The Pay Policy Statement has been approved by Council and is publicised on the Council's website in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 in March each year.

15 LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

- 15.1 The Council's legal obligations under Section 40(5) of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 mean that a council tax precept must be issued before 1 March 2024. The functions of calculating the council tax requirement and the basic council tax are the responsibility of full Council. The function of preparing estimates and calculations for submission to Council is the responsibility of the Executive Cabinet.
- 15.2 Under Section 106 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992, members who:
- (a) are present at a meeting of the Council or the Executive Cabinet and are at that time of the meeting an amount of council tax is payable by them and has remained unpaid for at least two month, and
 - (b) any budget or council tax calculation, or recommendation or decision which might effect the making of any such calculation, is subject of consideration at the meeting

In these circumstances, any such members shall at the meeting and as soon as practicable after its commencement disclose that such members the fact that Section 106 applies to them and shall NOT vote on any question concerning the matter in 15.2 (b) above.

Failure to comply with these requirements constitutes a criminal offence. Members can seek advice from the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer if they have any concerns and should do so before the full Council meeting.

- 15.3 All Members are likely to have a pecuniary interest in relation to the setting of the Council Tax through their ownership / occupation of property in Tameside in common with any resident of the Borough or indeed anyone who stands as a Councillor. In the Monitoring Officer's opinion, the transaction of business relating to these matters would be impeded unless a dispensation was granted.
- 15.4 In these circumstances, the Monitoring Officer intends to grant dispensations to all members to allow members to participate in and vote on the setting of the Council Tax or a precept (and matters related to such decisions including the budget calculations). It will be necessary for all councillors to apply for dispensations to take part in the meeting at Full Council.

16 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 16.1 As stated on the front cover of the report.

APPENDIX 1

MTFS AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Tameside MBC Budget 2024/25



Appendix 1 Revenue Budget and MTFS Summaries

2024/25 Whole Council Medium Term Financial Strategy – Budget Requirement

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Previous Year's Net Budget	221.397	266.984	285.239	306.863	327.784
Budget adjustments	27.010	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Opening Net Budget	248.407	266.984	285.239	306.863	327.784
Staffing related cost pressure	9.252	6.752	5.672	4.424	3.038
Demographic pressures	7.922	5.084	6.084	7.084	7.353
Inflationary pressures	14.885	11.881	10.801	10.868	10.938
Other service pressures	3.043	0.316	0.316	0.316	0.316
Total service pressures	35.342	24.033	22.873	22.692	21.645
Budget reductions	(11.828)	(3.123)	0.522	0.000	0.000
Budget resources redirected	(0.353)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Fees & charges	(3.605)	(2.656)	(1.771)	(1.771)	(1.771)
Service grants	(0.978)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total service reductions	(16.764)	(5.779)	(1.249)	(1.771)	(1.771)
Net Expenditure Requirement	266.984	285.239	306.863	327.784	347.659

2024/25 Whole Council Medium Term Financial Strategy – Funding the Budget

	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Resources					
Business Rates	(114.040)	(115.180)	(116.332)	(117.495)	(118.670)
Council Tax	(117.867)	(120.666)	(123.529)	(126.457)	(129.454)
New Homes Bonus	(0.173)	(0.085)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Grant funding	(34.904)	(31.964)	(31.964)	(31.964)	(31.964)
Total resources	(266.984)	(267.895)	(271.825)	(275.916)	(280.088)
Budget reductions to find - cumulative	(0.000)	(17.344)	(35.038)	(51.868)	(67.571)
Budget reductions to find - incremental	(0.000)	(17.344)	(17.695)	(16.830)	(15.702)

Appendix 1 Revenue Budget and MTFS Summaries

2024/25 Revenue Budget

Directorate	Revenue Budget £	Spend Analysis	Revenue Budget £
Adults	62,624,958	Expenditure	
Children's Services	68,954,720	Employees	121,364,665
Public Health	14,175,925	Premises Related Expenditure	12,055,395
Place	33,451,317	Transport Related Expenditure	11,885,610
Chief Executive's Office	13,863,158	Supplies and Services	102,808,256
Resources	73,913,922	Transfer Payments	65,054,650
Net Expenditure	266,984,000	Recharge Expenses	30,887,700
		Third Party Payments	168,912,027
		Capital Items & Reserve Movements	(2,513,045)
		Capital Financing Costs	10,993,000
		Expenditure Total	521,448,258
		Income	
		Customer and Client Receipts	(40,557,494)
		Government Grant Income	(122,789,077)
		Interest Income	(9,126,700)
		Other Grants Reimbursements and Contributions	(116,008)
		Recharge Income	(53,413,470)
		Other Income	(28,461,509)
		Income Total	(254,464,258)
		Grand Total	266,984,000

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2024/25 Forecast Specific Grant Income

Grant	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Section 31 Business Rates Grant	16.110	23.434
New Homes Bonus	0.261	0.173
Services Grant	2.277	0.358
Social Care Support Grant	20.266	24.117
Better Care Fund (BCF)	13.145	13.889
Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF)	12.585	12.585
Adult Social Care Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund	4.457	5.049
Adult Social Care Discharge Fund	1.764	2.929
Local Reform and Community Voices Grant	0.209	0.228
Supporting /Troubled Families Grant	1.195	1.479
Youth Justice Grant	0.463	0.584
Social Workers in Schools Programme (SWIS)	0.148	0.000
Staying Put Grant	0.174	0.174
Staying Close Grant	0.454	0.470
SHiFT Programme Grant	0.370	0.097
Youth Offending Turnaround Programme Grant	0.141	0.141
Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Grant	0.560	0.560
Holiday Activities Fund	1.202	0.000
Family Hubs Grant	0.660	1.186
Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Grant	14.196	14.196

2024/25 Forecast Specific Grant Income (continued)

Grant	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Dedicated Schools Grant (including Mainstream Schools Additional Grant)	146.529	160.510
Pupil Premium Grant	8.133	8.032
Universal Infant Free School Meals	1.397	1.462
PE & Sport Grant	0.868	0.800
Covid Recovery Premium	1.293	0.328
School Led Tutoring	0.774	0.167
Teachers Pay Additional Grant - Mainstream	0.900	1.543
Teachers Pay Additional Grant - Special	0.245	0.420
Teachers Pension Grant Mainstream & Special (new April 24)	0.000	2.145
Virtual School Head Role Extension	0.149	0.149
Housing Benefits - Mandatory Rent Allowances: subsidy	53.767	53.767
Housing Benefits - Mandatory Rent Rebates outside HRA: subsidy	2.471	2.471
Housing Benefit Administration Grant	0.808	0.783
Housing Benefit DHP Grant	0.388	0.388
Community Safety Funding	0.344	0.344
A Bed Every Night	0.310	0.260
Rough Sleepers Initiative	0.371	0.343
Homelessness Prevention Fund	0.925	0.740
Domestic Abuse Grant	0.560	0.571
Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant	0.729	1.196

2024/25 Forecast Specific Grant Income (continued)

Grant	2023/24	2024/25
	£m	£m
Local stop Smoking Services and Support Grant	0.000	0.413
Highways and Footways	1.804	1.804
UKSPF (Revenue)	0.991	0.820
Accomodation for Ex-Offenders (AFEO)	0.160	0.124
In Work Progression Pilot	0.206	0.000
CAS3	0.216	0.216
Homes for Ukraine	0.239	0.000
Serious Violence Funding	0.177	0.177
Total Grants	315.391	341.622

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Pressures listing

Ref	Director	Assistant Director	Nature of Pressure	Description of pressure	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
P_2425_01	Adults	Adults	Demographic pressures	Growth to reflect additional demand and complexity	3.557	-	-	-	-
P_2425_14	Adults	Adults	Other service pressures	Prior year's growth to reflect additional demand and complexity	1.777	-	-	-	-
P_2425_02	Children's Services	Children's Social Care	Other service pressures	Supported Families Grant Reserve - Prior year one-off budget reduction	0.300	-	-	-	-
P_2425_03	Children's Services	Education	Other service pressures	Teachers Pension Inflationary growth	0.199	-	-	-	-
P_2425_04	Children's Services	Education	Demographic pressures	Special Education Transport - Increase in Children accessing SEN Transport	1.022	1.022	1.022	1.022	1.022
P_2425_05	Children's Services	Education	Demographic pressures	School Transport - Increase in the issuance of Bus Passes to children	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062	0.062
P_2425_06	Place	Operations & Neighbourhoods	Demographic pressures	Temporary accommodation - growth to reflect unprecedented demand in year	3.070	-	-	-	-
P_2425_07	Place	Operations & Neighbourhoods	Demographic pressures	Waste - Growth in Number of Households since 2018 & Expected Future Years Growth	0.211	-	-	-	0.269
P_2425_08	Place	Planning & Transportation	Other service pressures	Local Plan	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200
P_2425_09	Resources	Finance	Other service pressures	Increase in Audit Fees (151% increase)	0.191	-	-	-	-
P_2425_10	Resources	Finance	Other service pressures	Insurance Policies Increase	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116	0.116
P_2425_12	Resources	Exchequer	Other service pressures	Housing Benefits overpayments income re-alignment	0.500	-	-	-	-
P_2425_13	Resources	Contingency	Demographic pressures	Future years growth	-	4.000	5.000	6.000	6.000
P_2425_15	Council Wide	Council Wide	Staffing related cost pressures	Employee pay award, assumption of 5% in 2024/25	9.252	6.752	5.672	4.424	3.038
P_2425_16	Council Wide	Council Wide	Inflationary Pressures	Inflationary increases estimated across all non-staffing costs	14.885	11.881	10.801	10.868	10.938
Total					35.342	24.033	22.873	22.692	21.645

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Budget Reduction Register

Director	Assistant Director	Member Portfolio	Opportunity	Budget Reduction Ref	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m	2027/28 £m	2028/29 £m
Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care	Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity)	Maximising independence	AD1	(0.400)	(1.100)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care	Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity)	Reviews of provision	AD2	(1.000)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care	Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity)	Resettlement programme	AD3	0.000	(0.500)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Adult Social Care	Adult Social Care	Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity)	Over-arching commissioning strategy for key services	AD4	(0.800)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Children's Services	Children's social care	Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)	Demand management	CH1	(3.000)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Children's Services	Children's social care	Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)	Early help model reset	CH2	(0.562)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Children's services	Children's social care	Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)	Family drug & alcohol courts	CH3	0.000	(0.150)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Children's Services	Education	Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)	Home-To School Transport	CH4	(0.500)	(0.200)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Children's Services	Children's social care	Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families)	University Accommodation Review	CH5	(0.045)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Place	CCTV	Executive Member (Towns and Communities)	Use of TMBC dark fibre network	PL1	(0.030)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Place	Culture	Executive Member (Towns and Communities)	Cultural services - budget efficiencies	PL2	(0.072)	(0.020)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Place	Highways	Executive Member (Planning, Transport and Connectivity)	Highways - budget efficiencies	PL3	(0.019)	(0.156)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Place	Homelessness	Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity)	Prevention and housing supply improvements	PL4	(1.150)	(1.220)	(0.300)	0.000	0.000
Place	Parking	Executive Member (Planning, Transport and Connectivity)	Parking strategy implementation	PL5	(0.268)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Place	Parking	Executive Member (Planning, Transport and Connectivity)	Parking - infrastructure improvements	PL6	(0.137)	(0.115)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Place	Waste	Executive Member (Climate Emergency & Environmental Services)	Waste review	PL7	0.000	(0.190)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Place	Waste	Executive Member (Climate Emergency & Environmental Services)	Caddy Liners - full year saving	PL8	(0.022)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Place	Estates	First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation)	Estates rationalisation	PL9	0.000	(0.720)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Population health	Population health	Executive Member (Population Health & Well-being)	Contract price reductions	PH1	(0.099)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Population health	Population health	Executive Member (Population Health & Well-being)	Service redesign	PH2	(0.045)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Corporate	Cross-cutting	First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation)	Strategic review of fees and charges	CO1	(0.550)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Corporate	Cross-cutting	First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation)	Procurement pipeline - key opportunities	CO2	(0.140)	(0.140)	0.000	0.000	0.000
Corporate	Cross-cutting	First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation)	Post held vacant no longer required	CO3	(0.115)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Corporate	Cross-cutting	First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation)	Contributions from External Funding	CO4	(0.075)	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Corporate	Exchequer	First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation)	Exchequer Systems improvement + behaviour change programme	CO5	(0.099)	(0.312)	(0.178)	0.000	0.000
Corporate	Resources	First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation)	Treasury Investment Income	CO6	(2.700)	1.700	1.000	0.000	0.000
Total					(11.828)	(3.123)	0.522	0.000	0.000

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APPENDIX 4

S151 RISK ASSESSMENT

Tameside MBC Budget 2024/25

Appendix 4 Statement on Robustness of the Budget Estimates

Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) Statement on Robustness of the Budget Estimates

The Council is required by law to set a balanced budget for the upcoming financial year. This balanced budget must be based on sound and sustainable assumptions about income and expenditure, the delivery of savings and use of reserves. Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the section 151 officer is required to prepare a statement on the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves and the robustness of the budget estimates.

Use of reserves and the General Fund balance

Appendix 5 considers the reserves and balances of the Council. Prior to 2021/22, previous budgets had approved the use of reserves to fund one-off initiatives and significant investments in the revenue budget. Whilst this use of reserves was necessary, with much of the investment to provide time for services to improve and reduce their spending overall, it was not sustainable. Such a level of funding from reserves to support services is unsustainable in the medium term and cannot be continued into future years.

For 2024/25 the budget proposes no use of general reserves which is a continuation of the investment approved as part of the 2020/21 budget. In addition, £2.764m is being returned to districts from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority reserves and £2.081m of Collection Fund surpluses held in reserves will be drawn down to support the ongoing activity pressures facing the Council.

Section 26 of the Local Government Act 2003, places a duty on the Section 151 Officer to ensure the Council has established a minimum level of reserves to be retained to cover any unforeseen demands that could not be reasonably defined within finalising the proposed budget. The Director of Resources is recommending a proposed minimum general fund balance of £27.537m from 1 April 2024, which is no change on last year, and is reflective of the level of risk and demand in the sector and at Tameside. Further information is set out in Appendix 5.

Monitoring and forecasting

The Council will continue to undertake robust monthly budget monitoring throughout the financial year. This will include specific assessment and monitoring of the delivery of planned savings, and regular review and updating of the MTFS to identify future financial risks and opportunities at the earliest opportunity. Proposed budget reductions have been subject to review and challenge by Finance, Senior Officers and Members and this review process will continue to monitor delivery of savings and identify new budget reductions for future years.

Risk Assessment

The proposals set out in this report will enable the Council to balance the 2024/25 budget, but there remain a number of significant risks which could impact on 2024/25 and future years.

Adults

Increasing numbers and complexity of Adults clients is resulting in more assessed hours and more expensive packages of care. If this trend continues, further financial pressures may arise as a result. The sector faces increasing difficulties with workforce recruitment, sustainability and retention, and whilst increases in national living wage are beneficial for individuals and workforce retention, these increases disproportionately impact on the social care budgets. Housing and accommodation pressures continue throughout both Children's and Adults social care, making it more difficult to secure care packages.

Further cost pressures in Adults have been factored into the MTFs in future years but the impact of the Social Care White Paper had assumed to be funded. Funding is built in to the 2024/25 budget for continuing to deliver the real living wage and fair cost of care but further pressures could materialise over the life of the MTFs.

Children's Social Care

The Council has faced significant increases in the cost of Children's Social Care services over recent years. Numbers of looked after children have stabilised in 2023/24 however there was an ambitious programme of budget reductions to deliver. Whilst placement numbers have trended downwards in 2023/24 complexity has risen with greater use of external residential provision driving costs. A fragile market alongside COVID-19 mental health issues now being recognised in young people in Tameside add to the cost pressures being managed in Social Care. Key risks for Children's Social care budgets include:

- Practice Improvement – the DCS is leading an improvement in Social Work practice to ensure young people receive the right care and practice delivers Best Value. If improvement takes longer than planned cost reductions will be delayed.
- Market Sufficiency – Fewer providers delivering complex support alongside inflationary cost pressures and increased staffing costs, combined with demand for placements could result in additional costs.
- Budget Reductions – Delivery of £3m in 24/25 is challenging and built on social work practice improvements.

Education

Home to School transport for children with Special Educational Needs continues to be a significant risk and pressure area for Education budgets. The number of pupils being assessed as eligible for support for home to school transport has doubled since 2017, and this has mirrored an increase in pupils supported with an Education Health and Care Plan. Continued increases in demand, combined with rising costs, means that significant budget pressures have arisen in the Dedicated Schools Grant and for School Transport. Funding has been provided in 2024/25 for rising costs in school transport, however, Education budgets are also facing pressures due to forecast income shortfalls, particularly in respect of traded services where demand has dropped as schools convert to Academy status. Cost pressures are also arising from Education Psychology as it becomes harder to recruit and retain these key professionals.

Appendix 4 Statement on Robustness of the Budget Estimates

Risk Assessment

The proposals set out in this report will enable the Council to balance the 2023/24 budget, but there remain a number of significant risks which could impact on 2023/24 and future years.

Income Generation

Whilst fees and charges are proposed to increase by the rate of CPI inflation in December 2023, a number of fees are not. Parking fees are frozen following the increase in 2023/24, and Planning fees are rising in line with the national increases. The Council must move its charges to full cost recovery, recognising this may be a significant uplift and required to be smoothed over a number of years. Maximising income generation is a key plank of the MTFs and delivering this will require the Council to think differently about how it operates and provides services to residents and businesses where a fee or charge is levied for the service.

Future Local Government Funding

Government have committed to a review of Local Government funding but the timescales for that review remain unclear. The absence of a multi-year finance settlement and no indication of how the funding model may change, mean it is very difficult to develop financial plans for the medium term. The MTFs, at this stage, assumes that Local Government Funding will reduce due to the current Council Tax flexibilities ending in 2024/25, and that there will be no further increases in funding for future years in a Comprehensive Spending Review. The continuing lack of certainty over the timing and outcome of the fair funding review, makes planning beyond 2024/25 extremely difficult.

Budget Reductions Delivery

The Council has had to review its savings proposals for 2023/24 as some are deemed to be delayed in delivery, with alternative options provided in mitigation. The original planned saving, or recurrent alternatives, will need to be delivered in 2024/25, alongside existing plans for additional 2024/25 savings and new savings proposals identified as part of this budget process.

Accommodation and Housing

In recent years, expenditure on temporary accommodation has increased significantly, resulting in increased costs where rent levels are not covered by Housing Benefit. Cost pressures are also evident in Children's and Adults Social Care due to insufficient appropriate accommodation in the borough. If demand continues to increase, then cost pressures associated with housing are likely to increase.

Pay and price inflation

Significant provision is already included with the 2024/25 budget proposals for pay inflation, and cost pressures driven by both general inflation and pay inflation external to the Council, particularly on utility costs. CPI inflation for the 12 months to December 2023 was 4% and is forecast to continue above the 2% target for the Bank of England throughout 2024/25, which could place further pressures on budgets.

Appendix 4 Statement on Robustness of the Budget Estimates

Education

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) provides ring fenced revenue funding for allocation to education providers allocated in four blocks:

DSG Blocks	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Increase £m	% Increase
Schools Block (including Academies)	207.967	213.636	5.669	3%
High Needs Block (before recoupment)	36.904	39.108	2.204	6%
Early Years Block	19.051	20.774	1.724	9%
Early Years Block - New Extended Entitlements	-	8.384	8.384	100%
Central School Services Block (CSSB)	1.249	1.349	0.100	8%
Total Funding	265.170	283.251	18.081	

Schools Block funding is allocated on a per pupil basis and has increased due to increased pupil numbers, increased funding per pupil rates from government and a new funding stream for 2023/24, the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG). The MSAG is intended to provide schools with flexibility to best support the needs of their pupils and staff and address cost pressures.

The High Needs Block is set nationally. The Government has set a maximum by which local authority High Needs budgets can increase by in 2024-25 this is set at 5%. Tameside have received the maximum increase possible capped at 5%, the DfE formula therefore acknowledges that Tameside should receive an additional £3.885m, but there is insufficient funding in the national budget to allow this, hence the cap. Tameside have also received a further 1% increase due to growth in pupil numbers, taking the total increase to 6%, or £2.204m

The Early Years Block and Central School Services Block (CSSB) both relate to an increases in the per pupil rate of funding but similar to High Needs Block the CSSB is a capped increase of 5.51%, without the cap a further £0.063m would have been allocated. Additionally there are new extended entitlements as announced by Government in Spring 2023 as reflected in the table above.

High Needs Pressures:

There continues to be a significant pressure on the high needs budget and this is impacting on the overall DSG budget position and ultimately the council budget. Although there is no immediate call on the Council to fund any deficit there is a requirement from the Department for Education (DfE) to produce a high needs deficit recovery plan. Tameside is now part of the Departments Delivering Better Value Programme. Participation in this programme is critical in understanding the options available to manage the high needs deficit recovery plan and create a future high needs system that meets demand in a way that is equitable and financially sustainable.

Appendix 4 Statement on Robustness of the Budget Estimates

Risk environment

The Council operates in an environment of uncertainty and risk. Throughout the budget preparation process, the impact and likelihood of identified risks has been assessed, to ensure that assumptions are sound and sustainable, and that the level of reserves held by the Council is considered to be prudent and appropriate. As set out in appendix 5, the maintenance of reserves is essential to mitigate against an increasing risk profile.

Conclusion

In the light of the risk assessment and the details of the budget as set out in this report, which are based on the best information available at the time, and the strength of the Council's Internal Control Systems, **it is the opinion of the Section 151 Officer as the Director of Resources that the budget estimates for 2024/25 are robust, and the level of reserves adequate for the time being.**

However, the Council faces a significant budget gap beyond 2024/25, and this budget gap will increase if planned reductions and efficiencies are not delivered. The Council must ensure a relentless focus on delivery of reductions, to have any chance of closing the gap in future years. The Council has made use of reserves over the last few years, to provide services with the time to improve, but this is not sustainable in the long run and the Council needs to ensure robust and transparent transformation of services, and reduction of demand, to ensure the delivery of the improvement plans in place.

This statement is in compliance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003. This is not a guarantee that spending will be within every budget line but it is reasonable to believe that the expenditure can be contained within the overall resource envelope agreed by the Council.

Ashley Hughes
Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)
February 2024

APPENDIX 5

RESERVES

Tameside MBC Budget 2024/25



Reserves Strategy

The requirement for financial reserves is acknowledged in statute. The Local Government Finance Act requires billing and precepting authorities in England and Wales to have regard to the level of reserves needed for meeting estimated future expenditure when calculating the budget requirement. Local authorities may also set aside parts of the General Fund reserve for specific purposes; these are referred to as Earmarked Reserves.

There are a range of safeguards in place that help to prevent local authorities over-committing themselves financially. These include:

- the balanced budget requirement: sections 31A, 42A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended;
- The Section 151 Officers' duty to report on robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves (under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003) when the authority is considering its budget requirement;
- the legislative requirement for each local authority to make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and that the proper officer (Director of Finance) has responsibility for the administration of those affairs section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- the requirements of the Prudential Code.

These requirements are reinforced by section 114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 which requires the Director of Resources in England and Wales to report to all the authority's councillors if there is or is likely to be unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget. This would include situations where reserves have become seriously depleted and it is forecast that the authority will not have the resources to meet its expenditure in a particular financial year.

Operating reserves and provisions are a vital element of prudent financial management arrangements for all councils, and may be held for a number of different purposes. They can be broadly categorised as three main types:

- A working balance which helps smooth cash flow operation and avoids the need to borrow temporarily (General Fund balances).
- A contingency to cushion the impact of future unexpected events and emergencies (an element within the base revenue budget or general reserves).
- A means of building up funds to meet expected future requirements or liabilities (earmarked reserves).

In addition, the Council maintains a number of technical accounting reserves (unusable reserves) which are required for the interaction of legislation and proper accounting practice. These reserves, which are generally not resource backed, cannot be used by the Council and are held for accounting purposes only.

Review of reserves

Recent changes to local authority funding have significantly increased the level of risk being managed by the Council. The Council is facing a number of significant budget pressures, risks and uncertainties, which combined with future funding uncertainty and general economic and political risk, means that the potential financial exposure of the Council continues to increase.

The Director of Resources (as Section 151 Officer) has a fiduciary duty to local taxpayers and must be satisfied that the decisions taken on balances and reserves represent proper stewardship of public funds. The level and utilisation of reserves will be determined formally by the Council, informed by the advice and judgement of the Director of Resources. To enable the Council to reach its decision, the Director of Resources should report the factors that influenced their judgement and ensure that the advice given is recorded formally.

Section 26 of the Local Government Act 2003, places a duty on the Section 151 Officer to ensure the Council has established a minimum level of reserves to be retained to cover any unforeseen demands that could not be reasonably defined within finalising the proposed budget. The Director of Resources will therefore:

- Page 89
- include in annual the budget report to Council, a statement setting out the proposed minimum level of General Fund Balances to be maintained for the coming financial year; and
 - undertake an annual review of the reserves alongside the preparation of the annual financial statements. This annual review will provide a statement on the purpose and levels of reserves held and make recommendations for any changes to the level or allocation of reserves.

Use of reserves

Revenue balances can be used to meet the cost of emergencies, unexpected events or un-budgeted statutory items. The Director of Resources can authorise this type of expenditure but must report it to Executive Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

Revenue balances may also be used to supplement un-budgeted but necessary expenditure that could impact on service delivery if not incurred. The Director of Resources can authorise this expenditure after consultation with the Chief Executive/Executive Leader. The Director of Resources must also ensure that such expenditure would not have a detrimental effect on the overall finances of the Council, and must report it to Executive Cabinet at the earliest opportunity.

Minimum level of general fund balances

Over time the risks facing an organisation can change and as such a more proactive risk based approach is required when setting a minimum level of reserves. In the context of the increasing pressures and risks facing the Council and Local Government in general, an analysis of financial risks is now undertaken as part of the budget setting process, to establish the required minimum level of general fund balances that should be set aside for the coming financial year.

The risk assessment for the minimum level of general fund balances has been reviewed and updated as part of the budget setting process for 2024/25. This assessment is set out on the following page. The proposed minimum level of general fund balances from 1 April 2024 is recommended at £27.537m, which is no change on last year. This reflects the level of risk and demand in the sector and at Tameside.

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Total Minimum General Fund Balance recommended from 1 April 2024	£27.537m
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Appendix 5 Reserves Strategy

Risk assessed minimum level of general fund balances from 1 April 2024

Risk	£000s	Basis of Assessment
<u>Inflation</u>		
General Pay Awards exceed assumed increase	1,212	1% of Employee Costs
General price inflation exceeds current forecasts	2,954	1% of Budget for non-staffing costs
<u>Savings and Pressures</u>		
Non-delivery of savings identified for coming year	1,195	10% of savings target for 2023/24
Service specific pressures/investments exceed cost estimates	568	5% of Pressures identified for 2023/24
<u>Service Demand / Demographics</u>		
Forecast Demand and Demographics exceed current forecasts:		
Children's Services	3,448	5% of Children's Services net budget
Adult's Services	3,149	5% of Adult's net budget
<u>Income</u>		
Income forecasts fall short of current forecasts	2,634	2% of Budgeted Income
Unexpected reductions to Government Grant Income	2,456	2% of Government Grant Income
Unexpected decline in Business Rates Income	49	5% of Gap between forecast rates and safety net
<u>Reactive / responsive scenarios</u>		
Impact of major disaster or emergency	2,790	Director of Finance Assessment
<u>Capital</u>		
Capital Receipts not realised or delayed	752	5% of current forecast capital receipts
Capital Financing Costs exceed current estimates	550	5% of Capital Financing Budget
Capital Project delivery / Supply Chain Risk / costs exceed contingencies	5,781	5% of Total Capital Programme
Total Minimum General Fund Balance Required	27,537	

Appendix 5 Reserves Strategy

Categories of Reserve

Reserves can only be used for the purpose for which they were created. The Executive Cabinet can change the use of the earmarked reserve if it so wishes or move funds between reserves, providing this is not contrary to proper accounting practice. The Director of Finance will make recommendations to Executive Cabinet as part of the annual review of reserves. Reserves are categorised into one of the following, to aid understanding and decision making for reserves:

Category	Description	Approval Required to spend
Accounting reserves	This will include two sub categories: 1) Unusable reserves - those reserves required by proper accounting practice that are not resource backed. 2) General Accounting Reserves - reserves established as good accounting practice for specific accounting purposes (such as the PFI smoothing reserves and Leasing reserves)	Director of Resources
Grants and Contributions	Reserves to hold unspent grants and contributions received from external sources.	1) For the purposes intended by the original contribution - Director of Resources 2) For an alternative purpose - Executive Cabinet
Liabilities and Risk	Reserves held to mitigate against known and anticipated liabilities and risks. This will include for example self insurance reserves.	Director of Resources
Capital Reserves	Capital Receipts, Capital Grants and Reserves earmarked for capital purposes. These reserves are used to finance the capital programme.	Director of Resources
Schools Reserves	Reserves for Schools and Education expenditure, including the ring fenced schools balances.	Director of Resources
Budget Resilience Reserves	Reserves held for planned revenue investment in services, for example reserves set aside for planned investment in Children's Services, and to provide resilience for specific services not covered by general fund balances.	Executive Cabinet
Strategic Priorities Reserves	Reserves held for planned or intended investment in Strategic Priorities. This will include reserves such as the Digital Strategy reserve and Transformation reserve.	Executive Cabinet

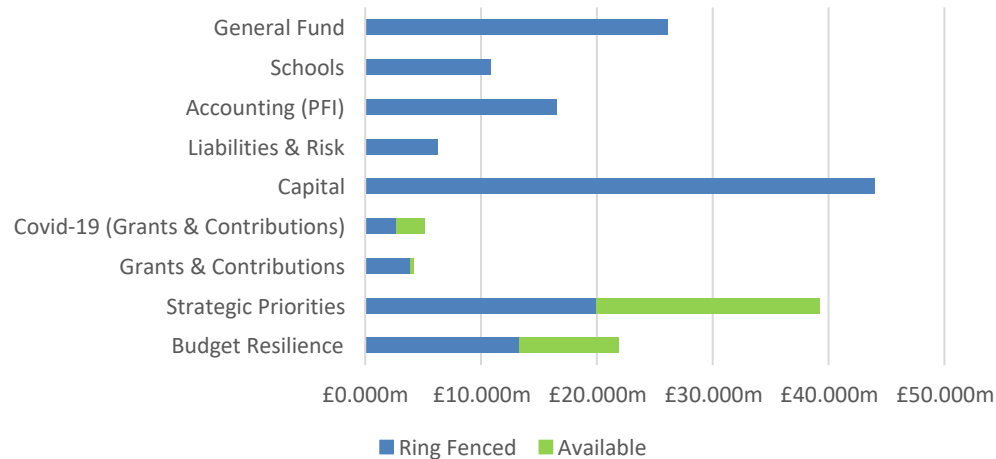
Categories of Reserve

Existing reserves are categorised in accordance with the reserves strategy which was approved by Council in February 2019. The categories and value of reserves at 31 January 2024 are summarised below. Whilst the overall level of reserves held by the Council remains strong, most of these reserves are committed, with only £30.6m not committed outside of the general fund balance of £27m.

- Many balances reflect timing issues and are required to meet future liabilities (e.g. Self insurance and collection fund deficit funding).
- Existing commitments included in MTFS for future investment (Such as levelling up match funding)
- Significant reserve funding has been used in prior years for unexpected cost and demand pressure in Children’s Social Care.
- Future budget gaps may require reserves in the absence of additional savings or funding.

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Total Earmarked Funds at 31st January 2024 £174.148m, General Fund £27.537m, Ring Fenced £115.938m and Available £30.673m



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Adults Directorate

Budget 2024/25



Appendix 6 Director of Adults Budget Proposals

Purpose of the Directorate:

To ensure compliance with statutory duties as detailed in the Care Act 2014 and other legislation, and to ensure individuals are safeguarded and live great lives. The Directorate are responsible for delivering services within the available budget and for exploring opportunities to continually develop services to improve outcomes and efficiency.

Vision and key priorities:

To enable and empower people to live well at home, by improving or maintaining their well-being, as part of their local neighbourhood, for as long as possible:

- **The right person:** people who need support are identified and prioritised
- **The right time:** to maximise independence, increase resilience and prevent things getting worse
- **The right place:** at home wherever possible, in the community or in a specialist setting – according to need and what is most cost-effective
- **The right support:** just enough to keep people safe and prevent, reduce or delay the need for long term help, delivered by the right people with the right skills
- **The right partner:** working more effectively with individuals, their friends and families and in partnership with other organisations – to achieve more joined-up and cost-effective support.

The essence of ASC services is to support individuals and families to live fulfilled lives with great outcomes in their local neighbourhoods, and as such the services work to support all the Corporate Priorities. Services look to develop skills, build resilience and minimise the formal interventions needed to ensure good outcomes.

Service	Revenue Budget £
Senior Management	(2,458,200)
Safeguarding, Quality & Practice	502,040
Learning Disabilities, Autism & Mental Health	18,005,421
Integrated Care & Support	28,732,717
Commissioning & Homes for All	17,842,980
Grand Total	62,624,958

Spend Analysis	Revenue Budget £
Expenditure	
Employees	30,750,640
Premises Related Expenditure	1,509,080
Transport Related Expenditure	189,120
Supplies and Services	4,853,240
Third Party Payments	73,216,298
Transfer Payments	6,506,320
Recharge Expenses	24,088,720
Capital Items & Reserve Movements	(274,220)
Expenditure Total	140,839,198
Income	
Recharge Income	(23,502,720)
Customer and Client Receipts	(19,455,980)
Government Grant Income	(12,874,950)
Other Income	(22,380,590)
Income Total	(78,214,240)
Grand Total	62,624,958

Childrens Directorate

Budget 2024/25



Purpose of the Directorate:

Children's Services work with children, young people and their families. It is underpinned by a range of legislation including, but not limited to:

- Children Acts 1989 and 2004;
- Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000;
- Care Standards Act 2000;
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child;
- Human Rights Act 1998;
- Adoption and Children Act 2002;
- Children Act 2004;
- Data Protection Act legislation;
- Children and Families Act 2014;
- Children and Social Work Act 2017.

This includes responsibility for children and young people receiving education or children's social care services and all children looked after by the local authority or in custody.

The Directorate is responsible for securing the provision of services which address the needs of all children and young people, including the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and their families and carers through Early Help and Prevention. The Directorate is responsible for the performance of local authority functions relating to the education and social care of children and young people.

Our Social Care Service has the following core functions:

Management of Child in Need and Child Protection, Cared for Children and Care Leavers and Safeguarding & Quality Assurance of our practice.

Our Early Help and Partnerships has the following Core functions:

Family Help and Family Hubs, Youth Justice, Service Commissioning and support

Our Education Service has the following core functions:

Early Years, School , Place Planning & Admissions Special Educational Needs Alternative Provision, Virtual School and College Specialist Services and support to schools and governance.

Appendix 7 Director of Childrens Services Budget Proposals

Service	Revenue Budget £
Child Protection & Children In Need	8,202,660
Children's Social Care Safeguarding & Quality Assurance	2,141,550
Children's Social Care Senior Management	(259,510)
Early Help, Early Years & Neighbourhoods	3,496,100
Cared for Children	42,632,060
Commissioning	281,260
Access Services	5,893,360
Assistant Executive Director - Education	(144,130)
Education Improvement and Partnerships	432,010
Schools Centrally Managed	1,725,650
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities	1,613,550
Virtual School and College	5,830
Adolescent Services	2,934,330
Grand Total	68,954,720

Spend Analysis	Revenue Budget £
Expenditure	
Employees	37,262,025
Premises Related Expenditure	311,990
Transport Related Expenditure	5,591,330
Supplies and Services	7,233,810
Third Party Payments	56,429,970
Transfer Payments	620,300
Recharge Expenses	1,245,170
Capital Items & Reserve Movements	(1,170,930)
Expenditure Total	107,523,665
Income	
Recharge Income	(2,082,690)
Government Grant Income	(33,150,365)
Other Grants and Contributions	(21,900)
Other Income	(1,888,070)
Customer and Client Receipts	(1,425,920)
Income Total	(38,568,945)
Grand Total	68,954,720

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Budget 2024/25



Appendix 8 Director of Public Health Budget Proposals

Purpose of the Directorate:

To improve and protect the health and wellbeing of people living and working in Tameside. We work closely across Directorates of the organisation and with partner organisations to understand and address the wider issues that influence people's health locally:

- Provide public health leadership, information, and advice to enable decisions that are based on needs and what is effective.
- Commissioning and monitoring key Public Health services.
- Using public health intelligence to survey and assess the population's health and wellbeing.
- Delivery of Health promotion, Health protection, healthcare public health, wider determinants, health communication.

Vision and key priorities:

- Support Tameside Starting Well priorities and development of CYP Plan, Family Hubs, integrated 0-19 services, Child Death Overview Panel process, breastfeeding, oral health, child health speech, language and communication needs and school readiness.
- Deliver a whole system approach to Health Places- increasing our focus on tobacco, healthy weight, food and physical activity
- Delivery of the Be Well Health Improvement service and scale up our stop smoking offer
- Tackling Substance Misuse: increasing the number of people supported, particularly children and those in criminal justice, and a focus on learning from all drug-related deaths – preparing to recommission a new integrated treatment service
- Improving sexual health outcomes: enhanced outreach offer to tackle inequalities, and closer working with primary care
- Taking a strategic lead in tackling Domestic Abuse across Tameside, ensuring duties of the DA Act are met, and launching our new integrated Domestic Abuse service
- Delivery of Age Friendly Strategy; Ageing in Place programme, and reviewing our approach to falls prevention
- Improving Public Mental Health (suicide prevention strategy refresh and suicide audit)
- Provide leadership around health protection to ensure a strategic, system-wide approach to protecting the population from relevant health protection risks including uptake of vaccination and screening
- Reduce the health impact of poverty, air quality, climate change
- Provide specialist support to the wider health and social care system and GM ICS to embed a preventative approach.
- Developing an integrated approach to BI and health intelligence through needs assessments including work and skills, SEND, falls and early years
- Tackling inequalities in life expectancy by increasing CVD secondary prevention programmes
- Focusing of wider determinants – poverty, work and skills and healthy places

Spend Analysis	Revenue Budget £
Expenditure	
Employees	1,845,802
Premises Related Expenditure	126,750
Transport Related Expenditure	250
Supplies and Services	13,310,631
Third Party Payments	160,910
Recharge Expenses	846,560
Capital Items & Reserve Movements	(463,770)
Expenditure Total	15,827,133
Income	
Other Income	(199,780)
Recharge Income	(50,000)
Other Grants Reimbursements and Contributions	(45,108)
Government Grant Income	(1,356,320)
Income Total	(1,651,208)
Grand Total	14,175,925

PLACE

Budget 2024/25



Appendix 9 Director of Place Budget Proposals

Purpose and Priorities

Deliver inclusive growth and regeneration for Tameside as well as the best possible strategic and frontline place based services for the public including many statutory services from refuse collection and Libraries to Planning and Highways maintenance for the residents, businesses and visitors to Tameside. Ensure the people of Tameside have a place they can be proud of now and in the future .

Key functions & Objectives

Operations and Neighbourhoods: Services provide essential and statutory front-line services which affect every Tameside resident every day of their lives. We are central to Place Based delivery ensuring we provide a physical infrastructure to support economic growth. Services such as refuse, highways, engineering, bereavement, regulatory services, culture, libraries, and local street scene enhance people's lives.

Investment Development and Housing: Deliver the regeneration of the borough's key centres and strategic sites in order to drive inclusive growth for Tameside's people and businesses. Attract inward investment into the Borough in order to secure better jobs and housing opportunities for its communities. Work with public and private sector partners to generate housing growth to meet the needs of Tameside's residents and prevent/resolve homelessness.

Planning: Development of the planning policy framework to support inclusive growth and regeneration across Tameside and Greater Manchester through Places for Everyone (PfE) and the development of the Homes Spaces Places (HSP) local plan. This statutory policy framework assists the planning development management team to make recommendations and decisions on planning proposals, both at pre-application and application stages, negotiating infrastructure contributions on major development schemes and the planning function for the Council. The service also provides building control, including dangerous buildings, and land charges functions and hosts Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU) which provides statutory advice on ecology and nature conservation issues to local planning authorities.

Strategic Property: Provides Strategic Asset Management of the Council's Assets and Corporate estate to ensure it is appropriately occupied, compliant, fit for service delivery, and represents value for money. Leads on the delivery and implementation of the Council's Climate Change & Environment Strategy. Management of the Facilities Management contract. Enables regeneration through disposal of assets and delivers capital receipts as well as overseeing project management of both major construction and smaller scale capital projects. Provides a range of professional surveying services; including acquisitions & disposals and management of the Council's investment estate.

Appendix 9 Director of Place Budget Proposals

Service Area	Revenue Budget £
Community Safety & Homelessness	6,092,234
Cultural & Customer Services	3,351,513
Engineers, Highways & Traffic Management	5,052,222
Management & Operations	(1,534,790)
Operations & Neighbourhoods Management	157,864
Operations & Greenspace	5,257,237
Public Protection & Car Parks	117,910
Waste & Fleet Management	4,405,847
Development & Investment	681,911
Economy, Employment & Skills	953,228
Infrastructure	101,050
Planning	854,957
BS&PFI & Programme Delivery	0
Asset Management	416,820
Capital Programme	1,017,891
Corporate Landlord	6,581,749
Environmental Development	514,575
Estates	(837,755)
School Catering	(9,194)
Place Management	159,330
Strategic Property Management	116,718
Grand Total	33,451,317

Spend Analysis	Revenue Budget £
Expenditure	
Employees	28,648,385
Premises Related Expenditure	9,548,105
Transport Related Expenditure	5,778,420
Supplies and Services	37,440,161
Third Party Payments	6,292,764
Transfer Payments	2,185,030
Recharge Expenses	4,636,660
Capital Items & Reserve Movements	2,365,957
Expenditure Total	96,895,482
Income	
Recharge Income	(25,359,191)
Customer and Client Receipts	(15,907,734)
Government Grant Income	(18,109,070)
Other Grants Reimbursements and Contributions	(49,000)
Other Income	(3,413,470)
Interest Income	(605,700)
Income Total	(63,444,165)
Grand Total	33,451,317

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RESOURCES

Budget 2024/25



Purpose and Priorities

Information Technology underpins and supports the strategic objectives of the organisation and has a fundamental role to play in improving the resident's customer experience through accessible and digitally enabled contact channels. The use of automation and improved data flows will assist in streamlining business processes, enabling new delivery mechanisms and underpinning transformation change programmes. The service aims to provide pro-active advice and guidance, consistently high-quality support and training, fit for purpose equipment and solutions, high speed, resilient connectivity, robust and secure infrastructure, full disaster recovery facilities for on-premise hosted systems, high quality accessible websites and effective Cyber Security..

The **Financial Management** function is responsible for ensuring robust strategies and processes are implemented to support the financial resilience of the Council, as well as making arrangements for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs. The function undertakes and facilitates work on the Medium Term Financial Strategy, working closely with the wider Senior Leadership team to set a balanced budget for the year ahead and in the medium term. Within a Business Partnering approach across the Council, the function supports the financing and reporting of the Council's Capital Programme as well as the monthly budget monitoring process, to ensure transparency of the Council's financial position. In addition, supporting the Council to enable robust decision making with the provision of consistently high-quality financial advice, ensuring value for money is achieved. Working alongside Services, the team actively contributes to securing additional funds for the local authority such as through lobbying, identifying and supporting bids for additional income and delivering income generation proposals. The Service ensures compliance with legislation and guidance and produces the statutory Annual Accounts of the Council as well as setting the strategic approach to Treasury management, with updates to Leadership and Members at suitable intervals, and undertakes the Treasury management operations alongside cash and banking activities.

Exchequer Services administer and award Housing Benefit, on behalf of the Department of Work and Pensions, and also the local Council Tax Support scheme; both of which are subject to eligibility, are means tested, and support financially vulnerable residents in the Borough. The Service is also responsible for the administration, billing and collection of Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debt income owed to the Council. Exchequer Services also administers the internal and external mailing and corporate scanning function.

The **Assurance function** comprises internal audit, risk management, insurance, business continuity, counter fraud, and information governance, as well as management responsibility for the National Anti-Fraud Network (NAFN). The function is critical in enabling the Council to achieve its strategic and operational objectives by giving assurance and playing a key role in promoting good corporate governance. Internal Audit provides management and the Audit Panel/Greater Manchester Pension Fund Local Board with independent assurance of governance, risk management, and internal control arrangements, required under the Accounts & Audit Regulations, providing recommendations for continuous improvement (where identified). The Assurance function facilitates the Council's response to risk management, ensuring the provision of the framework for risk management, providing training, risk management workshops, facilitating the strategic risk management group, and co-ordination of the strategic and directorate risk registers. In relation to business continuity the function is responsible for the provision of the framework, providing training, and co-ordination of annual service business continuity plans. The Council's insurance team ensures adequate cover is placed for the organisation's insurable assets and liabilities, the day-to-day claims management (excluding highways claims) and risk management advice. In relation to Information Governance the function helps ensure staff compliance with the Information Governance framework and the UK GDPR, providing advice and training, investigating and responding to data breach incidents, reporting to the ICO (when required), supporting the data protection impact assessment process and facilitating the Information Governance Group. NAFN is a data and intelligence service hosted by Tameside, aimed at tackling fraud and crime nationally. Members can acquire data, intelligence, and knowledge to support their investigation, and NAFN provides critical communications to prevent fraud through intelligence it receives.

In addition, there are corporate budgets that are not directly attributable to service provision or enabling services. These include:

- Contingency - Inflation to be provided to services
- Contingency - Risk and unexpected items
- Levies payable to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for Waste and Transport
- Capital and financing costs including borrowing costs and provision for the repayment of debt used to fund capital investment in previous years.
- Investment interest on cash balances invested under the Treasury Management Strategy

Appendix 10 Director of Resources Budget Proposals

Service Area	Revenue Budget £
Digital Tameside	4,724,390
Financial Management	3,572,561
Exchequer	1,695,493
Assurance	1,954,124
Levies	31,795,580
Contingency (inflation to be allocated to services for pay and non-pay)	20,532,244
Contingency (risk and unexpected items)	9,015,530
Investment and Financing	624,000
Grand Total	73,913,922

Spend Analysis	Revenue Budget £
Expenditure	
Employees	10,499,845
Premises Related Expenditure	543,020
Transport Related Expenditure	302,190
Supplies and Services	36,124,215
Third Party Payments	32,054,585
Transfer Payments	55,743,000
Recharge Expenses	27,275
Capital Items & Reserve Movements	(2,233,510)
Capital Financing Costs	10,993,000
Expenditure Total	144,173,620
Income	
Recharge Income	(1,241,615)
Customer and Client Receipts	(2,860,580)
Government Grant Income	(57,232,260)
Other Income	(404,243)
Interest Income	(8,521,000)
Income Total	(70,259,698)
Grand Total	73,913,922

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Budget 2024/25

Appendix 11 Chief Executive's Office Budget Proposals

Purpose and Priorities

Responsibility for the Council's corporate functions sits within the Chief Executive's Office ensuring that all decisions made by the Council are carried out in accordance with the Council's governance framework.

The directorate provides business management, support and guidance to services within the Council on legal, human resources, improvement, democratic and policy and communications issues.

The internal support to frontline services ensures that they are able to deliver the aims of the Council's Corporate Plan. The delivery of the registrars and accounts payable services are also part of this directorate..

In addition there are corporate budgets that are not directly attributable to service provision or enabling services. These include :

- Cost of the Chief Executive's Office and Members Allowances
- Contributions to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Coroner's costs

Service Area	Revenue Budget £
Governance	4,330,623
Policy, Performance and Communications	1,626,017
People and Workforce Dev	2,806,913
Transformation	0
Corporate Costs	5,099,605
Grand Total	13,863,158

Spend Analysis	Revenue Budget £
Expenditure	
Employees	12,237,968
Premises Related Expenditure	16,450
Transport Related Expenditure	24,300
Supplies and Services	3,846,199
Third Party Payments	757,500
Recharge Expenses	43,315
Capital Items & Reserve Movements	(736,572)
Expenditure Total	16,189,160
Income	
Recharge Income	(1,177,254)
Customer and Client Receipts	(907,280)
Government Grant Income	(66,112)
Other Income	(175,356)
Income Total	(2,326,002)
Grand Total	13,863,158

APPENDIX 12 – DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2024/25

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Executive Member for Education, Achievement and Equalities and the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) are required to provide Council sign off to the decisions made by Schools' Forum at the meeting of 18 January 2024 in which the following decisions were made.
- 1.2 Members of the Schools' Forum approved the proposed Dedicated Schools Grant 2024/25 funding formula for mainstream schools. This is to continue with national funding formula rates, set the minimum funding guarantee at 0.5% and have no gains cap.
- 1.3 Members of the Schools' Forum approved the growth fund for 2024/25.
- 1.4 Members of the Schools' Forum approved the proposed transfer of 0.2% from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block further to the outcome of consultation.
- 1.5 Members of the Schools' Forum supported schools continued contribution to Tameside Safeguarding Board for 2024/25.
- 1.6 Members of the Schools' Forum approved the central retention of Early Years Funding.
- 1.7 Members of the Schools' Forum approved the allocation of the Central School Services Block which includes the central retention of the following:
 - School Admissions;
 - Servicing of Schools' Forum; and
 - contribution to responsibilities that LAs hold for all schools (the retained duties element of the ESG)
- 1.8 This appendix sets out information on the allocation of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2024/25.
 - Section 2 is a summary of the DSG settlement from the DfE/ESFA.
 - Section 3 provides details of the Schools Block and proposed funding formula for Mainstream Schools in Tameside in 2024/25.
 - Section 4 provides details of the High Needs Block.
 - Section 5 provides details of the Early Years Block.
 - Section 6 provides details of the Central School Service Block (CSSB).

2. PROVISIONAL DSG SETTLEMENT FOR 2024/25

- 2.1 The provisional DSG settlement for Tameside for 2024/25 of £283.251m was received on 19 December 2023, with accompanying essential data. All DSG funding must be deployed to schools and / or pupils in accordance with the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2023.
- 2.2 Table 1 provides the breakdown of the provisional settlement for the four blocks within the DSG announced in December 2023, compared with the 2023/24 latest settlement figures.

TABLE 1 – DSG Settlement as at December 2023

DSG Blocks	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Increase £m	% Increase
Schools Block (including Academies) *	207.967	213.636	5.669	3%
High Needs Block (before recoupment)	36.904	39.108	2.204	6%
Early Years Block **	19.051	20.774	1.724	9%
Early Years Block - New Extended Entitlements	-	8.384	8.384	100%
Central School Services Block (CSSB)	1.249	1.349	0.100	8%
Total Funding	265.170	283.251	18.081	

Note: the table above includes roundings

* The 2023/24 Schools Block figure includes the Mainstream Schools Additional Grant (MSAG) which has been rolled into the 2023/24 baselines. It should be noted Academy funding is recouped by the ESFA. The amount recouped by the ESFA is calculated using the formula set out in Section 3.

** The 2023/24 Early Years Block figure includes the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) which has been rolled into the DSG from 2024/25.

- 2.3 The Schools Block increase relates to an increase in DfE funding rates. Business Rates have increased and there has been an uplift for RPIX on PFI.
- 2.4 The High Needs increase relates to an increase in pupil numbers, updated with data from the January 2023 alternative provision (AP) census and October 2023 school census.
- 2.5 The Early Years Block is split into two lines in Table 1 to differentiate between the existing Early Years Block funding and the New Extended Entitlements that come into Place from April 2024. The increase in the existing funding relates to an increase in the DfE funding rates and there is new funding for new entitlements. Further information is provided in Section 5.
- 2.6 The CSSB increase relates to an increase in the DfE funding rate and further information is provided in Section 6.

3. SCHOOLS BLOCK

- 3.1 The Schools Block is the largest element of DSG funding which provides the majority of funding for Mainstream Schools and Academies, with additional elements potentially being allocated through the Early Years and High Needs blocks. The Schools Block settlement from the DfE is detailed in Table 2 below and is made up of the following funding:

Units of Funding

- A primary unit of funding (PUF) of £5,283.16
- A secondary unit of funding (SUF) of £6,850.70

These units of funding are based on 2023/24 pupil numbers and characteristics from the October 2022 census and make up the vast majority of the Schools Block.

This core school funding covers funding for all pupil and school led factors in the funding formula. The PUF and SUF are multiplied by the pupil numbers in reception to year 6 plus pupils aged 4 to 10 not assigned to a year group for primary and pupils in years 7 to 11, plus pupils aged 11 to 15, not assigned to a year group for secondary.

Premises Funding

- Business rates - these are included in the local authority (LA) allocation but will be top sliced from the DSG allocation and retained by the ESFA who will make payments directly to the LA as the billing authority on behalf of schools.
- PFI – this is uplifted by the previous April’s RPIX.

Growth Funding

- This is calculated using the difference between the primary and secondary numbers on roll on the October 2022 and October 2023 school censuses. The rates used to calculate the DfE allocated growth are as follows:
 - Primary Unit Rate - £1,558,78
 - Secondary Unit Rate - £2,333.15

TABLE 2 – Schools Block Settlement 2024/25 from DfE

Element of Funding	Schools Block £m
Primary Funding (20,022 Pupils)	105.779
Secondary Funding (14,974.50) Pupils)	102.586
Premises Funding	4.480
Growth Funding	0.790
Total	213.636

Proposed Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools

- 3.2 Tameside continues to use national funding formula rates (NFF) for the allocation of Schools Block funding. The rates used for each sector to allocate the funding to each individual school are included at **Appendix A**.
- 3.3 The PFI funding continues to be delegated to the relevant schools. The delegated figures are based on the historic factor funding and uplifted by RPIX of 10.4% which reflects the increase in the unitary charge paid for the delivery of PFI services. In 2022/23 the affordability of the contract was reviewed and resulted in a reduction to the PFI Affordability Factor of £0.263m. However, due to the significant inflationary increases over the last 12 months, the affordability has been reviewed again and requires this contribution to be reinstated at the inflated rate, resulting in £0.324m being added back into this factor. In 2024/25 the LA will continue to recover the full delegated PFI Affordability factor as in previous years.
- 3.4 Business Rates are funded to the equivalent value of the Business Rates charge for 2024/25. This funding is estimated and will be removed from Tameside’s allocations and retained by the DfE who will pay this directly to Tameside MBC (the billing authority) on behalf of all Tameside Schools and Academies.
- 3.5 In 2024/25 LAs are able to set the Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) between +0% and +0.5% per pupil. In the Schools Forum paper in November 2023 the proposals were to include a 0.5% MFG which is the rate at which MFG has been set.
- 3.6 The Gains Cap is a limiting factor which limits the gain in pupil led funding per pupil that a School receives. For 2024/25 there is no gains cap as per the proposal in the Schools Forum paper in November 2023.

Growth

- 3.7 There are 2 types of growth that are funded from the growth fund. Explicit Growth and Implicit Growth.
- Explicit growth relates to the specific growth fund and is allocated based on the growth criteria agreed by Schools Forum.

- Implicit growth relates to adjustments to pupil numbers when calculating the funding; in this case for new and growing schools.

- 3.8 The policy for accessing the growth fund was agreed by Schools Forum in June 2019 and continues to be the method for allocating explicit growth.
- 3.9 The estimated Growth Fund required in 2024/25 is £0.170m and detail of this is included in Table 3. There is no implicit growth in 2024/25 as the previous new schools now have all year groups occupied. The final growth allocation to schools will be based on actual numbers, which will be taken from the October 2024 census up to a maximum of the agreed growth pupil numbers.
- 3.10 The growth policy states where a school has agreed planned growth there should be a minimum of 5 or more pupils before growth funding is allocated, but a minimum level of funding of 15 pupils will funded to ensure that the school does not face financial difficulty. As the schools in Table 3 have agreed to take 10 additional pupils they will be funded for 15 pupils, if they take a minimum of 5 pupils. The agreed growth is what the LA require and therefore anything above 15 pupils will not be funded from the growth fund. The amounts included in Table 3 are based on 15 pupils.

TABLE 3 – Explicit Growth

School	£m	Pupil No. Increase Agreed
St Thomas More RC College	0.044	10
All Saints Catholic College	0.044	10
Audenshaw	0.044	10
Unallocated	0.038	
Total	0.170	

Transfer of School Block Funding to the High Needs Block

- 3.11 It was agreed at Schools Forum in November 23 that 0.5% could be transferred from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block if the proposed formula consulted on was affordable. As a result of changes in pupil characteristics in the October 2023 census, more funding is required to support the Additional Educational Needs Factors. Table 4 shows the change in deprivation factors, comparing the provisional funding based on the 2022 census dataset, and the revised figures following the October 2023 census dataset update. The total impact is an increase of £1.519m.

TABLE 4 - Variation in Deprivation Factors

Factors	2024/25 Pre Data Update	2024/25 Post Data Update	Variation
	£m	£m	£m
FSM	5.164	5.481	0.318
FSM6	11.502	11.983	0.481
IDACI	11.395	11.48	0.086
EAL	1.509	1.771	0.262
Low Prior Attainment	14.015	14.293	0.278
Mobility	0.192	0.286	0.094
Total Additional	43.777	45.295	1.519

- 3.12 Prior to the 2022/23 financial year, a review of the PFI schemes took place and as a result the PFI affordability factor element of the DSG was reduced to ensure a large surplus was not remaining at the end of the schemes life. Following the high inflationary environment of the past 24 months the financial sustainability of the scheme has significantly reduced and it is necessary to reverse the reduction in the PFI affordability factor. As a result the cost of the proposed formula has increased and it will not be possible to transfer 0.50%. In order to afford this proposed funding formula, the transfer from the Schools Block to the High Needs block has been reduced to 0.2%, £0.427m. This will add to the significant pressure on the High Needs block, as there was an assumption that the 0.5% transfer of £1.068m would be actioned. This equates to a reduction of £0.641m. As a result, mainstream schools will need to continue to support high needs pupils where possible.

De-Delegation - Contingency

- 3.13 The contingency budget has been established to support those schools facing a deficit budget position or to support the DSG against any future pressures where schools are closing or are forced to convert to academy leaving a deficit balance, as this would need to be funded from DSG. It should be noted that a deficit balance transfers to the Academy Trust where the transfer to Academy is through a convertor route, i.e. the School chooses via an Academy order to convert to an Academy. The balance remains a DSG issue where conversion is forced as part of a Sponsored Academy conversion route required by the Secretary of State.
- 3.14 Where a school is in deficit or facing deficit in the next financial year they will be subject to a review in line with the School Deficit process as outlined within the Scheme of Financing Schools. The LA will work very closely with the school and its Governors to manage the deficit and ensure action is taken to address it.
- 3.15 It is also anticipated that schools struggling to manage deficits, where financial issues are beyond the control or influence of the Head teacher, could apply. This would be in exceptional circumstances, and where significant action had already been taken to bring the financial position back into balance and where further cuts are likely to impact on the attainment of the pupils in the school.
- 3.16 Alongside this, support will be provided to schools closing with deficit balances to minimise the impact and potential pressure on the DSG.
- 3.17 The de-delegation rate for Contingency for 2024/25 remains at £5.81 per pupil. Agreement is sought from both the Primary and Secondary sectors to de-delegate in 2024/25. Should both sectors choose to contribute, based on the October 2023 census data, this would result in the following contribution to Contingency:

- Mainstream Primary Maintained Schools - £0.058m
- Mainstream Secondary Maintained Schools - £0.035m

3.18 There have been no requests made to the contingency fund during 2023/24. The fund will be carried forward into 2024/25 less any approvals that may be agreed before year-end.

3.19 The balances in contingency are as outlined in the Table 5.

TABLE 5 – Contingency Contributions

	Primary £m	Secondary £m	Total £m
Balance as 31.03.2023	0.067	0.133	0.200
2023/24 De-delegation		0.035	0.035
Total	0.067	0.168	0.235

School Improvement

3.20 The School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant ceased in the financial year 2022/23. Schools de-delegated funding in 2023/24 at a rate of £12.78 per pupil. For 2024/25 the de-delegation rate is £13.58.

3.21 Since 2018, the model of School Improvement activity in Tameside has not been limited to maintained schools, with Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and support being available to any school that may need it. The Council will liaise with academies and offer them the opportunity to buy into the School Improvement Service which will ensure that we retain the ability to support the whole sector and retain equity, which has proved so successful in Tameside over the last years.

3.22 All schools need to be part of the big picture. Tameside’s school improvement model is built on partnerships and relationships. It is collaborative and seeks to engage all schools in a variety of consultative and task and finish groups. Strategy and priority setting is based on full engagement with the Tameside Primary Consortium, Tameside Association of Secondary Headteachers and Special Schools Sector Partnership.

3.23 In the financial year 2023/24 the de-delegated funding of £0.220m has been fully utilised. It has funded the work of the Head of Education Improvement and Partnerships, including commissioning and brokering budgets for school improvement across all sectors of Tameside’s schools. This included, developing professional learning such as subject networks for both primary and secondary schools, transition, support for individual schools, and co-ordination of work on exclusion prevention with the Tameside PRU. In addition this de-delegation has provided authority wide IT systems such as Services for Schools and Six into Seven support sharing of information within and across sectors.

3.24 Education Improvement and Partnerships ensures cohesion across the school system in Tameside; facilitating working together responsibly between schools and with the local authority. The service provides an infrastructure for the school system, attracting partners and funding to the area, enabling opportunities to develop at a systemic level such as The Ogden Trust and University of Manchester Science partnership, the Education Endowment Foundation and Research School partnership, English and Maths Hubs, Mental Health Support Teams, BeeWell, transitions including Six into Seven, and Priority Area planning. This ensures that Tameside liaises and works with the 9 other GM local authority areas and with GMCA itself guaranteeing that Tameside’s schools have a voice and access to all GM wide projects.

- 3.25 The de-delegation supports the LA to meet needs before schools reach a critical point of failure. Monies are used to help support schools and prevent Tameside children from being at risk of attending a school that is less than good, long before being eligible for intervention. This may include commissioned improvement support from an academy trust, funded evidence-based approaches which address priorities agreed with the LA, liaison with the Department of Education on initiatives such as the Priority education Investment area (PEIA) and authority wide bids for funding from the Third sector.
- 3.26 In addition to supporting strategic and operational cohesion in the school system the de-delegation (which was the former School Monitoring and Brokering Grant) is also intended to support the LA with its school improvement statutory duties and powers of intervention which include:
- Ofsted engagement and liaison
 - Annual categorisation process of primary schools
 - Implementing Schools Causing Concern guidance
 - Brokering and monitoring school-led improvement partnerships e.g. schools at risk of becoming inadequate or double RI
 - Commissioning and facilitating support for RI, Inadequate and category 3 schools
 - Data collection, management, and support outside of the data SLA
 - Statutory monitoring of SATs/phonics screening and moderation at KS2 writing for primary schools.

Safeguarding

- 3.27 As in previous financial years Schools are expected to support safeguarding in the borough, by agreeing to make a contribution of £3.24 per pupil towards the cost of the TSCP (Tameside Safeguarding Children Partnership). All schools are asked to support the continuation of this arrangement in 2024/25. This equates to approximately £0.114m across all mainstream schools and £0.117m including special schools.

Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA)

- 3.28 Where schools have opted into this arrangement in 2023/24, the membership will continue on an ongoing basis. Should a school choose to opt out of the arrangement they would need to make their own risk protection arrangements. The cost of RPA for 2024/25 is £25 per pupil. The LA will continue to treat this in the same way as de-delegation items and recover the cost from the relevant schools on this basis as the DfE recover this funding from the DSG. It should be noted that nursery numbers are included to calculate the charge for the primary sector (where applicable).

4. HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

- 4.1 Following the funding announcements in the summer, the provisional high needs block settlement for 2024/25 has now been updated with the following:
- Increase in pupil numbers used to calculate the basic entitlement factor, based on data from the January 2023 alternative provision (AP) census and October 2023 school census
 - Update to the import/export adjustments following the outcomes of the place change exercise in November and queries from other LAs.
- 4.2 There will be a further update to the Import and Export adjustments to reflect cross border movement of pupils living in one borough and accessing provision in another (this will follow in June 2023 when January 2024 school census for Pre 16 and February 2024 R06 individualised Learner Record (ILR data) for Post 16 is available)

- 4.3 The revised settlement is shown in Table 6 and this shows Tameside is seeing an increase before academy recoupment of £2.204m, or 6%. This is the maximum like for like allocation increase which in 2024/25 is capped at 5% by the Government plus £0.357m due to an increase in pupil numbers in the special and Alternative Provision (AP) census data. However following these increases the funding available for 2024/25 remains significantly below current year expenditure, before any growth is factored in, which continues to contribute to the overall deficit on the DSG.

TABLE 6 - Updated High Needs Settlement 2024/25

High Needs Allocation	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	Increase £m	% Increase
Total high needs elements in the funding floor and gains calculation	35.134	39.511	4.377	12%
Less Gains Limit Factor	-2.988	-3.885	-0.897	30%
Basic Entitlement	3.981	4.338	0.357	9%
Total Formula Allocation	36.127	39.963	3.837	11%
Plus AP Funding Factor	0.192	0.195	0.003	2%
Less Import/export	-1.050	-1.050	0	0%
Supplementary Funding	1.636	0	-1.636	
Total Allocation (before Recoupment)	36.904	39.108	2.204	6%
Less Recoupment	-4.842	-5.252	-0.410	8%
Total Allocation (after Recoupment)	32.062	33.856	1.794	6%
Further Recoupment Adjust (place Change Sept 24)	0	-0.189	-0.189	
Total Funding	32.062	33.667	1.605	5%
2023/24 Forecast Expenditure	38.240	38.240		
High Needs Block Deficit (Surplus)	6.178	4.573		

Basic Entitlement	2023/24	2024/25	Difference
Increase in Numbers	847	923	76
Cash Value £	4,700.08	4,699.78	-0.30
Total Allocation £	3,980,968	4,337,897	356,929

Minimum Funding Guarantee

- 4.4 Local Authorities are required by the Dedicated Schools Grant conditions to set a minimum percentage by which the budget of any special school or academy would change from 2023/24 to 2024/25. The calculation must assume that all pupils in the school were placed by the home local authority and the type of places remain the same in the two financial years. In 2024/25 the range in which the percentage must be set is between 0% and 0.5%.

Additional Funding 3.4%

- 4.5 As a result of the 2022 autumn statement and announcement on additional school funding, LAs will be required to continue pass onto special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) a separate allocation equivalent to the additional funding allocation received in 2023/24.
- 4.6 These allocations will give special schools 3.4% of their total place and top-up funding and give PRUs 3.4% of their total income.

Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG)

- 4.7 LAs will continue to receive a separate grant allocation to cover the additional pay award for teachers that was received for September 2023 to March 2024. As in 2023/24 the funding will be passed onto eligible special schools and PRUs.

Teachers' Pension Grant

- 4.8 There will be a new grant in 2024/25 to reflect the additional costs of the increases in teachers' superannuation effective from April 2024. The rate is increasing from 23.68% to 28.68%. As with the TPAG, LAs will be required to pass the funding onto eligible special schools and PRUs, but with the difference that LAs will receive funding for pupils with Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) placed in independent schools.
- 4.9 The funding will be allocated on a flat rate but with the opportunity for LAs to take account of a school's actual teachers' pension costs, subject to local consultation. Further updates will be provided when the Government releases more details.

Historic Teachers Pay and Pension Grant

- 4.10 This existing grant will continue to be allocated separately to special schools and PRUs and should not be confused with the two new grants covered above.

High Needs Commissioned Places Sept 2024

- 4.11 The number of commissioned places agreed for September 2024 across all providers is shown in Tables 7a to 7d below.

TABLE 7a – Alternative Provision

Commissioned Places - AP	Sept 23	Sept 24	Difference
Tameside Pupil Referral Service	130	130	0

TABLE 7b – Special Schools

Commissioned Places - Special	Sept 23	Sept 24	Difference
Hawthorns	220	230	10
Thomas Ashton	100	100	0
Oakdale	160	162	2
Cromwell High	140	140	0
Samuel Laycock	230	230	0
Total Places	850	862	12

TABLE 7c – Resource Base Units

Commissioned Places - Resource Bases	Sept 23	Sept 24	Difference
Corrie	12	12	0
Dane Bank	10	10	0
Greenside	22	22	0
Linden Road	4	4	0
Oakfield	16	16	0
Rosehill	15	15	0
Russell Scott	5	3	-2
St James Ashton *Oct 24	10	10	0
Hyde High	5	5	0
St Thomas Moore	13	13	0
St John Fisher	12	12	0
Total Places	124	122	-2

TABLE 7d – Further Education

Commissioned Places - Post 16	Sept 23	Sept 24	Difference
Tameside College	80	80	0
Ashton Sixth Form	6	10	4
Total Places	86	90	4

5. EARLY YEARS BLOCK

- 5.1 Table 8 provides the current funding settlement for Early Years for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The settlement is based on the Schools, Early Years and Alternative Provision censuses data from January 2023. The 2023/24 information will be updated based on January 2024 census data.

TABLE 8 – Early Years Funding

Early Years Funding Streams	2023/24 Early Years Allocation at Nov 2023 £m	2024/25 Provisional Early Years Allocation £m	Increase / (Decrease) in Funding £m
3 & 4 Year Olds Universal Entitlement*	10.539	11.302	0.763
3 & 4 Year Olds Additional 15 Hours Entitlement for Eligible Working Parents*	5.205	5.581	0.377
2 Year Old Disadvantaged Entitlement*	2.927	3.466	0.539
2 Year Old Entitlement for Working Parents new entitlements	-	4.828	4.828
Under 2s Entitlement new entitlements	-	3.337	3.337
3 & 4 Year Olds Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP)*	0.243	0.257	0.014
2 Year Olds EYPP (new entitlements)	-	0.140	0.140
Under 2s EYPP (new entitlements)	-	0.007	0.007
3 & 4 Year Olds Disability Access Fund (DAF)*	0.137	0.168	0.032
2 Year Olds DAF (new entitlements)	-	0.065	0.065
Under 2s DAF (new entitlements)	-	0.007	0.007
Total	19.051	29.158	10.108

Note: the table above includes rounding's

* The 2023/24 Early Years Allocation includes the Early Years Supplementary Grant (EYSG) which has been rolled into the DSG from 2024/25. The EYSG covered the period September 2023 to March 2024.

- 5.2 For 2024/25 the government announced new early years entitlements for working parents. The new entitlements will be introduced in phases:
- From April 2024, all working parents of 2-year-olds can access 15 hours per week;
 - From September 2024, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years old can access 15 hours per week;
 - From September 2025, all working parents of children aged 9 months up to 3-years old can access 30 hours per week.
- 5.3 The rate the LA is funded on for 3 and 4 year olds has increased by £0.25 from the combined rates of £5.37 (£5.06 DSG and £0.31 EYSG) to £5.62.
- 5.4 The rate the LA is funded for 2 year olds has increased by £0.53 from a combined rate of £7.43 (£5.73 DSG and £1.70 EYSG) to £7.96. The funding received for both disadvantaged 2 year olds and the new entitlement for working parents of 2 year olds is the same rate.
- 5.5 The allocation rate for DAF has increased by £29 from a combined rate of £881 (£828 DSG and £53 EYSG) to £910. The allocation rate for EYPP has increased by £0.02 from a combined rate of £0.66 (£0.62 DSG and £0.04 EYSG) to £0.68 per hour per eligible pupil up to a maximum of 570 hours. Previously these allocations only related to 3 and 4 year olds but have now been extended to children 2 years old and under as part of the new entitlements.
- 5.6 The DfE has also extended local funding rules to the disadvantaged 2 year old entitlement and the new working parent entitlements meaning supplements can be added. There is also

an expectation that local authorities have special educational needs inclusion funds (SENIFs) for all children with special educational needs (SEN) eligible for or taking up the new and existing entitlements, regardless of the number of hours taken.

- 5.7 Consultation needs to be held with Early Years providers regarding the increased rates and new entitlements. Therefore, an additional Schools Forum meeting will be required to agree the rates of allocation for this element of funding. A report will be completed for this additional meeting proposed for 5 March 2024 with further information on the funding arrangements for the LA and for providers.
- 5.8 As part of the update of the new entitlements the DfE is extending the 95% pass-through requirement to the disadvantaged 2-year-old entitlement and the new working parent entitlements.
- 5.9 Approval is sought to centrally retain 5% (in line with the operational guidance) of 3 and 4 Year Old funding (£0.844m based on the current settlement) and up to 5% of funding for children 2 years old and under (0.582m based on the current settlement). This will continue to support the services set out below along with the additional administration requirements for the new entitlements:
- Early Education Funding Team – This fully supports the administration of Early Years funding, the annual costs associated with the Servelec IT system which is used to calculate and process the payments to Schools and Private, Voluntary and Independent providers.
 - Family Information Services – This supports an Information Officer. This post provides advice, guidance and information to families wishing to access Children’s services and was implemented to support the increased demands from the early years extended provision.
 - Early Years Quality Improvement Team – This currently supports the work of the Quality Officers, specialist SEND Quality Officers and a School Advisor for Early Years. Support is primarily in relation to: signposting and promoting the standard 15 hours offer and extended 30 hours offer; Ofsted regulations and standards; practice development and training; safeguarding; and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities related support. The focus of the team going forward is now weighted heavily towards SEND and language development.
 - SEN Team – funding support for an Early Years SEN Caseworker as specific support for SEN in early years.
 - Social Emotional and Mental Health service – funding support for an Early Year Coordinator as specific support in early years.
 - Sensory Support – funding support for a Hearing Impaired Teacher as specific support for Early Years.
 - Making it REAL (Raising Early Achievement in Literacy). This is aimed at supporting practitioners to build parents’ knowledge and confidence so that they can support their children with early language and reading and writing and create a positive early home learning environment.

6. CENTRAL SCHOOL SERVICES BLOCK (CSSB)

- 6.1 The Central School Services Block to fund statutory duties the LA undertakes for both maintained schools and academies. The CSSB brings together:
- Funding previously allocated through the retained duties element of the Education Services Grant (ESG)
 - Funding for ongoing central functions such as admissions which were previously top sliced from the schools block
 - Residual funding for historic commitments of which there are none for Tameside MBC.

- 6.2 The total allocation to the LA for 2024/25 is £1.349m. This is based on a per pupil element of £38.54 for ongoing duties (i.e. Admissions, Schools Forum, Copyright Licenses, former ESG duties).
- 6.3 National Copyright School Licenses are also funded from this block and the amount for 2024/25 is estimated to be £0.219m, based on an estimated 5% increase. The final cost will be confirmed by the DfE.
- 6.4 The DSG operational guidance for 2024/25 requires the LA to formally request Schools Forum approval for the central retention of funding for the following:
- School Admissions
 - Servicing of Schools Forum
 - Contribution to responsibilities that LAs hold for all schools (formally the retained duties element of the ESG)
- 6.5 The budgets for the above are still being worked on but the costs overall are currently estimated in excess of the £1.130m available. Schools' Forum is requested to approve this central budget.

7. OTHER FUNDING UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 2024/25

- 7.1 There are a number of other funding updates set out below.

Pupil Premium – New Rates

- 7.2 The new rates for 2024/25 were announced in December 2023.

Teachers Pay Additional Grant (TPAG)

LAs will continue to receive a separate grant allocation to cover the additional pay award for teachers that was received for September to March 2024. The grant will continue as a separate grant in 2024/25 and from 2025/26 will be rolled into the schools and high needs national funding formulae.

Teachers Pension Grant

- 7.3 As an outcome of the valuation of the Teachers Pension Scheme, the Government have announced superannuation rates for employers will increase from 23.68% to 28.68% in April 2024. The Government have stated additional funding will be made available to cover the increases in employer contributions in year.

Recovery Premium

- 7.4 The Recovery premium is part of the package of funding to support pupils whose education has been impacted by COVID-19. The funding was initially set over 3 academic years and with 2023/24 being the final year the funding will cease in August 2024.

National Tutoring Programme (NTP)

- 7.5 The NTP is a scheme that provides support to pupils affected by the disruption to their education as a result of COVID-19. The 2023/24 academic year is the fourth and final year of funding and funding allocations to schools will cease in August 2024.

PE & Sport

- 7.6 The Government has confirmed that the Primary PE & Sport Premium will continue in 2024/25 academic year. Updated guidance and conditions of grant have been published to steer schools towards the effective uses of the premium. To improve accountability the DfE plan to introduce a new digital tool that will be available in summer 2024 with an expectation for schools to trial its use at the end of 2023/24 academic year. From 2024/25 academic year completion of the digital tool will be mandatory.

APPENDIX A

Rates for the Mainstream Funding Formula	Rates for Primary Sector 2024/25 £	Rates for Secondary Sector 2024/25 £
Basic Entitlement (AWPU)		
Primary	3,562	
Secondary - KS3		5,022
Secondary - KS4		5,661
Deprivation		
FSM	490	490
FSM6	820	1,200
IDACI band F	235	340
IDACI band E	285	450
IDACI band D	445	630
IDACI band C	485	690
IDACI band B	515	740
IDACI band A	680	945
English as an Additional Language (EAL)	590	1,585
Low Prior Attainment	1,170	1,775
Mobility	960	1,380
Minimum per Pupil Funding Level	4,610	5,995
Lump Sum	134,400	134,400
Sparsity	57,100	83,000
Split Site - Lump Sum	53,700	53,700
Split Site - Distance	26,900	26,900

APPENDIX 13 - CORPORATE CHARGING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (The Council) has three main sources of income to support the delivery of its services: Government Grants, local taxation (Council Tax and Non-domestic rates) and fees and charges levied for services provided.
- 1.2 The Local Government Act 2003 gave local authorities the general power to charge for discretionary services which are not covered by any other legislation with the following restrictions:
- the income from charges for a service should not exceed the cost of providing that service (over a “reasonable” but unspecified period, e.g. 3 years);
 - the recipient of the service must have agreed to its provision and agreed to pay for it; and
 - different people and/or organisations may, where it is fair to do so, be charged different amounts.
- 1.3 The decision on whether to make a charge (and the amount to charge) is not always within the control of the Council, as some charges are set by central government. But where it is, it is important that the implications of the charging decisions being taken are fully understood and are being applied consistently.
- 1.4 Discretionary fees and charges represent an important source of revenue, providing finance for activity that is designed to achieve the Council’s objectives. However, there may be potential conflicts between raising additional income by increasing charges, and promoting access and usage of local services, particularly by vulnerable groups on low income. The appropriate fee structure will therefore depend on the overall intention for that service area as far as Council policy is concerned.
- 1.5 By setting charges at appropriate levels, the Council is exercising its stewardship role of public funds properly.
- 1.6 Where income is foregone, without good reason, the burden of funding will unfairly transfer to the taxpayer.**
- 1.7 A consistent and informed approach to charging across the different services of the Council will enable this conflict to be reconciled and managed in the interests of achieving the Council’s objectives. All discretionary charges will be covered by this policy.
- 1.8 All service departments will need to understand this policy document and ensure their processes and procedures are suitable to deliver the required outcomes for both the Council, residents within the Borough and customers.
- 1.9 Compliance with this Charging Policy is mandatory for all services, and compliance will be monitored by the officers responsible for the Council’s income and debt recovery (Financial Management and Exchequer).

2. POLICY OBJECTIVES

- 1.10 This policy sets out what the Council intends to achieve through the charges it makes and the criteria which it will use to determine the level of charge for individual services. The policy aims in particular to:
- Set out a broad framework within which to consider the setting and review of charges;
 - Ensure that the appropriateness of existing charges, both in terms of the extent of cost recovery and any wider contribution to Council objectives, is regularly reviewed;

- Identify opportunities to introduce new charges where cost-effective to do so and/or consistent with wider policy objectives;
- Strike a fair balance between addressing the financial needs of the Council through maximisation of income and the social needs of its customers;
- Promote consistency and fairness in the treatment of service users;
- Ensure officers are clear as to their responsibilities; and
- Ensure that charges reflect Council and service objectives, priorities and plans.

3. SCOPE OF POLICY

- 1.11 The Council relies on the generation and collection of income in order to deliver its services. The council raises income from statutory sources such as Council Tax and National Non Domestic Rates, but an increasingly significant contribution is made from the fees and charges that the Council makes for the delivery of its services. It is in the interest of all taxpayers and residents that the collection of income is undertaken in the most efficient way and that the amount of income uncollected is minimised.
- 1.12 This policy relates specifically to those areas where the Council has discretion in setting the level of fees and charges payable. It does not cover charges made under statute or determined by Government or other agencies, Council Tax, Business Rates, Housing Benefit overpayments or charges for Social Care (which are covered by the Council's Fairer Charging Policy for Social Care).

4. CORPORATE CHARGING POLICY – KEY PRINCIPLES

- 1.13 The corporate charging policy establishes the Council's key principles in relation to charging. These principles should be adhered to by all directorates, with any deviations from the charging principles set out requiring appropriate approval. Such principles are reflected in any local, service-based charging policies.
- 1.14 For some services, charges are mandatory, and the fee is set nationally, whilst for other services the Council is expressly prohibited from charging. Therefore, a basic assumption is that the Council will apply and collect statutory charges as appropriate and further consideration is therefore outside of the scope of this document.
- 1.15 This policy does not cover charging for Social Care – there are separate rules around this and the Council approach is covered in the Social Care Fairer Charging Policy.
- 1.16 The Corporate Charging Policy is designed to create a consistent approach to charging across Council services and each Director is responsible for ensuring the application of it:
- 1.17 When determining the level of charges to be levied for Council services, fees should be set so as to:
1. Contribute to the achievement of corporate and service objectives;
 2. Maximise potential income, to achieve financial objectives;
 3. Be capable of being justified, in comparison with other similar providers;
 4. Take account of the ability of different users to pay, through the use of discounts and concessions;
 5. Differentiate between differing levels of a service being provided e.g. faster turnaround;
 6. Take account of the views of and minimise the impact upon users, where new or significantly higher charges are proposed, and where this is possible;
 7. Maximise the ease of collection of charges and minimise the costs of collection;
 8. Be regularly reviewed on at least an annual basis, using the latest available market information, and revised where appropriate.
- 1.18 The rationale for each of these charging principles is set out in **Annex A**.

- 1.19 The standard principles that will be applied to all fees & charges set by the Council will be as follows:
- Fees & charges will be set to recover full cost unless there is an explicit policy decision to subsidise the service;
 - Where appropriate, payment will be sought in advance of the supply of goods or services using the most appropriate payment channels;
 - Customers will be encouraged to self-serve in both ordering and payment for goods or services;
 - Discounts and/or subsidies may be permitted and the basis for these will be explicitly set out;
 - The recovery of debts will take into account both ability to pay and the cost of recovery;
 - Benchmarking will be undertaken to ensure that the proposed level of fees & charges can be justified against other, similar providers;
 - Fees & charges will be subject to an annual review in accordance with the budget setting timetable, unless new or revised services are introduced;
 - The setting of fees & charges may take into account the ability of customers to pay and any relevant socio-economic factors;
 - Fees & charges will be subject to a local equalities impact assessment.
- 1.20 Where the setting of fees and charges deviates from these principles, a policy statement will be prepared, setting out the basis and reason for any such variations.
- 1.21 This Policy applies to the setting of fees and charges for Council services. All such fees and charges are subject to formal approval as part of the budget setting process. The policy does not apply to the setting of statutory charges, rents, service charges, charges for social care within the scope of the Fairer Charging Policy or other local taxation.

2 SETTING OF FEES AND CHARGES

- 5.1 Charges should be set using clear and transparent evidence and knowledge to support the level of charge. It may be appropriate to take into account some or all of the following (further considerations are set out in **Annex B**):
- Encouraging specific activities and use of certain services;
 - Discouraging some undesired activities;
 - Ensuring regulatory compliance;
 - Whether the Council wishes to act as a supplier of last resort;
 - Contributing to long-term sustainability of some activities or services;
 - Local market factors;
 - Consideration of charges for similar services raised by other local authorities or private sector competitors;
 - Whether in some cases reduced charges should be available to some groups to promote inclusion;
 - Whether discounts (for example age related charges) or promotion (for example seasonal charges) will be offered;
 - Whether scope exists to increase take-up through more effective marketing and publicity and the form that this might take.
- 5.2 The Council's fees and charges fall into 5 main categories:
- Charges set by statute law which are fully outside the Council's control;

- Charges set by statute law where the amount charged has to be within certain parameters;
- Charges that are applied by partners managing Council owned buildings and other assets;
- Services commissioned by the Council, where the Council may wish to exercise some control over these charges;
- Charges that are fully within the Council's control in determining the amount that should be charged.

5.3 The first step is to decide whether the Council should provide the service. Many of the services the Council charges for are required by statute. However, others are discretionary and consideration should be given to whether providing the service is the best way of meeting the Council's objectives, especially if the Council will not recover its costs.

5.4 Additional services may be provided where the Council has the discretion to charge for them, although equally, the Council may choose to provide services at no charge to some or all potential service users. The risk to the Council of making a loss must be considered when deciding whether the service should be provided.

5.5 The setting of each charge should be documented showing the rationale behind the level of each charge ensuring that the Council's charges reflect the Council's priorities and policies. In determining the charges, officers must abide by the Council's principles of decision making and take into account any appropriate legislative requirements.

5.6 Although the practice of charging for some discretionary services is well established, the Local Government Act 2003 includes an additional general power for authorities to charge for discretionary services and further guidance on the principles to be applied was issued in 2003. These principles require that taking one year with another, income from charges should not exceed the costs of service provision and charges may be set differently, such that different customers may be charged different amounts.

5.7 In accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 charges may recover costs; however charges may be set below full costs where:

- This is part of an approach to service delivery agreed with Members, such as where the use of a service by individuals or groups benefits the whole community e.g. health benefits; community activities;
- Full cost charges might have a detrimental effect on other Council services;
- A nominal charge only is considered appropriate so as not to discourage access but at the same time to discourage frivolous demands for a service;
- The application of economic charges would have a detrimental effect on a Council policy.

3 CHARGING FRAMEWORK

3.1 There are many elements to be considered when deciding whether to charge for a service and what the level of that charge should be. While decisions on the precise level and scope of charges are devolved to individual services, these need to be made within a corporate framework to maximise the contribution to overall Council objectives. At each stage, documented evidence must be retained to demonstrate the decision making process and rationale for charges. The following steps should be considered and documented (further guidance is included in **Annex C**):

- 1) Determine which services are / should be charged for;
- 2) Identify the objective of charging;

- 3) Consider the costs of service provision;
- 4) Consider information on service users;
- 5) Consider the Charging options available to deliver the objective;
- 6) Assess the impact;
- 7) Forecast demand and potential income;
- 8) Set the charge;
- 9) Monitor and review charges and their impact.

7 ADMINISTRATION OF CHARGES

- 3.2 The basic principles for administering fees and charges are:
- Charges should be simple to understand and administer;
 - Charges should be well promoted so that service users can clearly understand the charging structure and methods of payment before they become liable to pay;
 - Where possible methods of payment should be flexible, convenient and take into account the needs of disadvantaged/vulnerable groups in the community; wherever possible online payment should be encouraged;
 - Where possible and practicable payment should be made prior to the service being received or at the point of delivery;
 - Documentation should be retained to substantiate that the customer accepted liability of the charge to support any debt recovery action required should payment not be received.
- 7.2 The Council has a legal and fiduciary duty to all residents, and to businesses and other organisations that are active in the Borough, to ensure the prompt and cost effective billing, collection and recovery of all sums due to the Council. Delays in collection or non-recovery of debts can lead to higher administrative costs, and reduced resources available for the provision of essential services.

8. REVIEW OF CHARGES

- 8.1 The responsibility for the periodic reviewing of fees and charges falls within the scope of this policy and rests with the Director under the Council's scheme of delegation to officers. However it is essential that officers have regard to the general principles on exercising delegated powers set out in the Council's Constitution as follows:
- When exercising delegated powers an officer shall always have regard to the requirements of the Constitution, the financial, legal and human resource implications of the decision and shall consult with staff in another service area if the decision is likely to impact on the work of that service area.
 - Officers do not have to use their delegated powers: they can ask the body or person that delegated them to decide.
- 8.2 Officers must also have regard to what may constitute a Key Decision and act in accordance with the requirements set out in the Council's Constitution for taking Key Decisions. In the case of changes to fees and charges, a decision will be a Key Decision if its effect is to produce a net increase or decrease in income to the Council of £30,000 or more or would be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the Borough.

- 8.3 Where a proposal exists to introduce a new discretionary service under the terms of the Local Government Act 2003 or to establish a new 'trading activity', then this should be a matter for consideration by the Cabinet in the first instance. In addition, where a proposal exists to introduce charges for an existing discretionary service or to remove discounts which currently exist officers should consider on a case by case basis, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Lead Member, whether it is appropriate that the decision to do so should be made by the Cabinet rather than by officers under delegated powers.
- 8.4 None of the above is intended to compromise or conflict with any other specific officer delegation in respect of fees and charges set out within the scheme of delegations to specific officers.
- 8.5 An annual review will usually take place as part of the annual budgeting process but should not preclude a process of continuous monitoring and review. Where there is a strong case for amendment of charges in-year the Director should consult with the appropriate Lead Member prior to making any required changes. The timing of the review should take into account known or predicted changes in government legislation or guidance.
- 8.6 It is considered good practice, where possible, that a minimum of one month's notice should be given to service users before any new or revised charges are implemented.
- 8.7 The Council's charges will be reviewed regularly to ensure that they are fit for purpose, continue to contribute to the furtherance of its objectives and, where set to recover costs, continue to do so. Reviews will consider the following factors, plus any others relevant to particular charges:
- The income which is being collected at current charging levels and whether this is in line with budget forecasts;
 - The cost of service provision compared to the charges being made;
 - Whether a service being provided on the basis of charges being set to recover costs should continue to be provided in cases where costs appear likely to exceed the income which it can reasonably be expected to generate. This will especially apply where there is at least one alternative service provider, particularly from within the private sector;
 - The use being made of the service, both in absolute terms and by reference to classes of users and whether this shows all classes are using the service to the extent intended or if any are being deterred from using the service;
 - Are concessions being taken up by the people at whom they are targeted?
 - What is the impact, intended or unintended, of charges on local people?
 - In cases where charges are set to either encourage or deter activity, whether this is happening and the extent to which it is happening.
 - Whether any related benefits from the charging policy being deployed are being realised and the extent of realisation.
 - Comparisons with charges being made by neighbouring or similar councils or by other organisations providing similar services both as to the level of charges and the impact which charges have on changing behaviour

ANNEX A – CORPORATE CHARGING PRINCIPLES (Section 4)

There are 8 corporate charging principles which should be referred to when setting fees and charges. The following sections consider the interpretation of each of these principles in turn and provide a conclusion on management actions required to demonstrate each principle has been fully considered.

1) Contribute to the achievement of corporate and service objectives

- 1.1 Charges are clearly not an end in themselves, but should be used as a means to contribute towards the achievement of specific corporate and service objectives. Managers should therefore be able to identify whether or not a service can legally be charged for and, if so, clearly articulate how, through charging for the service and in the level and application of the charge, they are contributing towards these objectives.
- 1.2 There will be instances where charging is prohibited or restricted; however, even under such statutory frameworks, it is still good practice to make the link between the level of service provided e.g. basic, enhanced, and the policy objective being addressed.
- 1.3 A summary of the types of financial policy for charging that may be adopted and the policy objective that it is primarily intended to achieve has been summarised in the table below.

Charging Policy	Cost recovery methodology
Fair Charging	The Council seeks to maximise income, but subject to a defined policy constraint. This could include a commitment made to potential customers on an appropriate fee structure e.g. charges for car parking, hire of council premises. Alternatively, a full commercial rate may not be determinable or the Council may be a monopoly supplier of services.
Full Cost Recovery	The charges are set with the aim of recovering the full direct cost of the service, including a contribution to service and corporate overheads. Discounts may be available to particular groups of service users to ensure that disadvantaged or other groups have access to the service.
Subsidised	Users make a contribution to the costs of providing it but charges are not set to recover all costs in full. This might be to meet a service objective or allow competition with other providers. There may be a statutory element to the service and charges may relate only to the additional 'non-statutory' element of the service.
Nominal	The Council wishes the service to be fully available, but sets a charge to discourage frivolous usage e.g. fines for late returns of library items.
Free	The Council may choose to make the service available at no charge to the meet a service

	objective. The cost of the service will therefore be met by all local tax payers.
Statutory	Charges are determined in line with statutory requirements and directions.
Statutory Constraints	Charges are set within a national legal framework within which there is some, but not complete, discretion over the level of the charge.
Charges not permitted	Charges cannot be levied for statutory reasons e.g. core education services in schools.

Conclusion - Charging Principle 1

For each service area, the manager responsible for the service should summarise the legal basis, financial policy for charging, and relevant policy and service objective(s), to ensure that charges are in line with these objectives and that there is clarity over the purpose of the charge.

2) Maximise potential income, to achieve financial objectives, unless there is an explicit policy decision to subsidise the service

- 2.1 There will clearly be a need for charges to contribute towards the achievement of financial objectives, particularly in the context of the current financial climate (assuming that these do not conflict with the overall policy framework). If the legal powers exist to charge, managers will need to justify the reasons for any instances where charges are not being made or full cost recovery is not being sought
- 2.2 Generating/maximising income not only has financial benefits, but can also allow the service to develop capacity, deliver efficiency and sustain continuous service improvement. The example financial policies for charging/constraints set out in the table above should assist in identifying what financial objective is intended to be achieved from the charge and, as can be seen, there will be a range of circumstances where it is not appropriate to maximise potential income.
- 2.3 However, the key issue for the Council in financial terms is to ensure that managers do not inadvertently provide a subsidised service where there is no explicit policy objective to do so. This could take place for a number of reasons, such as:
- Not taking account of the full costs of service provision e.g. capital costs, overheads/recharges, costs of collection, as well as direct costs of provision
 - Simply rolling forward historic charges by inflation annually and not taking account of the increased costs of service provision e.g. where fuel costs increase significantly above inflation
 - Charging the same amount for different types of service user e.g. a commercial operator and a member of the public
 - Instances where the charge is set inappropriately low, resulting in over-use or abuse of the service
- 2.4 For charges to be set at an appropriate level, therefore, this will require managers to have a robust understanding of the full range of costs associated with the provision of the service.
- 2.5 In addition, when setting charges, managers will need to be aware of the relationship between the level of charge and the potential impact upon demand, in terms of optimum price sensitivity e.g. as a higher charge may not necessarily maximise total income, if usage decreases disproportionately.
- 2.6 The Council's agreed charges should be viewed as a maximum charge; but managers should have the flexibility to introduce "one off" discounted charges if they believe this will generate more overall income in the longer term. This approach, if it is to be adopted, should be set out and justified in the annual policy statement.

- 2.7 In certain service areas it may be appropriate and advantageous to identify a range of charges to maximise potential income, for example in relation to private and commercial hires. This should be set out and justified in the annual policy statement.

Conclusion - Charging Principle 2

The default position is that a charge should be made where legally permitted, any charge should take account of the full direct and indirect costs of service provision and is set at a level so as to maximise income, taking account of price against demand. This will also include setting charges at maximum levels/cost recovery where statutory constraints apply. Where there is an explicit policy objective to subsidise the service, and therefore to deviate from this principle, this reason should be clearly set out, together with the financial consequences of the subsidy, where identifiable.

3) Be capable of being justified, in comparison with other similar providers

- 3.1 Clearly, where Councils have discretion over the level of their charges, they are free to exercise local political and service choice, taking into account factors such as the type and quantity of chargeable services that they provide and therefore the level of charges and associated subsidy.
- 3.2 Charges often vary considerably, even between similar authorities, and there may be reasons why charges may vary in this manner e.g. the use of alternative models of service provision. However, there are equally areas for which authorities are unable to explain why their service charges (or even expenditure as a whole) differ so widely from other, similar providers and where they may not even be aware of such differences in the first instance.
- 3.3 There is therefore a need to compare charges, both with other authorities and with private sector providers, where there is an external market, and understand reasons for any differences. Such differences are not necessarily a cause for concern e.g. higher charges may have been levied as a result of a deliberate policy to provide a higher level of service, to seek to discourage excessive use etc., but should be capable of being validated.

Conclusion - Charging Principle 3

Where it is available, benchmarking information should be used by managers to compare their charges against other, similar authorities and private sector providers when setting charges annually. Where charges differ significantly from other such comparators, managers should be aware of and be able to explain the main reasons for such differences.

4) Take account of the ability of different users to pay, through the use of discounts and concessions

- 4.1 As identified previously, there will be a number of instances where it is appropriate for charges to be subsidised for different types of users. These could include, for example:
- To achieve a specific policy objective e.g. encouraging healthy living through subsidised use of leisure facilities
 - Structuring charges differently e.g. a lower rate per hour for car parking at off-peak times, to ration service use at peak times when demand exceeds supply
 - Where users have limited financial means e.g. as measured by receipt of certain types of benefit and/or reduced rates for children and older people
 - To encourage the use of a service by specific groups where take-up is underrepresented e.g. ethnic minorities, disabled people
 - Applying concessions for certain types of users e.g. free parking for local residents,
 - Discounts linked to loyalty/take-up of the service e.g. for frequent users
- 4.2 The Council may have a corporate policy on service user groups which receive subsidised access to all (or many) services e.g. children's and older people's

discounts. For certain services, such as social care, eligibility criteria for services will also be clearly established. In other cases, there may be a specific area where take-up is particularly low amongst certain groups and a service therefore wishes to increase use, e.g. hire of leisure centre halls by clubs encouraging participation from minority groups.

4.3 Key factors that the Council will need to take into account when considering the use of eligibility criteria/discounts/concessions include:

- The link between the discount/concession and the policy/service objective that the charge is intended to contribute towards
- The link between the discount/concession and the Council's diversity/equalities policies
- Whether a generic concession should be applied for all services e.g. those in receipt of means-tested benefits, or whether the concession should be targeted towards a specific user group, depending upon individual service issues
- How the discount/concession will be funded e.g. from other users of the same service, from Council Taxpayers more widely, and the financial implications of the subsidy
- The need to review the degree to which eligibility criteria/discounts/concessions remain appropriate over time e.g. as take-up increases by a previously under-represented group
- Minimising the burden upon those applying for discounts/concessions e.g. ensuring that they do not have to provide duplicate information to more than one Council directorate
- The link between take-up of benefits and maximising overall Council resources e.g. where benefit take-up contributes towards funding received from central government
- Whether the concession or discount is funded through cross subsidy by other service users through higher charges or whether it is funded corporately.

Conclusion - Charging Principle 4

Managers should:

- *Identify the nature of discounts/concessions that are in place for services where charges are made*
- *Identify the types of users intended to benefit in terms of the link between discounts/concessions and policy/service objectives*
- *Identify the level of subsidy provided/cost of the discount*
- *Review discounts/concessions to ensure that they remain appropriate.*

5) Differentiate between differing levels of a service being provided e.g. faster turnaround

5.1 Where the Council has discretion over the level of charge and also the level of service provided, it is important that the charge reflects the degree of usage of service resources and value added.

5.2 For example, charges for providing birth certificates where these are needed for a passport application may differ between the basic fee and the fee for a quicker return. Whilst the same level of staffing resources may be required for both, the service user is receiving higher added value under the latter option and therefore pays a premium for the service.

Conclusion - Charging Principle 5

Charges set should be differentiated so as to fairly reflect the differing demand placed upon service resources and the value provided to the service user.

6) Take account of the views of and minimise the impact upon users, where new or

significantly higher charges are proposed, and where this is possible

- 6.1 Where the Council is operating in a competitive environment, users have the freedom to use alternative providers if similar services are provided at lower cost. Consultation is most important, however, where the Council is in a monopoly position and needs to provide equity to service users.
- 6.2 Where charges are being regularly reviewed, there will be instances where the review identifies that higher service charges are required e.g. to take account of higher service costs. This may be even more of an issue where service charges have not been reviewed for some time, and have not therefore kept pace with increasing costs.
- 6.3 It is important that the impact upon service users of any proposed changes to charges is identified, both from an individual perspective e.g. affecting their ability to pay/use the service, and also from a Council-wide perspective e.g. affecting the extent to which policy objectives will now be achieved and the potential demand for, and therefore the level of income received for, the service.
- 6.4 This will be assisted by an understanding of the impact of previous changes in charges on levels of service use for different groups of service users; although, as such information may not be readily available, it will be important that this is collected in future, whenever such changes are made. In addition, consultations on services (and on Council finances more generally) should take account of user views on levels of charges and the perceived value for money received.

Conclusion - Charging Principle 6

Any significant proposed changes to charges should be consulted upon with key service users and groups. Managers should seek to ensure that they are aware of the potential impact upon differing service users of changes to charges, considering whether any such changes to pricing policies could potentially be phased in over time, if possible, where the impact is high.

7) Maximise the ease of collection of charges and minimise the costs of collection

- 7.1 The efficient collection of charges clearly has significant benefits in terms of minimising potential arrears levels i.e. the easier that it is made for charges to be paid, the more likely that payment will be made in practice.
- 7.2 In terms of administering charges, there are a number of areas which should be explicitly considered:
 - Service charges and the way in which they will be paid /collected should be transparent to users
 - The costs of collection should be taken into account against the actual level of income being collected
 - A range of alternative payment methods e.g. format, frequency, venues, should be offered to users, with potential incentives being considered for the most efficient payment methods e.g. electronic payment
 - Procedures for the collection of arrears and write-off of debts should be clearly set out and consistently followed for all service users
 - Where arrears have built up, this information should be reported to managers responsible for providing the service, in order that they are aware of service users experiencing difficulties in paying for the service or who are refusing to pay for the service

Conclusion - Charging Principle 7

Charges should be administered so as to maximise the ease of collection of charges and minimise the costs of collection, considering both the Council and service user perspective, in order to optimise the likelihood of payment.

8) Be reviewed on at least an annual basis, using the latest available market information, and revised where appropriate

- 8.1 As identified previously, service charges should be contributing to the achievement of defined policy, service and financial objectives and it is therefore vital that charges (and eligibility criteria/discounts/concessions) are reviewed on at least an annual basis to ensure that this continues to be the case.
- 8.2 The Council approves a schedule of fees & charges annually as part of its budget-setting process. As part of this process, managers should take into account any intelligence gathered on costs, demand and market intelligence. Reviews may take place outside this timetable, although these would generally be on an exceptional basis, unless new services are being introduced.
- 8.3 It is important that areas not currently charged for (but which could potentially be) are also considered. In terms of scope, all external charges should be considered, and it may also be appropriate to include charges made through external SLAs e.g. to schools.
- 8.4 For such review to be effective, managers will need to take into account relevant market information e.g. changes in legislation, patterns of service use, benchmarking data, price sensitivity, opportunities to introduce or extend charges etc.
- 8.5 This need not necessarily be a highly detailed exercise, but managers should at least be certain that charges are achieving their intended objective(s) and have been set appropriately. If this is not the case, clearly managers will need to amend charges accordingly e.g. increasing charges if the costs of provision have increased or amending discount/concession schemes if they are no longer relevant.

Conclusion - Charging Principle 8

Managers must review all charges for which they are responsible on at least an annual basis as part of the budget process and confirm that charges have been reviewed on a systematic basis. Heads of Service should ensure that their service area has completed an annual policy statement on charging, to be signed off by the relevant Lead Cabinet Member, prior to the completion of the Council's annual budget setting process.

ANNEX B – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN SETTING CHARGES (Section 5)

The cost of providing the service:

- All direct costs are to be included.
- All overheads related to the provision of the service, which may be attributed to the cost of the service, are to be included.
- Best estimates may be made of costs where it is not practical to obtain precise data or identify precisely those overheads attributable to the service.
- Unit costs are to be calculated by reference to realistic user numbers based on actual experience, either in relation to this Council or, if appropriate comparable services elsewhere.

How much income is it desired to generate and why?

- Is the service providing a subsidy or aiming for break-even?
- Does income from the service make a significant contribution to reducing the net amount of the Council's revenue budget?
- Have any targets been set for the income or class of income of which it is a component?
- Is income needed to fund future investment?

Comparison of charges made by neighbouring or similar councils or other providers of similar services

- In making this comparison it will be necessary to establish whether the services being provided by these other bodies are comparable to those provided by the Council and to make adjustments where this is not so.
- Is there a logical reason for significant differences between this Council's charges and those of others?
- Will customers be lost to other service providers if charges are set too high? Will that result in a greater loss of income overall?

Whose use of services is it desired to subsidise and by how much?

- Can all potential users afford to pay the full cost of the service or the same charges as other users?
- Is it desirable to subsidise all users of the service, for example because there is likely to be a desirable outcome for the community as a result
- Are there particular classes of users that should be subsidised, such as the unemployed, benefits recipients, the elderly, disabled persons or children?
- Should subsidies be given by reducing the charges payable or by offering concessions to offset the charge?

Whose behaviour is it desired to influence and in what ways?

- Is it desirable to influence users to use particular facilities, for example where they are under-used, by charging less for their use than for other similar ones?
- Is it desirable to persuade users to behave in a way which is more acceptable to the community in preference to any other or others less acceptable and can this be promoted by setting charges at a level which might achieve this?
- Is it desired to promote a particular pattern of use, for example short stay parking as opposed to another, such as long stay parking or to discourage peak time use of facilities?
- Should some behaviour or activities be discouraged by setting high charges or penalties?
- Can anti-social behaviour be reduced by charging for services which discourage people from behaving irresponsibly at a level which they will find attractive, for example charges for the collection of bulky waste to discourage fly-tipping?

- Are there desirable outcomes which the Council wishes to see realised, in line with its corporate objectives, which could be assisted through the charging regime, for example maintaining the economic vitality of the town centres through the provision of reasonably priced facilities such as car parking?

How will charges help to improve value for money, equity and access to services?

- What are users' perceptions with regard to what constitutes a fair and reasonable charge?
- Are there any issues relating to social inclusion or equalities?

Will the cost (including staff time) of collecting the income due outweigh the amount of income likely to be collected?

- Is it worth making a charge?
- Should a charge be made anyway as a matter of principle?

Any other relevant factors

It will be a matter for the Council to determine what the charge will be, based on its consideration of the above factors.

ANNEX C – FRAMEWORK FOR SETTING CHARGES (Section 6)

Determine which services are / should be charged for

- The requirement to charge for a service, and what level that charge should be set at, is in some cases set in statute. Similarly, there are some services which cannot by law be charged for. When reviewing charges for a service, any legislation relating to the service must be considered, as it may rule out the need for any further work in setting or revising charges.
- Aside from those charges influenced by legislation or delivered to the majority of Council citizens, charges could, in theory, be set for all discretionary services provided by a local authority.

Identify the objective of charging

- Of the discretionary services, there may be existing charges set for the service(s) in question. If there are not, that does not mean that introducing a charge should be disregarded. Priorities for a service may have changed since charges for it were last considered and identifying what the current and future priorities are, and how charging can be used to contribute to the delivery of these wider service priorities, is paramount when setting charges.
- The objective of a charge may be more straightforward than this. A service which is being run at a loss could introduce or increase a charge to ensure that all costs are recovered. This can then mean resources are freed up to expand a service or can be reinvested elsewhere to improve service delivery. This could also be the case where the Council wishes to reduce the level of subsidy awarded to a service.
- Another potential charging objective could be to rationalise the use of a service, if there are more effective alternatives. The introduction of a nominal fee could be used to manage demand on the service. In addition, the introduction of a charge would mean that costs of delivering the service to those customers who still requested it would be partly met.
- It is essential that the reason for introducing the charge is clear. This will help when determining the level of the charge, and in advising service users of the rationale behind charging decisions.

Consider the costs of service provision

- Depending on the objective of charging, the costs for delivering a service will have to be considered. While it would be best practice for services to know the accurate recharge rate / unit cost for all the services they delivered, this is sometimes not the case. Where cost information cannot be clearly established, services wishing to recover costs will have to take into account the total cost of all inputs and break this back into a unit charge.
- The cost of collecting income for a service should also be identified, including, for example, an invoice having to be raised and sent to the customer. If it later transpires that demand for the service is below a certain point, it may not be cost-effective to levy a fee if the income generated is lower than the associated administrative cost. While the Council does not currently have a specific policy on a minimum invoice value, payment in advance, or at the point of delivery, should be used wherever practicable.

Consider information on service users

- The following questions need to be considered when determining charges for a service however each charge may have discrete issues which will also require consideration. Generic questions include:
 - Who are the service users?
 - How often is the service used?
 - When (days and times of day) is the service used? When is there excess demand for the service? When is there excess supply of the service?

- How have increases to an existing charge, the introduction of charging for a similar service, or the introduction of a charge by other councils or organisations for the same service affected customer demand for a service in the past?
 - How much do residents / businesses value the service and how much would they be willing to pay for it?
 - Are there other providers of the same or similar services which users could switch to?
- Where demand for services provided on a discretionary basis is very low, the provision of that service should be reviewed to establish if it is meeting the objective(s) for which it was introduced. Should a review find that an adjustment to, or cessation of, a service be recommended, the appropriate Member approval would be required.

Consider Charging options

- There may be several charging options available to deliver the same objective. The fees for the use of a service at busy times could be increased to discourage use at those times. Concessionary discounts could be applied to encourage particular groups of customers to use a service to achieve social objectives or provide equity of access.
- There are three broad pricing structures which can be applied either individually or in some combination when setting charges. These are: cost-based pricing, competition-based pricing and demand-based pricing. It is acknowledged, however, that there may be social pricing implications where community benefit may offset some of the actual costs – this is particularly relevant to high-cost services with people-centred outcomes.
- The basics of cost-based pricing were outlined in 2.3. Given the difficulties associated with identifying the unit cost of some services, charging in terms of units of input, rather than units of measured output, could be considered. Where an accurate unit cost is available, however, charges could be set according to output.
- Competition-based pricing involves benchmarking other providers' prices as a guide for setting the service's charge. It may not necessarily mean setting charges at an identical level to other organisations providing the same service, but rather that charges are set at a level which takes account of market conditions, comparisons with private providers of the same service or with an appropriate range of local authorities. The objective of the charge will again have some bearing on the level of charges being considered, as will the quality of the service being offered in comparison to that of other providers. The Best Value option will consider all of these elements.
- Setting charging levels based on demand for a service is largely concerned with the extent to which customers value a service and what they perceive to be value for money with regard to that service. Where a service is over-subscribed at certain times of the day or the week, while at other times there is excess supply (i.e. less demand than capacity available), and particularly where price is the central concern to potential or existing service users, introducing an off-peak discount, such as mid-week or day-time, should increase the demand for the service at that time and potentially divert some of the demand from the busier times.
- Once all potential options for charging have been identified, they should be appraised against a set of criteria which reflect the objective of the charging to determine which would achieve the desired outcome, bearing in mind the potential impact of charging on groups of customers.

Assess the impact

- The Equality Act 2010 sets out a general public sector equality duty which requires public authorities to pay due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination; advance equality; and foster good relations across a range of protected characteristics. These requirements apply across the 'protected characteristics' of age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief; sex and sexual orientation. To ensure that the proposed charges will not have a detrimental effect on any particular individuals or groups, the service should carry out an Integrated Impact Assessment.
- If the assessment identifies that any adverse impact amounts to unlawful discrimination, the relevant provisions must be removed. The Council may consider taking action to address any other issues identified, wherever possible mitigating any negative impacts, and promoting and/or maximising positive benefits. It is important that this consideration is recorded as evidence that due regard has been paid to the general duty. In relation to disabled people this should include considering steps to take account of disability and it will not be unlawful if this results in more favourable treatment of disabled people. It is also important to recognise the cumulative impact of changes affecting particular user groups in any such assessment.
- The sustainability impact of any charging decisions must also be considered. Any potential social, environmental or economic impact that the introduction of a charge, or change to an existing charge, may have must be identified and any subsequent decisions must ensure that any negative or unfair impact is mitigated or removed. In instances where a negative impact is the objective of charging, e.g. a charging objective designed to reduce demand, this must be identified and managed through mitigating action where possible.

Forecast demand and potential income

- Depending on the objective of the proposed charge, the demand for the service and subsequent income received must be estimated to ensure charges will have the desired effect.
- Through having accurate and up-to-date user information, future demand and income can be more effectively forecast. For services which customers value highly, their sensitivity to price changes may be lower, and increases in charges will not necessarily lead to a huge drop in demand. Conversely, for services which are not valued so highly by customers, an increase in the cost of those services may result in a shift in demand away from the Council, towards alternative and cheaper providers.

Set the charge

- Informed by the results of the previous stages, the Council will be in a position to introduce a charge, increase/decrease an existing charge or introduce a concessionary scheme – whichever option is determined to be the most effective in meeting its objectives without detrimentally affecting any particular group of customers.

Monitor and review charges and their impact

- The extent to which charges are serving their purpose should be monitored on at least an annual basis. The income received from charges should be monitored as part of the service's own budget arrangements.
- Charges should also be reviewed at least annually as part of the budget-setting process. However, there may be other reasons why they should be reviewed more frequently or at other times of year, such as the service being subject to a Best Value review, or the charges not having the desired effect.

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BUDGET CONVERSATION 2024-25 FEEDBACK

The budget conversation ran between 15 December 2023 and 02 February 2024. Members of the public were encouraged to fill out the online survey to have their say on what they feel our spending priorities should be for 2024-25, as well as any ideas for making savings or efficiencies.

The consultation was promoted on a number of different platforms:

- The Big Conversation, the authority's dedicated webpage where current consultation and engagement pieces are promoted based on relevance to the local community.
- Internal engagement within the organisation through platforms such as the Chief Executive's Brief, Weekly Comms Round Up and Information Ambassador's Network.
- Social media – the Council's Twitter and Facebook accounts have a combined followership of over 60,000.

A total **214 responses** were received on the online survey.

The key points on each of the questions on the survey are as follows:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal that we should continue to fund Adult Social Care by increasing Council Tax through the 2% precept?

Blank/Skipped Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
4	34	47	28	44	57
2%	16%	22%	13%	21%	27%

2. Please share any comments on the impact that the 2% increase might have which we should be considering. Please also share any alternatives to this increase you would like us to consider.

Number of responses (excluding blanks): 106

Top 5 Responses (excluding blank/skipped question)

- Council tax is already too high and/or increase will cause more hardship (51 responses/48%)
- Council should find more cost savings before increasing taxes (19 responses/18%)
- Council services have deteriorated despite tax increases (14 responses/13%)
- Resident agrees with increase (13 responses/12%)
- Reduce number of councillors or cut councillor's expenses (9 responses/8%)
- Council should stand up to national government decisions (9 responses/8%)

(Note: resident's responses may be coded into more than one category, meaning total percentage can be higher than 100%)

3. We set our budget according to the following priorities which are based on feedback from you: • Best Start in Life• Opportunity to Learn and Earn• Safe, green and supportive communities• Healthy and active lives. What do you think should be the spending priorities for Tameside Council for 2024/25 and beyond?

Number of responses (excluding blanks): 140

Top 5 Responses (excluding blank/skipped question)

- Investment in health, leisure and related services (29 responses/21%)
- Improve condition of street scene (pavements, roads etc) (23 responses/17%)
- Improve public safety (police, fire services, CCTV etc) (23 responses/17%)
- Support Tameside communities (20 responses/14%)
- Investment in job creation, education and training (18 responses/13%)
- Bin collections, recycling and litter removal (18 responses/13%)

(Note: resident's responses may be coded into more than one category, meaning total percentage can be higher than 100%)

4. Do you agree or disagree that we should increase council tax by a further 2.99% to invest in services to protect the most vulnerable and enable us to deliver the services that residents told us matter most?

Blank/Skipped Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
14	19	41	29	51	60
7%	10%	21%	15%	26%	30%

5. Please share any comments on the impact that the 2.99% increase might have which we should be considering. Please also share any alternatives to this increase you would like us to consider.

Number of responses (excluding blanks): 108

Top 5 Responses (excluding blank/skipped question)

- Council tax is already too high and/or increase will cause more hardship (61 responses/56%)
- Council should spend the money it already has more efficiently (20 responses/19%)
- Council services have deteriorated despite tax increases (14 responses/13%)
- Agree with decision to increase council tax (7 responses/6%)
- Reduce the number of councillors or cut expenses (6 responses/6%)

(Note: resident's responses may be coded into more than one category, meaning total percentage can be higher than 100%)

6. Please give any general, or other, views and comments on the proposed budget.

Number of responses (excluding blanks): 95

Top 5 Responses (excluding blank/skipped question)

- Council should spend the money it already has more efficiently (44 responses/46%)
- Council tax is already too high and/or increase will cause more hardship (23 responses/24%)
- Reduce the number of councillors or cut expenses (15 responses/16%)

- Council does not listen to what residents want or need (13 responses/14%)
- Reduce salaries of council employees (8 responses/8%)

(Note: resident's responses may be coded into more than one category, meaning total percentage can be higher than 100%)

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FEES AND CHARGES SCHEDULE 2024/25

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
PLACE						
Libraries						
INTERNET – Library members for first hour	Non-Statutory	0.00	0.00	Inflation	0.0%	0.00
INTERNET – Library members per half hour thereafter	Non-Statutory	0.89	0.92	Inflation	4.0%	0.04
INTERNET – Non members per half hour	Non-Statutory	1.81	1.88	Inflation	4.0%	0.07
NON-INTERNET USE OF PCs	Non-Statutory	0.00	0.00	Inflation	0.0%	0.00
COMPACT DISCS - for 3 weeks	Non-Statutory	1.65	1.72	Inflation	4.0%	0.07
TALKING BOOKS - for 3 weeks	Non-Statutory	1.65	1.72	Inflation	4.0%	0.07
LANGUAGE COURSES - for 3 weeks	Non-Statutory	1.65	1.72	Inflation	4.0%	0.07
RESERVATIONS (IN STOCK)	Non-Statutory	0.00	0.00	Inflation	0.0%	0.00
ITEMS BORROWED FROM OUTSIDE TAMESIDE - per Item	Non-Statutory	6.08	6.32	Inflation	4.0%	0.24
OVERDUE CHARGES - Books per day	Non-Statutory	0.22	0.23	Inflation	4.0%	0.01
OVERDUE CHARGES - Books per day for concessions	Non-Statutory	0.11	0.11	Inflation	4.0%	0.00
OVERDUE CHARGES - Sound Recordings per day	Non-Statutory	0.22	0.23	Inflation	4.0%	0.01
OVERDUE CHARGES - Sound Recordings per day for concessions	Non-Statutory	0.11	0.11	Inflation	4.0%	0.00
ADMINISTRATION CHARGE – very overdue books - Adults	Non-Statutory	22.00	22.88	Inflation	4.0%	0.88
ADMINISTRATION CHARGE – very overdue books - Children	Non-Statutory	11.00	11.44	Inflation	4.0%	0.44
LOST KEY CARDS – replacement - Adults	Non-Statutory	2.32	2.41	Inflation	4.0%	0.09
LOST KEY CARDS – replacement - Children	Non-Statutory	1.15	1.20	Inflation	4.0%	0.05
PHOTOCOPYING - per A4 sheet black and white	Non-Statutory	0.14	0.15	Inflation	4.0%	0.01
PHOTOCOPYING - per A4 sheet colour	Non-Statutory	0.68	0.70	Inflation	1.8%	0.01
PHOTOCOPYING - per A3 sheet black and white	Non-Statutory	0.24	0.25	Inflation	4.0%	0.01
PHOTOCOPYING - per A3 sheet colour	Non-Statutory	1.32	1.37	Inflation	4.0%	0.05
PRINTING FROM THE COMPUTER - Black and White per A4 sheet	Non-Statutory	0.14	0.15	Inflation	4.0%	0.01
PRINTING FROM THE COMPUTER - Colour per A4 sheet	Non-Statutory	0.68	0.71	Inflation	4.0%	0.03
3D PRINTING - Per metre of filament used	Non-Statutory	1.18	1.22	Inflation	4.0%	0.05
3D PRINTING - per hour of printing time	Non-Statutory	0.58	0.60	Inflation	4.0%	0.02
Museums						
Education Workshop TMBC - per 2hr session	Non-Statutory	107.00	111.50	Inflation	4.2%	4.50
Education Workshop TMBC - per full day	Non-Statutory	213.00	222.00	Inflation	4.2%	9.00
Education Workshop (not TMBC) - per 2hr session	Non-Statutory	117.00	122.00	Inflation	4.3%	5.00
Education Workshop (not TMBC) - per 2 sessions	Non-Statutory	235.00	244.00	Inflation	3.8%	9.00
Loan Box Hire - Schools - per week	Non-Statutory	39.00	41.00	Inflation	5.1%	2.00
Loan Box Hire Community Groups - per day	Non-Statutory	7.00	7.00	Inflation	0.0%	0.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Art Sale Commission - per art work	Non-Statutory	30.00	31.20	Inflation	4.0%	1.20
Adult study day - per 2hr session	Non-Statutory	20.00	21.00	Inflation	5.0%	1.00
Adult study day - per day for concessions	Non-Statutory	34.00	35.00	Inflation	2.9%	1.00
Outreach - per half day	Non-Statutory	176.00	183.00	Inflation	4.0%	7.00
Outreach - per full day	Non-Statutory	352.00	366.00	Inflation	4.0%	14.00
Teacher Inset Training Days - per training day per person (TBC)	Non-Statutory	61.00	63.00	Inflation	3.3%	2.00
Reminicence Sessions 1.5 hour session in TMBC	Non-Statutory	75.00	78.00	Inflation	4.0%	3.00
Reminicence Sessions 1.5 hour session not in TMBC	Non-Statutory	85.00	88.50	Inflation	4.1%	3.50
Off-Site Talks (Museum Of Manchester Regiment) - per talk	Non-Statutory	0.00	0.00	Inflation	0.0%	0.00
Craft Activities (drop in) - per child	Non-Statutory	1.30	1.35	Inflation	4.0%	0.05
Portland Basin Museum Christmas event	Non-Statutory	8.50	9.00	Inflation	5.9%	0.50
Zoom workshop (30 minute session) with loan box	Non-Statutory	112.00	116.00	Inflation	3.6%	4.00
Zoom workshop - 30 minute session	Non-Statutory	80.00	83.00	Inflation	3.8%	3.00
Events						
LITTLE HANDS EVENT	Non-Statutory	2.70	2.81	Inflation	4.0%	0.11
SCHOOL OUTDOOR ACTIVITY SESSIONS CLASS 30 - FULL DAY	Non-Statutory	107.00	111.28	Inflation	4.0%	4.28
SCHOOL OUTDOOR ACTIVITY SESSIONS CLASS 60 - FULL DAY	Non-Statutory	213.00	221.52	Inflation	4.0%	8.52
SCHOOL OUTDOOR ACTIVITY SESSIONS CLASS FULL DAY 30 NOT TMBC	Non-Statutory	117.00	121.68	Inflation	4.0%	4.68
SCHOOL OUTDOOR ACTIVITY SESSIONS CLASS 60 FULL DAY NOT TMBC	Non-Statutory	235.00	244.40	Inflation	4.0%	9.40
ARTS AWARD DISCOVER PER LOG	Non-Statutory	4.60	4.80	Inflation	4.3%	0.20
ARTS AWARD EXPLORE PER LOG	Non-Statutory	4.60	4.80	Inflation	4.3%	0.20
Local Studies						
PHOTOCOPYING - per A4 sheet black and white	Non-Statutory	0.14	0.15	Inflation	4.0%	0.01
PHOTOCOPYING - per A4 sheet colour	Non-Statutory	0.68	0.70	Inflation	1.8%	0.01
PHOTOCOPYING - per A3 sheet black and white	Non-Statutory	0.24	0.25	Inflation	4.0%	0.01
PHOTOCOPYING - per A3 sheet colour	Non-Statutory	1.32	1.37	Inflation	4.0%	0.05
PRINTING FROM THE COMPUTER - Black and White per A4 sheet	Non-Statutory	0.14	0.15	Inflation	4.0%	0.01
PRINTING FROM THE COMPUTER - Colour per A4 sheet	Non-Statutory	0.68	0.71	Inflation	4.0%	0.03
Copies Microfilm or Microfiche - per A4 sheet	Non-Statutory	0.96	1.00	Inflation	4.0%	0.04
Enquiry basic Look Up inc 2 x A4 copies	Non-Statutory	6.96	7.24	Inflation	4.0%	0.28
Image Archive - per digital copy	Non-Statutory	2.76	2.87	Inflation	4.0%	0.11
Manchester Regiment Image Archive - per printed photo	Non-Statutory	14.40	15.00	Inflation	4.2%	0.60
Customer Contact						
Disabled Parking Blue Badges	Statutory	10.00	10.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Operations & Greenspace						
Fairgrounds	Non-Statutory		0.00	Inflation	0.0%	

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Grazing rights	Non-Statutory		0.00	Inflation	0.0%	
Football pitch hire - Senior Grade A pitch per season	Non-Statutory	585.00	608.00	Inflation	3.9%	23.00
Football pitch hire - Junior Grade A pitch per season	Non-Statutory	338.00	352.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.00
Allotments	Non-Statutory	126.00	131.00	Inflation	4.0%	5.00
Arboricultural Services	Non-Statutory		0.00	Inflation	0.0%	
Grounds Maintenance Services	Non-Statutory		0.00	Inflation	0.0%	
Street Cleansing on private land	Non-Statutory		0.00	Inflation	0.0%	0.00
Waste Services						
<u>Commercial Waste Collections</u>						
1100 litre bin	Non-Statutory	1,033.00	1,079.00	Inflation	4.5%	46.00
770 litre bin	Non-Statutory	897.00	937.00	Inflation	4.5%	40.00
660 litre bin	Non-Statutory	790.00	826.00	Inflation	4.6%	36.00
500 litre bin	Non-Statutory	744.00	777.00	Inflation	4.4%	33.00
330 litre bin	Non-Statutory	532.00	555.00	Inflation	4.3%	23.00
240 litre bin	Non-Statutory	400.00	418.00	Inflation	4.5%	18.00
1/2 hour waste removal	Non-Statutory	142.00	148.00	Inflation	4.2%	6.00
1 hour waste removal	Non-Statutory	282.00	296.00	Inflation	5.0%	14.00
Bulky Collection 5 items	Non-Statutory	36.00	37.50	Inflation	4.2%	1.50
1 sack (no bin)	Non-Statutory	132.00	138.00	Inflation	4.5%	6.00
3 sacks (no bin)	Non-Statutory	400.00	418.00	Inflation	4.5%	18.00
4 sacks (no bin)	Non-Statutory	532.00	555.00	Inflation	4.3%	23.00
5 sacks (no bin)	Non-Statutory	744.00	777.00	Inflation	4.4%	33.00
6 sacks (no bin)	Non-Statutory	790.00	826.00	Inflation	4.6%	36.00
7 sacks (no bin)	Non-Statutory	897.00	937.00	Inflation	4.5%	40.00
12 sacks (no bin)	Non-Statutory	1,033.00	1,079.00	Inflation	4.5%	46.00
School Bin - 39 weeks per year	Non-Statutory	775.00	810.00	Inflation	4.5%	35.00
School Bin - 40 weeks per year	Non-Statutory	795.00	831.00	Inflation	4.5%	36.00
School Bin - 45 weeks per year	Non-Statutory	894.00	934.00	Inflation	4.5%	40.00
Charity Bin - 240 litre	Non-Statutory	200.00	209.00	Inflation	4.5%	9.00
Charity Bin - 330 litre	Non-Statutory	266.00	278.00	Inflation	4.5%	12.00
Charity Bin - 500 litre	Non-Statutory	372.00	389.00	Inflation	4.6%	17.00
Charity Bin - 660 litre	Non-Statutory	395.00	413.00	Inflation	4.6%	18.00
Charity Bin - 770 litre	Non-Statutory	448.00	468.00	Inflation	4.5%	20.00
Charity Bin - 1,100 litre	Non-Statutory	517.00	540.00	Inflation	4.4%	23.00
Replacement Bin	Non-Statutory	26.50	26.50	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Bereavement						
Exclusive Right of Burial (Resident)	Non-Statutory	1,070.00	1,120.00	Full cost recovery	4.7%	50.00
Exclusive Right of Burial (Non-Resident)	Non-Statutory	1,885.00	1,970.00	Full cost recovery	4.5%	85.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Interment Fee (Resident) (18 & over)	Non-Statutory	1,015.00	1,060.00	Full cost recovery	4.4%	45.00
Interment Fee (Non-Resident) (18 & over)	Non-Statutory	1,840.00	1,885.00	Full cost recovery	2.4%	45.00
Widening of Grave	Non-Statutory	150.00	150.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Use of Chapel	Non-Statutory	140.00	145.00	Full cost recovery	3.6%	5.00
Interment of Cremated remains (Resident)	Non-Statutory	235.00	245.00	Full cost recovery	4.3%	10.00
Interment of Cremated remains (Non-Resident)	Non-Statutory	425.00	435.00	Full cost recovery	2.4%	10.00
Burial/Cremation of body parts or blocks & slides	Non-Statutory	75.00	75.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Double Chamber Vault	Non-Statutory	3,605.00	3,745.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	140.00
Bricking of semi-vaults	Non-Statutory	620.00	650.00	Full cost recovery	4.8%	30.00
Timbering of graves	Non-Statutory	495.00	495.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Muslim Burial Chamber - New Facility	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	30.00
Temporary Grave Marker for New Graves	Non-Statutory	95.00	100.00	Full cost recovery	5.3%	5.00
Right to erect a Headstone	Non-Statutory	180.00	180.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Inscription Fee (on headstone or kerbs)	Non-Statutory	55.00	55.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Foundation fee for Headstone	Non-Statutory	180.00	180.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Removal of kerbs for purpose of burial	Non-Statutory	85.00	85.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Right to retrofit kerbs to headstone	Non-Statutory	55.00	55.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Removal of Unauthorised railings/edgings etc for purpose of burial	Non-Statutory	85.00	85.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Right to place a vase	Non-Statutory	20.00	20.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Searching register per grave	Non-Statutory	25.00	25.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Wooden Casket for cremated remains	Non-Statutory	75.00	75.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Use of Organ	Non-Statutory	28.00	28.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Duplicate Grave Deed or Cremation Certificate	Non-Statutory	25.00	25.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Transfer of Ownership	Non-Statutory	85.00	90.00	Full cost recovery	5.9%	5.00
Selection of Grave /Bench	Non-Statutory	55.00	55.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Weekend/Bank Holiday on cost (Out of Hours Interments)	Non-Statutory	525.00	525.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Renewal of plaques for 10 yr period	Non-Statutory	105.00	110.00	Full cost recovery	4.8%	5.00
Transfer plaque fee	Non-Statutory	40.00	40.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Cremation fee (18 yrs & over) inc Cremation, Med Ref Fee & Env Fee	Non-Statutory	825.00	860.00	Full cost recovery	4.2%	35.00
Direct Cremation Fee - Resident (18 yrs& over) (no mourners in attendance by choice)	Non-Statutory	580.00	580.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Additional fee for Out of district Cremation	Non-Statutory	45.00	45.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Cremation Fee (Municipal) inc Cremation, Med Ref Fee & Env Fee	Non-Statutory	790.00	825.00	Full cost recovery	4.4%	35.00
Special time (Additional Fee) 12 Noon 12.30, 13.00, 16.00	Non-Statutory	40.00	40.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Webcast of service	Non-Statutory	60.00	60.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Downloadable recording of service (NOT including Visual Tributes)	Non-Statutory	45.00	45.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Downloadable recording of service (including Visual Tributes)	Non-Statutory	55.00	55.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
DVD or USB recording of Service (NOT including visual tributes)	Non-Statutory	60.00	60.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
DVD or USB recording of service (including visual tributes)	Non-Statutory	70.00	70.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Book of Remembrance Entry or card 2 Line entry	Non-Statutory	170.00	175.00	Full cost recovery	2.9%	5.00
Book of Remembrance Entry or card 5 line entry	Non-Statutory	205.00	210.00	Full cost recovery	2.4%	5.00
Book of Remembrance Entry or card 8 line entry	Non-Statutory	250.00	255.00	Full cost recovery	2.0%	5.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Book of Remembrance Entry or card 5 line entry with emblem or crest	Non-Statutory	305.00	310.00	Full cost recovery	1.6%	5.00
Book of Remembrance Entry or card 8 line entry with emblem or crest	Non-Statutory	335.00	340.00	Full cost recovery	1.5%	5.00
Perspex memorial plaque for 10 years	Non-Statutory	400.00	420.00	Full cost recovery	5.0%	20.00
Boutonnaire Plaques for 10 years	Non-Statutory	495.00	515.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	20.00
Granite Vase & Plaque for 10 years	Non-Statutory	545.00	565.00	Full cost recovery	3.7%	20.00
Stone look commemorative plaques for 10 years	Non-Statutory	420.00	440.00	Full cost recovery	4.8%	20.00
Motif Black outline - Additional Fee	Non-Statutory	55.00	55.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Motif Coloured - Additional Fee	Non-Statutory	65.00	65.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Photograph	Non-Statutory	105.00	105.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Baby Memorial - Natural Stone	Non-Statutory	260.00	270.00	Full cost recovery	3.8%	10.00
Baby Memorial - Black Granite	Non-Statutory	390.00	410.00	Full cost recovery	5.1%	20.00
Motif on Baby memorial - Additional Fee	Non-Statutory	100.00	100.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Additional letters to be inscribed over 70 (per letter)	Non-Statutory	2.00	2.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Brass Plaques for 10 years	Non-Statutory	215.00	225.00	Full cost recovery	4.6%	10.00
Scatter remains (at Cemeteries apart from Dukinfield & those cremated elsewhere)	Non-Statutory	65.00	65.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Scatter Cremated remains at Dukinfield (if family to witness)	Non-Statutory	30.00	30.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Stone Tablet for Garden of Rest	Non-Statutory	310.00	320.00	Full cost recovery	3.2%	10.00
Additional fee for Granite Tablet	Non-Statutory	50.00	60.00	Full cost recovery	20.0%	10.00
Memorial Bench (inc one plaque & fixing)	Non-Statutory	745.00	780.00	Full cost recovery	4.7%	35.00
Additional plaque on bench	Non-Statutory	350.00	360.00	Full cost recovery	2.9%	10.00
Memorial Tree leaf for 5 year lease	Non-Statutory	275.00	290.00	Full cost recovery	5.5%	15.00
Memorial Tree leaf Renewal for a further 5 years)	Non-Statutory	52.50	55.00	Full cost recovery	4.8%	2.50
Columbarium at Dukinfield Crematorium (New Memorial Option)	Non-Statutory	650.00	680.00	Full cost recovery	4.6%	30.00
Columbarium (Additional replacing of remains & new inscription)	Non-Statutory	360.00	370.00	Full cost recovery	2.8%	10.00
Sanctum (New Memorial Option)	Non-Statutory	895.00	935.00	Full cost recovery	4.5%	40.00
Sanctum (Additional replacing of remains & new inscription)	Non-Statutory	460.00	470.00	Full cost recovery	2.2%	10.00
Sanctum (Renewal fee for 20 years)	Non-Statutory	205.00	220.00	Full cost recovery	7.3%	15.00
Visual tribute to music (Dukinfield Crematorium only) Photos only up to max 25 photos	Non-Statutory	60.00	60.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Visual tribute/slideshow WITHOUT music (Dukinfield Crematorium only) Photos only up to max 25 photos	Non-Statutory	40.00	40.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
For every additional 25 images	Non-Statutory	20.00	20.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Visual tribute (1 still photo or order of service displayed throughout)	Non-Statutory	25.00	25.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Family video file including 1 single still image	Non-Statutory	45.00	45.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Downloadable Video file of Tributes only	Non-Statutory	20.00	20.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
DVD or USB of Tributes only	Non-Statutory	35.00	35.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
URGENT SERVICE - Additional fee for Tribute requests received after 48 hr cut off period	Non-Statutory	100.00	100.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Storage fee for 'retained' Cremated remains at Crematorium (per week)	Non-Statutory	20.00	20.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Purchase of expired stone look plaque at end of lease term to take away	Non-Statutory	60.00	60.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Follwing fees To be paid by the Government's Children's Funeral Fund for England						
Interment fee (under 18 in a family grave) Resident	Non-Statutory	1,015.00	1,060.00	Full cost recovery	4.4%	45.00
Interment fee (under 18 in a family grave) Non Resident	Non-Statutory	1,840.00	1,885.00	Full cost recovery	2.4%	45.00
Interment fee (in baby section) Resident	Non-Statutory	235.00	245.00	Full cost recovery	4.3%	10.00
Interment fee (in baby section) Non Resident	Non-Statutory	235.00	245.00	Full cost recovery	4.3%	220.00
Cremation fee (under 18)	Non-Statutory	825.00	860.00	Full cost recovery	4.2%	35.00
Cremation (stillbirths)	Non-Statutory	235.00	245.00	Full cost recovery	4.3%	10.00
Pest Control						
Wasps	Non-Statutory	60.00	65.00	Full cost recovery	8.3%	5.00
Bedbugs	Non-Statutory	160.00	180.00	Full cost recovery	12.5%	20.00
Cockroaches	Non-Statutory	160.00	180.00	Full cost recovery	12.5%	20.00
Rats , Mice, & Squirrels stored product pests etc 2 visits*	Non-Statutory	150.00	160.00	Full cost recovery	6.7%	10.00
Feral Pigeon Treatment (Internal) Daytime	Non-Statutory	100.00	120.00	Full cost recovery	20.0%	20.00
Feral Pigeon Treatment (Internal) Evening	Non-Statutory	200.00	250.00	Full cost recovery	25.0%	50.00
Investigate roof space noise	Non-Statutory	160.00	180.00	Full cost recovery	12.5%	20.00
Commercial - Rodent Control Treatments 2 visits*	Non-Statutory	200.00	220.00	Full cost recovery	10.0%	20.00
Commercial - Rodent Control Contracts 8 visits per annum	Non-Statutory	300.00	345.00	Full cost recovery	15.0%	45.00
Commercial - Insect treatments	Non-Statutory	200.00	220.00	Full cost recovery	10.0%	20.00
Commercial Feral Pigeon Treatments Daytime	Non-Statutory	200.00	220.00	Full cost recovery	10.0%	20.00
Commercial Feral Pigeon Treatments Evening	Non-Statutory	300.00	360.00	Full cost recovery	20.0%	60.00
Flies, Ants ,Fleas, Garden Pests & stored pest products	Non-Statutory	100.00	120.00	Full cost recovery	20.0%	20.00
*Additional Visit within 4 weeks	Non-Statutory	0.00	60.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	60.00
Markets						
Market Grounds - Stalls and associated space per day	Non-Statutory	£10 - £50	£10 - £50		0.0%	0.00
Concession Management Space – Market Grounds per week	Non-Statutory	£350-£500	£350-£500		0.0%	0.00
Kiosks - Ashton Outdoor Market per sq metre	Non-Statutory	274.88	285.88	Inflation	4.0%	11.00
Kiosks - Ashton Outdoor Market- Service Charge per sq metre	Non-Statutory	26.88	26.88	Inflation	0.0%	0.00
Public Liability Insurance – One day cover	Non-Statutory	5.60	6.00	Inflation	7.1%	0.40
Fairs	Non-Statutory	110.00	116.00	Inflation	5.5%	6.00
Ashton Market Hall - Rent per sq metre	Non-Statutory	287.36	299.00	Inflation	4.0%	11.64
Ashton Market Market Hall - Service Charge per sq metre	Non-Statutory	277.55	277.55	Inflation	0.0%	0.00
Electric per kwh	Non-Statutory	0.37	0.39	Inflation	5.5%	0.02
Hyde Market Hall - Lower - Rent per sq metre	Non-Statutory	137.30	142.79	Inflation	4.0%	5.49
Hyde Market Hall - Upper - Rent per sq metre	Non-Statutory	160.77	167.20	Inflation	4.0%	6.43
Hyde Market Market Hall - Service Charge per sq metre	Non-Statutory	186.91	206.00	Inflation	10.2%	19.09
Market Halls - Event Space	Non-Statutory	28.00	30.00	Inflation	7.1%	2.00
Market Halls - Concession Rides and Toy Dispencers - % of generated income	Non-Statutory	25.00	26.00	Agreement	4.0%	1.00
Ashton Market Hall - Storage - Annual Fee per unit	Non-Statutory	1,319.00	1,392.00	Inflation	5.5%	73.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Ashton Ice Cream Pitch - Annual Fee	Non-Statutory	3,429.00	3,618.00	Inflation	5.5%	189.00
Hyde Market Hall - Storage - Annual cost per per room per week	Non-Statutory	27.00	28.00	Inflation	3.7%	1.00
Ashton & Hyde Outdoor Markets electricity standing charge per day	Non-Statutory	5.40	6.00	Inflation	11.1%	0.60
Highways						
Skip Registration Fee	Non-Statutory	115.00	120.00	Full cost recovery	4.3%	5.00
Scaffolding Registration Fee	Non-Statutory	115.00	120.00	Full cost recovery	4.3%	5.00
Skip Non Permit Fee (Registered Companies)	Non-Statutory	75.00	78.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	3.00
Skip Non Permit Fee (Unregistered Companies)	Non-Statutory	150.00	156.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	6.00
Skips Placed in Restricted Areas	Non-Statutory	58.00	60.00	Full cost recovery	3.4%	2.00
Scaffolding Non Permit Fee (Registered Companies)	Non-Statutory	213.00	221.00	Full cost recovery	3.8%	8.00
Scaffolding Non Permit Fee (Unregistered Companies)	Non-Statutory	288.00	299.00	Full cost recovery	3.8%	11.00
Street Naming amendments(1 plots)	Non-Statutory	58.00	60.00	Full cost recovery	3.4%	2.00
Street Naming amendments(2-10)	Non-Statutory	95.00	99.00	Full cost recovery	4.2%	4.00
Street Naming amendments(11-49)	Non-Statutory	157.00	163.00	Full cost recovery	3.8%	6.00
Street Naming amendments(50+)	Non-Statutory	250.00	260.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	10.00
Street Naming (confirmation address)	Non-Statutory	26.00	27.00	Full cost recovery	3.8%	1.00
Street Naming (+ re-naming process)	Non-Statutory	27.00	28.00	Full cost recovery	3.7%	1.00
Sending Info to Non-Statutory Organisations	Non-Statutory	24.00	25.00	Full cost recovery	4.2%	1.00
Administration Charges (min hourly rate)	Non-Statutory	44.00	46.00	Full cost recovery	4.5%	2.00
Housing Development Signs Admin	Non-Statutory	83.00	86.00	Full cost recovery	3.6%	3.00
Highway Search Letter (Per Question)	Non-Statutory	13.00	14.00	Full cost recovery	7.7%	1.00
Highways & Transport						
Transport - Class IV MOT Test	Statutory	59.00	47.00	Full cost recovery	-20.3%	-12.00
Transport - Class IV MOT Test (Motorhome)	Statutory	67.00	54.00	Full cost recovery	-19.4%	-13.00
Transport - Class V MOT Test	Non-Statutory	59.00	59.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Transport - LOLER test	Non-Statutory	80.40	84.00	Full cost recovery	4.5%	3.60
Transport - Workshop Hourly Rate (External)	Non-Statutory	91.20	96.00	Full cost recovery	5.3%	4.80
Transport - Workshop Hourly Rate (Partner / Warranty)	Non-Statutory	79.20	83.00	Full cost recovery	4.8%	3.80
Skip Scaffolding removal admin fee	Non-Statutory	64.00	67.00	Full cost recovery	4.7%	3.00
Cabin Permits - 4 Weeks	Non-Statutory	99.00	103.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	4.00
Hoarding Permits - 4 Weeks	Non-Statutory	99.00	103.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	4.00
High Access Apparatus Permits - 4 Weeks	Non-Statutory	99.00	103.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	4.00
Building Materials on Highway - 4 Week permit)	Non-Statutory	99.00	103.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	4.00
Directional Signage (New)	Non-Statutory	385.00	400.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	15.00
Directional Signage (Replacement)	Non-Statutory	165.00	171.00	Full cost recovery	3.6%	6.00
Highway Search Letter - Standard Letter Fee	Non-Statutory	0.00	0.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	0.00
Private Builders / (Sct 50) (Sct 171) - Existing Apparatus	Non-Statutory	326.00	339.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	13.00
Private Builders / (Sct 50) (Sct 171) - New Apparatus	Non-Statutory	584.00	607.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	23.00
Fixed Penalty Notices (Sct 50) If started before 36 days	Non-Statutory	104.00	108.00	Full cost recovery	3.8%	4.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Indirect Commercial Banners	Non-Statutory	170.00	177.00	Full cost recovery	4.1%	7.00
Commercial Banners	Non-Statutory	338.00	351.00	Full cost recovery	3.8%	13.00
Banner removal (if req'd per banner)	Non-Statutory	70.00	73.00	Full cost recovery	4.3%	3.00
Signs (Temp adverts)	Non-Statutory	171.00	178.00	Full cost recovery	4.1%	7.00
A board/Estate Agent Sign removal (if req'd per sign)	Non-Statutory	83.00	86.00	Full cost recovery	3.6%	3.00
Housing Development Signs (per sign)	Non-Statutory	32.00	33.00	Full cost recovery	3.1%	1.00
Removal of Non Compliant / Old Housing Development Signs (per sign)	Non-Statutory	75.00	78.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	3.00
Flood & Water Management Act 2010	Non-Statutory	56.00	58.00	Full cost recovery	3.6%	2.00
Water Course Consent - National Fee	Non-Statutory	108.00	112.00	Full cost recovery	3.7%	4.00
Private Drainage (notice serving)	Non-Statutory	88.00	91.00	Full cost recovery	3.4%	3.00
Call Out Charges (minimum administration)	Non-Statutory	2,181.00	2,266.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	85.00
Public Path Orders	Non-Statutory	2,346.00	2,437.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	91.00
Public Path Orders (Objections withdrawn)	Non-Statutory	3,009.00	3,126.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	117.00
Public Path Orders (Objections withdrawn but requires readvertising)	Non-Statutory	1,630.00	1,694.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	64.00
Section 257 Extinguishments or Diversion	Non-Statutory	756.00	785.00	Full cost recovery	3.8%	29.00
Gating Order	Non-Statutory	257.00	267.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	10.00
Road markings (H) bar	Non-Statutory	125.00	130.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	5.00
Road markings (Advisory bays)	Non-Statutory	563.00	585.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	22.00
Temporary Notices	Non-Statutory	1,625.00	1,688.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	63.00
Temporary Orders	Non-Statutory	2,499.00	2,596.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	97.00
Permanent Orders (typical example)	Non-Statutory	888.00	923.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	35.00
Vehicle Crossing Construction (Std - new)	Non-Statutory	56.00	58.00	Full cost recovery	3.6%	2.00
NRASWA Sample inspection	Non-Statutory	75.00	78.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	3.00
NRASWA Third Party Inspections	Non-Statutory	52.00	54.00	Full cost recovery	3.8%	2.00
NRASWA Defect inspection	Non-Statutory	257.00	267.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	10.00
Make safe Iron works(non TMBC)	Non-Statutory	162.00	168.00	Full cost recovery	3.7%	6.00
Temporary pitches for highway slaes (pop up shops) Per Day upto 6 weeks	Non-Statutory	114.00	118.00	Full cost recovery	3.5%	4.00
Temporary pitches for highway slaes (pop up shops) Per Day 6 weeks onwards	Non-Statutory					
Parking						
Contract Parking passes	Non-Statutory	Variable	Variable	Under Review	0.0%	
Residents Parking Permits					0.0%	0.00
Car Parks Pay and display	Non-Statutory	Variable	Variable	Under Review	0.0%	
Car Parks Excess Fee Notice	Statutory	£25-£70	£25-£70	Under Review	0.0%	
Bus Lane Enforcement notices	Statutory	£30-£60	£30-£60	Under Review	0.0%	
Parking Charges:						
Approval was given by Executive Cabinet in June 2023 to uplift car parking tariffs alongside the introduction of card payment options on a number of car parks across the borough. The increased tariffs came into effect on 1 st October 2023. The link to the Executive Cabinet report can be found below:						

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
ITEM 6 - ReviewofCarParkTariffs FINAL.pdf (modern.gov.co.uk)						
There is no increase to parking fees from 1 st April 2024, however increases are to be considered later in 2024/25 and financial modelling assumes an increase from 1 st October 2024.						
Engineering Design						
Design Drawings / Schemes - Approval in Principle (AIP) Cat 0 Fee Level 1A	Non-Statutory	400.00	416.00	Inflation	4.0%	16.00
Design Drawings / Schemes - Approval in Principle (AIP) Cat 1 Fee Level 1A	Non-Statutory	473.00	492.00	Inflation	4.0%	19.00
Design Drawings / Schemes - Approval in Principle (AIP) Cat 2 Fee Level 1A	Non-Statutory	551.00	573.00	Inflation	4.0%	22.00
Design Drawings / Schemes - Approval in Principle (AIP) Cat 2 Fee Level 1B (Minimum charge + price per job)	Non-Statutory	1,057.00	1,099.00	Inflation	4.0%	42.00
Design Drawings / Schemes - Approval in Principle (AIP) Cat 0 Fee Level 2	Non-Statutory	766.00	797.00	Inflation	4.0%	31.00
Design Drawings / Schemes - Approval in Principle (AIP) Cat 1 Fee Level 2	Non-Statutory	965.00	1,004.00	Inflation	4.0%	39.00
Design Drawings / Schemes - Approval in Principle (AIP) Cat 2 Fee Level 2	Non-Statutory	1,698.00	1,766.00	Inflation	4.0%	68.00
Design Drawings / Schemes - Approval in Principle (AIP) Cat 2 Fee Level 2 (+ departures)	Non-Statutory	2,169.00	2,256.00	Inflation	4.0%	87.00
Design Drawings / Schemes - Approval in Principle (AIP) Cat 0 Fee Level 3	Non-Statutory	510.00	530.00	Inflation	3.9%	20.00
Design Drawings / Schemes - Approval in Principle (AIP) Cat 1 & 2 Fee Level 3 (Minimum charge + price per job)	Non-Statutory	510.00	530.00	Inflation	3.9%	20.00
Design Drawings / Schemes - Approval in Principle (AIP) Cat 3 Fee Levels 1A,1B,2,& 3 (Fees subject to agreement)	Non-Statutory	0.00	0.00	Inflation	0.0%	0.00
Engineers projects works	Non-Statutory	0.00	0.00	Inflation	0.0%	0.00
GM RAPS fee permit	Non-Statutory	0.00	0.00	Inflation	0.0%	0.00
Environmental Protection						
HMO licence Fee	Non-Statutory	578.00	601.00	Inflation	4.0%	23.00
HMO licence fee - additional amount per habitable room	Non-Statutory	40.00	42.00	Inflation	5.0%	2.00
Housing Act 2004 Notice Charges (per notice)	Non-Statutory	486.00	505.00	Inflation	3.9%	19.00
Immigration Inspection - Normal Time	Non-Statutory	174.00	181.00	Inflation	4.0%	7.00
Immigration Inspection - Fast Tracked	Non-Statutory	214.00	223.00	Inflation	4.2%	9.00
CLS - Whether a property will be considered as Part 2a of the EPA 1990 in the future	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Inflation	4.3%	2.00
Landfill search	Non-Statutory	80.00	83.00	Inflation	3.8%	3.00
General Environmental Search	Non-Statutory	128.00	133.00	Inflation	3.9%	5.00
CLS - Planning record information relating to contamination issues	Non-Statutory	80.00	83.00	Inflation	3.8%	3.00
CLS - Copies of contaminated land files and/or information relating to contaminated land conditions attached to planning consent	Non-Statutory	80.00	83.00	Inflation	3.8%	3.00
Section 80 EPA90 Abatement Notice & Covering letter - cost per	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Inflation	4.3%	2.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Failed Entry Letters, Info for Warrants, Warrants, Time in Court, Time Executing Warrant - per hour	Non-Statutory	80.00	83.00	Inflation	3.8%	3.00
Licencing						
Animal Boarding Premise Application	Non-Statutory	173.00	180.00	Inflation	4.0%	7.00
Animal Boarding 1 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	245.00	255.00	Inflation	4.1%	10.00
Animal Boarding 2 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	304.00	316.00	Inflation	3.9%	12.00
Animal Boarding 3 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	344.00	358.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.00
Home Boarding of Dogs (including Day Care) Application	Non-Statutory	173.00	180.00	Inflation	4.0%	7.00
Home Boarding of Dogs (including Day Care) 1 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	205.00	213.00	Inflation	3.9%	8.00
Home Boarding of Dogs (including Day Care) 2 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	245.00	255.00	Inflation	4.1%	10.00
Home Boarding of Dogs (including Day Care) 3 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	285.00	296.00	Inflation	3.9%	11.00
Dangerous Wild Animals Premise Application	Non-Statutory	173.00	180.00	Inflation	4.0%	7.00
Dog Breeding Premise Application	Non-Statutory	173.00	180.00	Inflation	4.0%	7.00
Dog Breeding Licence 1 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	272.00	283.00	Inflation	4.0%	11.00
Dog Breeding Licence 2 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	320.00	333.00	Inflation	4.1%	13.00
Dog Breeding Licence 3 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	369.00	384.00	Inflation	4.1%	15.00
Hairdresser / Barber Premise Application	Non-Statutory	144.00	150.00	Inflation	4.2%	6.00
Marriage Act Premise	Non-Statutory	1,959.00	2,037.00	Inflation	4.0%	78.00
Marriage Act Renewal	Non-Statutory	674.00	701.00	Inflation	4.0%	27.00
Marriage Act/Civil Partnerships (non-profit or non-commercial organisations)	Non-Statutory	613.00	638.00	Inflation	4.1%	25.00
Marriage Act/Civil Partnerships (non-profit or non-commercial organisations) Renewal	Non-Statutory	614.00	639.00	Inflation	4.1%	25.00
Pavement Café Application (up to 5 tables)	Non-Statutory	236.00	245.00	Inflation	3.8%	9.00
Pavement Café Application (over 5 tables)	Non-Statutory	295.00	307.00	Inflation	4.1%	12.00
Selling Animals as Pets Application	Non-Statutory	173.00	180.00	Inflation	4.0%	7.00
Selling Animals as Pets 1 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	221.00	230.00	Inflation	4.1%	9.00
Selling Animals as Pets 2 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	242.00	252.00	Inflation	4.1%	10.00
Selling Animals as Pets 3 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	262.00	272.00	Inflation	3.8%	10.00
Performing Animals Premise Application	Non-Statutory	173.00	180.00	Inflation	4.0%	7.00
Performing Animals 3 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	205.00	213.00	Inflation	3.9%	8.00
Hiring out Horses Application	Non-Statutory	173.00	180.00	Inflation	4.0%	7.00
Hiring out Horses 1 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	284.00	295.00	Inflation	3.9%	11.00
Hiring out Horses 2 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	344.00	358.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.00
Hiring out Horses 3 Year Grant	Non-Statutory	404.00	420.00	Inflation	4.0%	16.00
Scrap Metal Dealer Application (Collector)	Non-Statutory	449.00	467.00	Inflation	4.0%	18.00
Scrap Metal Dealer Application (Site)	Non-Statutory	1,097.00	1,141.00	Inflation	4.0%	44.00
Sex Shop Premise Application	Non-Statutory	2,695.00	2,803.00	Inflation	4.0%	108.00
Skin Colouring/Piercing/Electrolysis/Acupuncture Premises Application	Non-Statutory	183.00	190.00	Inflation	3.8%	7.00
Skin Colouring/Piercing/Electrolysis/Acupuncture Personal Application	Non-Statutory	113.00	118.00	Inflation	4.4%	5.00
Street Trader Application	Non-Statutory	956.00	994.00	Inflation	4.0%	38.00
Street Trader Application (Day Rate)	Non-Statutory	98.00	102.00	Inflation	4.1%	4.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
New Application - Either Badge 1YR	Non-Statutory	265.00	265.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
New Application - Either Badge 3YR Fee	Non-Statutory	422.00	422.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
New Application - Both Badges 1YR	Non-Statutory	286.00	286.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
New Application - Both Badges 3YR	Non-Statutory	443.00	443.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal 1 Badge	Non-Statutory	112.00	112.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal 1 Badge with DBS	Non-Statutory	160.00	160.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal 2 Badges	Non-Statutory	133.00	133.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal 1 Badge - 3 Yr	Non-Statutory	300.00	300.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal 1 Badge with DBS	Non-Statutory	160.00	160.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal 2 Badges - 3 Yr	Non-Statutory	321.00	321.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
New Vehicle - Under 3 years old	Non-Statutory	282.00	282.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
New Vehicle - Over 3 years old	Non-Statutory	189.00	189.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal of Plate - Under 3 years old	Non-Statutory	265.00	265.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal of plate - Over 3 years old	Non-Statutory	178.00	178.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Vehicle Compliance - Full Retest	Non-Statutory	49.00	49.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Vehicle Compliance - Retest (Up To 30 Minutes)	Non-Statutory	25.00	25.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Transfer Of Ownership	Non-Statutory	30.00	30.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change Of Address	Non-Statutory	21.00	21.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Cherished Plate Transfer	Non-Statutory	73.00	73.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Operator 1-2 Vehicles	Non-Statutory	503.00	503.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Operator 3-10	Non-Statutory	570.00	570.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Operator 11-30	Non-Statutory	838.00	838.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Operator 31-49	Non-Statutory	1,136.00	1,136.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Operator 50-69	Non-Statutory	1,363.00	1,363.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Operator 70+	Non-Statutory	1,432.00	1,432.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Licencing Act						
Application Fee Band A	Statutory	100.00	100.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual Fee Band A	Statutory	70.00	70.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application Fee Band B	Statutory	190.00	190.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual fee Band B	Statutory	180.00	180.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
App fee Band C	Statutory	315.00	315.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
annual fee C	Statutory	295.00	295.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
app fee band D	Statutory	450.00	450.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
annual fee D	Statutory	320.00	320.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
App Fee E	Statutory	635.00	635.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
annual fee E	Statutory	350.00	350.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for the grant or renewal of a personal licence	Statutory	37.00	37.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Temporary event notice	Statutory	21.00	21.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Theft, loss etc. of premises licence or summary	Statutory	10.00	10.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for a provisional statement (where premises are being built)	Statutory	315.00	315.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Notification of change of name or address	Statutory	10.50	10.50	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to vary licence to specify individual as premises supervisor	Statutory	23.00	23.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for transfer of premises licence	Statutory	23.00	23.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Interim authority notice following death etc. of licence holder	Statutory	23.00	23.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Theft, loss etc. of certificate or summary	Statutory	10.50	10.50	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Notice of change of name or alteration of rules of club	Statutory	10.50	10.50	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change of relevant registered address of club	Statutory	10.50	10.50	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Theft, loss etc. of temporary event notice	Statutory	10.50	10.50	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Theft, loss etc. of personal licence	Statutory	10.50	10.50	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Duty to notify change of name or address	Statutory	10.50	10.50	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Right of freeholder etc. to be notified of licensing matters	Statutory	10.50	10.50	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Minor Variation	Statutory	89.00	89.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Gambling Act						
Adult Gaming Centre						
Application Fee: New Application	Statutory	2,000.00	2,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual/ Renewal Fee: Annual Fee	Statutory	1,000.00	1,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to vary	Statutory	1,000.00	1,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to transfer	Statutory	1,200.00	1,200.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for reinstatement of licence	Statutory	1,200.00	1,200.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for provisional statement	Statutory	2,000.00	2,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for a premises licence which already has a provisional statement	Statutory	1,076.00	1,076.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Licensed FECs (Cat C&D machines)						
Application Fee: New Application	Statutory	2,000.00	2,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual/Renewal Fee: Annual Fee	Statutory	750.00	750.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to vary	Statutory	1,000.00	1,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to transfer	Statutory	950.00	950.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for reinstatement of a licence	Statutory	950.00	950.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for provisional statement	Statutory	2,000.00	2,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for a premises licence which already has a provisional statement	Statutory	950.00	950.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Betting Premises (other) (off-course i.e. Betting shops) (equiv. Betting Office Licence, Bookmakers Permits)						
			0.00		0.0%	0.00
Application Fee: New Application	Statutory	3,000.00	3,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual/Renewal Fee: Annual Fee	Statutory	600.00	600.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to vary	Statutory	1,500.00	1,500.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to transfer	Statutory	1,200.00	1,200.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for reinstatement of a licence	Statutory	1,200.00	1,200.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for provisional statement	Statutory	3,000.00	3,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for a premises licence which already has a provisional statement	Statutory	1,200.00	1,200.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Betting Premises (tracks) (equiv. Bookmakers Permits)						
			0.00		0.0%	0.00
Application Fee: New Application	Statutory	2,500.00	2,500.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual/Renewal Fee: Annual Fee	Statutory	1,000.00	1,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Application to vary	Statutory	1,250.00	1,250.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to transfer	Statutory	950.00	950.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for reinstatement of a licence	Statutory	950.00	950.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for provisional statement	Statutory	2,500.00	2,500.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for a premises licence which already has a provisional statement	Statutory	950.00	950.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Bingo Premises (Bingo Licence)			0.00		0.0%	0.00
Statutory prescribed maximum charge has been set. Only exception is the annual fee which is capped at £1,000.	Statutory	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application Fee: New Application	Statutory	3,500.00	3,500.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual/Renewal Fee: Annual Fee	Statutory	1,000.00	1,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to vary	Statutory	1,750.00	1,750.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to transfer	Statutory	1,200.00	1,200.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for reinstatement of a licence	Statutory	1,200.00	1,200.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for provisional statement	Statutory	3,500.00	3,500.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for a premises licence which already has a provisional statement	Statutory	1,200.00	1,200.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
New Casinos			0.00		0.0%	0.00
Regional Casino			0.00		0.0%	0.00
Application Fee	Statutory	15,000.00	15,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual Fee	Statutory	15,000.00	15,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to vary	Statutory	7,500.00	7,500.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to transfer	Statutory	6,500.00	6,500.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for reinstatement of licence	Statutory	6,500.00	6,500.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for provisional statement	Statutory	15,000.00	15,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for a premises licence which already has a provisional statement	Statutory	8,000.00	8,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Large Casinos			0.00		0.0%	0.00
Application Fee	Statutory	15,000.00	15,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual Fee	Statutory	15,000.00	15,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to vary	Statutory	7,500.00	7,500.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to transfer	Statutory	6,500.00	6,500.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for reinstatement of licence	Statutory	6,500.00	6,500.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for provisional statement	Statutory	15,000.00	15,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for a premises licence already with provisional statement	Statutory	8,000.00	8,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application Fee	Statutory	8,000.00	8,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual Fee	Statutory	5,000.00	5,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to vary	Statutory	4,000.00	4,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to transfer	Statutory	1,800.00	1,800.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for reinstatement of licence	Statutory	1,800.00	1,800.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for provisional statement	Statutory	8,000.00	8,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for a premises licence which already has a provisional statement	Statutory	3,000.00	3,000.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for FEC Gaming Machine Permit	Statutory	300.00	300.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal Fee every 10 years	Statutory	300.00	300.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Fee for Change of Name	Statutory	25.00	25.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Fee for Copy of Permit	Statutory	15.00	15.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Temporary Use Notice	Statutory	470.00	470.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Replacement of Endorsed copy of Notice	Statutory	25.00	25.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Occasional Use Notice	Statutory	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Copy of the Premises Licence	Statutory	25.00	25.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Notification of change of circumstances for premises Licence	Statutory	50.00	50.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for Prize Gaming Permit	Statutory	300.00	300.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for Prize Gaming Permit (existing operator)	Statutory	100.00	100.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal of Prize gaming Permit	Statutory	300.00	300.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change of name on Prize Gaming Permit	Statutory	25.00	25.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Copy of Prize gaming Permit	Statutory	15.00	15.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for Club Gaming or Machine Permit	Statutory	200.00	200.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for Club Gaming or Machine Permit (existing holder)	Statutory	100.00	100.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for Club Gaming or Machine Permit (who holds a Club Premises Certificate under Licensing Act 2003)	Statutory	100.00	100.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal of a Club Gaming or Machine Permit	Statutory	200.00	200.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal of a Club Gaming or Machine Permit (who holds a Club Premises Certificate under Licensing Act 2003)	Statutory	100.00	100.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual fee for Club Gaming or Machine Permit	Statutory	50.00	50.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to vary club Gaming or Machine Permit	Statutory	100.00	100.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Copy of Club Gaming or Machine Permit	Statutory	15.00	15.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Notification of intention by licence holder to make available up to 2 gaming machines on premises which hold on-premises alcohol licence	Statutory	50.00	50.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for a Gaming Machine Permit (more than 2 machines) on premises which hold on-premises alcohol licence (existing holder of permit)	Statutory	100.00	100.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application for a Gaming Machine Permit (more than 2 machines) on premises which hold on-premises alcohol licence (new application)	Statutory	150.00	150.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Annual fee for a Gaming Machine Permit (more than 2 machines) on premises which hold on-premises alcohol licence	Statutory	50.00	50.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to vary a Gaming Machine Permit (more than 2 machines) on premises which hold on-premises alcohol licence	Statutory	100.00	100.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Application to transfer a Gaming Machine Permit (more than 2 machines) on premises which hold on-premises alcohol licence	Statutory	25.00	25.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change of name on a Gaming Machine Permit (more than 2 machines) on premises which hold on-premises alcohol licence	Statutory	25.00	25.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Copy of a Gaming Machine Permit (more than 2 machines) on premises which hold on-premises alcohol licence	Statutory	15.00	15.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Registration	Statutory	40.00	40.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Renewal	Statutory	20.00	20.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Business Compliance						
Buy with Confidence - No. of Employees 1-5	Non-Statutory	114.00	140.00	Full cost recovery	22.8%	26.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Buy with Confidence - No. of Employees 6-20	Non-Statutory	226.00	262.00	Full cost recovery	15.9%	36.00
Buy with Confidence - No. of Employees 21-49	Non-Statutory	339.00	406.00	Full cost recovery	19.8%	67.00
Export Certificates (per hour)	Non-Statutory	90.00	94.00	Full cost recovery	4.4%	4.00
Pre-Inspection	Non-Statutory	165.60	206.00	Full cost recovery	24.4%	40.40
FHRS Re-rating Inspection	Non-Statutory	193.00	211.00	Full cost recovery	9.3%	18.00
Food Safety Advice (per hour)	Non-Statutory	90.00	94.00	Full cost recovery	4.4%	4.00
Primary Authority Partnership (per hour)	Non-Statutory	104.00	108.00	Full cost recovery	3.8%	4.00
Food Safety and Health and Safety Training (per person)	Non-Statutory	50.00	52.00	Full cost recovery	4.0%	2.00
Weights and Measures Verification and Testing (per hour)	Non-Statutory	87.00	106.00	Full cost recovery	21.8%	19.00
Trading Standards Advice (per hour)	Non-Statutory	90.00	94.00	Full cost recovery	4.4%	4.00
Fixed Penalty Notices						
Dog Fouling Fixed Penalty Notice	Statutory	80.00	80.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Dog Exclusion Fixed Penalty Notice	Statutory	80.00	80.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Dog off Lead Fixed Penalty Notice	Statutory	80.00	80.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Fly Tipping Fixed Penalty Notice	Statutory	80.00	80.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Litter Fixed Penalty Notice	Statutory	80.00	80.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Fly Tipping Fixed Penalty Notice	Statutory	400.00	400.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Planning and Building Control						
Planning Decision Notices, Listed Building Approvals, Enforcement Notices. Order Copies and Pay Online.	Statutory	20.00	20.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Copies of Tree Preservation Orders - Whole Document. Order Copies and Pay Online.	Statutory	20.00	20.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Building Regulation Approval Notices and Completion Certificates. Order Copies and Pay Online.	Statutory	20.50	20.50	N/A	0.0%	0.00
We can supply photocopies of letters/reports etc. per page. However we cannot supply copies of submitted architects drawings or building plans. Nor can we supply copies of Ordnance Survey Plans. Both these items are the copyright property of the originator.	Statutory	1.20	1.20	N/A	0.0%	0.00
We can undertake an informal search of our records for your property and copy certain documents but there will be a charge for this service. You can Request a search of the Planning records or order a list of documents.	Statutory	21.60	21.60	N/A	0.0%	0.00
You can request a manual search of the Building Regulations records by using the Building Regulations Online Form or sending a written request to Building Control. This service will take approximately 1 week for a response to be returned.	Statutory	21.60	21.60	N/A	0.0%	0.00
For urgently required information a written application for information can be sent in, together with payment and a response will be provided within 3 working days from receipt of the request.	Statutory	37.20	37.20	N/A	0.0%	0.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
*For a more complicated search, multiple record searches or a written response to an enquiry with a professional opinion; these will be subject to a minimum charge of £46.80 and an additional hourly rate charge at the approved standard hourly rate depending on the complexity of the search.	Statutory				0.0%	
Provision of late completion inspections and issue of completion certificates – please refer to the restrictions on the main Building Control pages in respect of Completion Certification. Note: Completion Certificates were not and cannot be issued on projects prior to 1st January 2000.	Statutory	80.00	80.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Administration fee for building control refunds and adjustment of paperwork	Statutory	37.20	37.20	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Dangerous building callout rates as each case has an individual set of circumstances and actions taken - individual charges will be due based upon the amount of time spent on the callout. All costs incurred by the council and its contractors will be recovered off the building owner:	Statutory			N/A	0.0%	
minimum callout rate (allows for up to 1hr spent on the call out) and our standard hourly rate there - after. Additional charges for contractors used to make safe the situation will also be charged	Statutory	67.00	67.00		0.0%	0.00
Callout during normal working week hours Minimum callout rate (allows for up to 1hr spent on the callout) and our standard out of hours hourly rate there-after.				N/A		
out of hours callouts. Additional charges for contractors used to make safe the situation will also be charged	Statutory	133.00	133.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
For the processing of Demolition Notices under Section 80 of the Building Act 1984	Statutory	80.00	80.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
For providing letter of Confirmation of exemption status under Building Regulations for proposed works	Non-Statutory	46.80	48.60	Inflation	3.8%	1.80
Pre-planning application advice						
<u>DEVELOPMENT TEAM SERVICE</u>						
Over 9,999 square metres of commercial floorspace						
Over 49 dwellings						
1,000 - 2,500 square metres retail floorspace						
Major infrastructure projects						
Sites in excess of 1.5 hectares						
Drilling Operations and Wind Turbines						
Meeting and written advice	Non-Statutory	4,146.00	4,312.00	Inflation	4.0%	166.00
Follow up meetings	Non-Statutory	619.20	644.00	Inflation	4.0%	24.80
Written advice only	Non-Statutory	2,487.60	2,587.00	Inflation	4.0%	99.40
<u>MAJOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICE</u>						
1,000 - 9,999 square metres of commercial floorspace						
100 - 999 square metres retail floorspace						
10 - 49 dwellings						
Sites between 1 - 1.5ha						

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Meeting and written advice	Non-Statutory	4,146.00	4,312.00	Inflation	4.0%	166.00
Follow up meetings	Non-Statutory	619.20	644.00	Inflation	4.0%	24.80
Written advice only	Non-Statutory	2,487.60	2,587.00	Inflation	4.0%	99.40
MINOR ADVICE SERVICE						
100 - 999 square metres of commercial floorspace						
Upto 100 square metres of retail floorspace						
1 - 9 dwellings						
Telecommunications developments						
s73 -Variation of conditions (excluding retail with floorspace over 1000 square metres)						
Public realm / engineering works						
Minerals, waste and energy projects (on sites up to 1 hectare)						
Small scale proposals not within above categories						
Meeting and written advice	Non-Statutory	1,940.40	2,018.00	Inflation	4.0%	77.60
Follow up meetings	Non-Statutory	465.60	484.00	Inflation	4.0%	18.40
Written advice only	Non-Statutory	1,164.00	1,211.00	Inflation	4.0%	47.00
Planning Performance Agreements						
Arranged on a bespoke basis when deemed appropriate with the agreement of developers with planning officer time charged at hourly rate of £103 for a Principal Planning Officer involvement. Where such agreements exist to recover costs of required external consultancy fees (such as Retail Impact Assessment specialists) plus an admin fee of 10%.	Non-Statutory	110.40	115.20	Full cost recovery	4.3%	4.80
Planning Applications						
Householder Applications						
Alterations/extensions to a single dwellinghouse, including works within boundary:						
- Single dwelling house	Statutory	258.00	258.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Outline Applications			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
The erection of dwellinghouses:			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area less than 0.5 hectares (for each 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	Statutory	578.00	578.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area between 0.5 hectares and 2.5 hectares (for each 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	Statutory	624.00	624.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area more than 2.5 hectares	Statutory	15,433.00	15,433.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area more than 2.5 hectares for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 2.5 hectares up to a maximum of £202,500		186.00	186.00	N/A	0.0%	
The erection of buildings (not dwellinghouses):			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area less than 1 hectare (for each 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	Statutory		578.00	N/A	0.0%	

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
- Site area between 1 hectare and 2.5 hectares (for each 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	Statutory	624.00	624.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area more than 2.5 hectares	Statutory	15,433.00	15,433.00	N/A	0.0%	
- Site area more than 2.5 hectares for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 2.5 hectares up to a maximum of £202,500	Statutory	186.00	186.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Full Applications (and First Submissions of Reserved Matters; or Technical Details Consent)			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Alterations/extensions to dwellinghouses, including works within boundaries:			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Single dwellinghouse (or single flat)	Statutory	258.00	258.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Two or more dwellinghouses (or two or more flats)	Statutory	509.00	509.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
The erection of dwellinghouses:			0.00	N/A	0.0%	
- Fewer than 10 dwellinghouses	Statutory	578.00	578.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Between 10 and 50 dwellinghouses	Statutory	624.00	624.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- More than 50 dwellinghouses	Statutory	30,860.00	30,860.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- More than 50 dwellinghouses for each additional dwellinghouse in excess of 50 up to a maximum of £405,000	Statutory	186.00	186.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
The erection of buildings (not dwellinghouses, agricultural, glasshouses, plant nor machinery):			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- No gross floor space to be created by the development or no more than 40 square metres	Statutory	293.00	293.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development more than 40 square metres but less than 1,000 square metres (for each 75 square metres or part thereof)	Statutory	578.00	578.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development between 1000 square metres and 3,750 square metres (for each 75 square metres or part thereof)	Statutory	624.00	624.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development more than 3,750 square metres	Statutory	30,680.00	30,680.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development more than 3,750 square metres for each additional 75 square metres (or part thereof) in excess of 3,750 square metres up to a maximum of £405,000	Statutory	186.00	186.00	N/A	0.0%	
The erection of buildings (on land used for agriculture for agricultural purposes)			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development not more than 465 square metres	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development more than 465 square metres but not more than 540 square metres thereof)	Statutory		257.00	N/A	0.0%	
- Gross floor space to be created by the development more than 540 square metres but less than 1,000 square metres (for first 540 square metres)	Statutory	578.00	578.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development more than 540 square metres but less than 1,000 square metres for each additional 75 square metres in excess of 540 square metres	Statutory	578.00	578.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development between 1,000 square metres and 4,215 square metres (for first 1,000 square metres)	Statutory	624.00	624.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development between 1,000 square metres and 4,215 square metres for each additional 75 square metres in excess of 1,000 square metres.	Statutory	624.00	624.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
- Gross floor space to be created by the development more than 4,215 square metres	Statutory	30,860.00	30,860.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development more than 4,215 square metres for each additional 75 square metres (or part thereof) in excess of 4,215 square metres up to a maximum of £405,000	Statutory	186.00	186.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Erection of glasshouses (on land used for the purposes of agriculture):			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development not more than 465 square metres	Statutory		120.00	N/A	0.0%	
- Gross floor space to be created by the development more than 465 square metres but not more than 1,000 square metres thereof	Statutory	3,225.00	3,225.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Gross floor space to be created by the development 1,000 square metres or more	Statutory	3,483.00	3,483.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Erection/alterations/replacement of plant and machinery			0.00	N/A	0.0%	
- Site area less than 1 hectare (for each 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	Statutory	578.00	578.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area between 1 hectare and 5 hectares (for each 0.1 hectare or part thereof)			624.00	N/A	0.0%	
- Site area more than 5 hectares	Statutory	30,860.00	30,860.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area more than 5 hectares for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 5 hectares up to a maximum fee of £405,000	Statutory	186.00	186.00	N/A	0.0%	
Applications other than Building Works:			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Car parks, service roads or other accesses (for existing uses)	Statutory	293.00	293.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Waste (Use of land for disposal of refuse or waste materials or deposit of material remaining after extraction or storage of minerals):			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area not more than 15 hectares (for each 0.1 hectare or part thereof)		316.00	316.00	N/A	0.0%	
- Site area more than 15 hectares	Statutory	47,161.00	47,161.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area more than 15 hectares for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 15 hectares up to a maximum of £105,300	Statutory	186.00	186.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Operations connected with exploratory drilling for oil or natural gas:			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area not more than 7.5 hectares (for each 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	Statutory	686.00	686.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area more than 7.5 hectares	Statutory	51,395.00	51,395.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area more than 7.5 hectares for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 7.5 hectares up to a maximum of £405,000	Statutory	204.00	204.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Operations (other than exploratory drilling) for the winning and working of oil or natural gas:			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area not more than 15 hectares (for each 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	Statutory	347.00	347.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area more than 15 hectares	Statutory	52,002.00	52,002.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area more than 15 hectares for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 15 hectares up to a maximum of £105,300	Statutory	204.00	204.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Other operations (winning and working of minerals) excluding oil and natural gas:			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area not more than 15 hectares (for each 0.1 hectare or part thereof)	Statutory	316.00	316.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area more than 15 hectares	Statutory	47,161.00	47,161.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Site area more than 15 hectares for each additional 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) in excess of 15 hectares up to a maximum of £105,300	Statutory	186.00	186.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Other operations (not coming within any of the above categories):			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Any site area for each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof) up to a maximum fee of £2,535	Statutory	293.00	293.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Uses of Land						
Change of Use of a building to use as one or more separate dwellinghouses, or other cases:						
- Fewer than 10 dwellinghouses	Statutory	578.00	578.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Between 10 and 50 dwellinghouses	Statutory	624.00	624.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- More than 50 dwellinghouses	Statutory	30,860.00	30,860.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- More than 50 dwellinghouses for each additional dwellinghouse in excess of 50 up to a maximum of £405,000	Statutory	186.00	186.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Other Changes of Use of a building or land	Statutory	578.00	578.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Lawful Development Certificate			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Existing use or operation	Statutory			N/A	0.0%	
Existing use or operation - lawful not to comply with any condition or limitation	Statutory	293.00	293.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Proposed use or operation	Statutory			N/A	0.0%	
Prior Approval (under Permitted Development rights)			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Larger Home Extensions	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Additional storeys on a home			120.00	N/A	0.0%	
Agricultural and Forestry buildings & operations	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Demolition of buildings	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Communications (previously referred to as 'Telecommunications Code Systems Operators')	Statutory	578.00	578.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change of use from Commercial/Business/Service (Use Class E), or Betting Office or Pay Day Loan Shop to mixed use including up to two flats (Use Class C3)	Statutory		120.00	N/A	0.0%	
Change of Use of a building and any land within its curtilage from Commercial/Business/Service (Use Class E), Hotels (Use Class C1), Residential Institutions (Use Class C2), Secure Residential Institutions (Use Class C2A) to a State Funded School	Statutory		120.00	N/A	0.0%	
Change of Use of a building and any land within its curtilage from an Agricultural Building to a State-Funded School	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change of Use of a building and any land within its curtilage from an Agricultural Building to a flexible commercial use within Commercial/Business/Service (Use Class E), Storage or Distribution (Use Class B8), or Hotels (Use Class C1)	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change of Use of a building and any land within its curtilage from Commercial/Business/Service (Use Class E) to Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3), for each dwellinghouse	Statutory	125.00	125.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change of Use of a building and any land within its curtilage from an Agricultural Building to Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3)	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change of Use of a building and any land within its curtilage from an Agricultural Building to Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3), if it includes building operations in connection with the change of use	Statutory	258.00	258.00	N/A	0.0%	

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Change of use of a building from Betting Office, Pay Day Loan Shop, Launderette; a mixed use combining one of these uses and use as Dwellinghouse(s); or Hot Food Takeaways to Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3)	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change of use of a building from Betting Office, Pay Day Loan Shop, Launderette; a mixed use combining one of these uses and use as Dwellinghouse(s); or Hot Food Takeaways to Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3), if it includes building operations in connection with the change of use	Statutory	258.00	258.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change of Use of a building and any land within its curtilage from Amusement Arcades/Centres and Casinos to Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3)	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Change of Use of a building and any land within its curtilage from Amusement Arcades/Centres and Casinos to Dwellinghouses (Use Class C3), if it includes building operations in connection with the change of use	Statutory	258.00	258.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Temporary Use of Buildings or Land for the Purpose of Commercial Film-Making and the Associated Temporary Structures, Works, Plant or Machinery required in Connection with that Use	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Provision of Temporary School Buildings on Vacant Commercial Land and the use of that land as a State-funded School for up to 3 Academic Years	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Development Consisting of the Erection or Construction of a Collection Facility within the Curtilage of a Shop	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Installation, Alteration or Replacement of other Solar Photovoltaics (PV) equipment on the Roofs of Non-domestic Buildings (1 Megawatt capacity restriction removed from 21 December 2023)	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Installation, Alteration or Replacement of microgeneration Solar Photovoltaics (PV) equipment or solar thermal equipment on the flat roof of a dwellinghouse or a block of flats (or a building situated within the curtilage) on Article 2(3) land.	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Installation, alteration or replacement of stand-alone solar for microgeneration within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse or a block of flats in a conservation area, where it would be nearer to any highway which bounds the curtilage than the part of the dwellinghouse or block of flats which is nearest to that highway.	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Installation, alteration or replacement of stand-alone solar for microgeneration within the curtilage of a non-domestic building on Article 2(3) land, where it would be nearer to any highway which bounds the curtilage than the part of the building which is nearest to that highway.	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Installation, alteration or replacement of a solar canopy within an area lawfully used as offstreet parking other than for a dwellinghouse or a block of flats.	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Erection, extension, or alteration of a university building	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Movable structure within the curtilage of a historic visitor attraction, or listed pub/restaurant/etc	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Erection, extension or alteration on a closed defence site by or on behalf of the Crown of single living accommodation and/or non-residential buildings	Statutory	120.00	120.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Construction of new dwellinghouses:			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Fewer than 10 dwellinghouses for each dwellinghouse	Statutory	418.00	418.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Between 10 and 50 dwellinghouses for each dwellinghouse	Statutory	451.00	451.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- More than 50 dwellinghouses	Statutory	22,309.00	22,309.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
- More than 50 dwellinghouses for each additional dwellinghouse in excess of 50 up to a maximum of £405,000	Statutory	135.00	135.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Reserved Matters			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Approval of reserved matters following outline approval	Statutory			N/A	0.0%	
Approval of reserved matters following outline approval, if full fee already paid	Statutory	578.00	578.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Removal/Variation/Approval/Discharge of condition			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Removal or variation of a condition following grant of planning permission	Statutory	293.00	293.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Discharge of condition(s) – Approval of details and/or confirmation that one or more planning conditions have been complied with:	Statutory	0.00	0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- Householder permissions	Statutory	43.00	43.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
- All other permissions	Statutory	145.00	145.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Advertising			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Relating to the business on the premises	Statutory	165.00	165.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Advance signs which are not situated on or visible from the site, directing the public to a business	Statutory	165.00	165.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Other advertisements	Statutory	578.00	578.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Non-material Amendment Following a Grant of Planning Permission			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Householder developments	Statutory	43.00	43.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Any other development	Statutory	293.00	293.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Permission in Principle			0.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
For each 0.1 hectare (or part thereof)	Statutory	503.00	503.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Land Charges						
Con 29 Residential	Non-Statutory	106.80	140.00	Full cost recovery	31.1%	33.20
Con 29 Commercial	Non-Statutory	133.20	216.00	Full cost recovery	62.2%	82.80
Con 29 R Extra parcel of land	Non-Statutory	34.80	56.00	Full cost recovery	60.9%	21.20
Con 29 O Per Question (except Q22)	Non-Statutory	38.40	42.00	Full cost recovery	9.4%	3.60
Con 29 O Q22 only	Non-Statutory	16.80	31.00	Full cost recovery	84.5%	14.20
Building Control						
Plan Charge for - Single storey extension floor area not exceeding 10m2	Non-Statutory	415.20	432.00	Inflation	4.0%	16.80
Building Notice Charge for - Single storey extension floor area not exceeding 10m2	Non-Statutory	490.80	510.00	Inflation	3.9%	19.20
Plan Charge for - Single storey extension floor area exceeding 10m2 but not exceeding 40m2	Non-Statutory	222.00	231.00	Inflation	4.1%	9.00
Inspection Charge for - Single storey extension floor area exceeding 10m2 but not exceeding 40m2	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60
Building Notice Charge for - Single storey extension floor area exceeding 10m2 but not exceeding 40m2	Non-Statutory	654.00	680.00	Inflation	4.0%	26.00
Plan Charge for - Single storey extension floor area exceeding 40m2 but not exceeding 80m2	Non-Statutory	222.00	231.00	Inflation	4.1%	9.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Inspection Charge for - Single storey extension floor area exceeding 40m2 but not exceeding 80m2	Non-Statutory	446.40	464.00	Inflation	3.9%	17.60
Building Notice Charge for - Single storey extension floor area exceeding 40m2 but not exceeding 80m2	Non-Statutory	742.80	773.00	Inflation	4.1%	30.20
Plan Charge for - Two storey extension floor area not exceeding 40m2	Non-Statutory	222.00	231.00	Inflation	4.1%	9.00
Inspection Charge for - Two storey extension floor area not exceeding 40m2	Non-Statutory	446.40	464.00	Inflation	3.9%	17.60
Building Notice Charge for - Two storey extension floor area not exceeding 40m2	Non-Statutory	742.80	773.00	Inflation	4.1%	30.20
Plan Charge for - Two storey extension floor area exceeding 40m2 but not exceeding 100m2	Non-Statutory	222.00	231.00	Inflation	4.1%	9.00
Inspection Charge for - Two storey extension floor area exceeding 40m2 but not exceeding 100m2	Non-Statutory	499.20	519.00	Inflation	4.0%	19.80
Building Notice Charge for - Two storey extension floor area exceeding 40m2 but not exceeding 100m2	Non-Statutory	795.60	827.00	Inflation	3.9%	31.40
Plan Charge for - Loft Conversion that does not include the construction of a dormer (max floor area 50m2)	Non-Statutory	446.40	464.00	Inflation	3.9%	17.60
Building Notice Charge for - Loft Conversion that does not include the construction of a dormer (max floor area 50m2)	Non-Statutory	490.80	510.00	Inflation	3.9%	19.20
Plan Charge for - Loft conversion that includes the construction of a dormer (max floor area 50m2)	Non-Statutory	222.00	231.00	Inflation	4.1%	9.00
Inspection Charge for - Loft conversion that includes the construction of a dormer (max floor area 50m2)	Non-Statutory	243.60	253.00	Inflation	3.9%	9.40
Building Notice Charge for - Loft conversion that includes the construction of a dormer (max floor area 50m2)	Non-Statutory	535.20	557.00	Inflation	4.1%	21.80
Plan Charge for - Erection of a non exempt attached single storey extension of a garage or carport up to 100m2	Non-Statutory	267.60	278.00	Inflation	3.9%	10.40
Building Notice Charge for - Erection or extension of a non exempt detached garage or carport up to 100m2	Non-Statutory	312.00	324.00	Inflation	3.8%	12.00
Plan Charge for - Erection of a non exempt attached single storey extension of a garage or carport up to 100m2	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60
Building Notice Charge for - Erection of a non exempt attached single storey extension of a garage or carport up to 100m2	Non-Statutory	402.00	418.00	Inflation	4.0%	16.00
Plan Charge for - Attached Garage Conversion to a create a habitable room / kitchen or utility space	Non-Statutory	267.60	278.00	Inflation	3.9%	10.40
Building Notice Charge for - Attached Garage Conversion to a create a habitable room / kitchen or utility space	Non-Statutory	312.00	324.00	Inflation	3.8%	12.00
Plan Charge for - Erection of a multi storey detached ancillary building upto 100m2 floor area	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60
Building Notice Charge for - Erection of a multi storey detached ancillary building upto 100m2 floor area	Non-Statutory	402.00	418.00	Inflation	4.0%	16.00
Plan Charge for - Creation of a Basement up to 100m2	Non-Statutory	403.20	419.00	Inflation	3.9%	15.80
Building Notice Charge for - Creation of a Basement up to 100m2	Non-Statutory	447.60	466.00	Inflation	4.1%	18.40

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Plan Charge for - Domestic alterations to a single building: underpinning (up to 20 linear metres)	Non-Statutory	394.80	411.00	Inflation	4.1%	16.20
Building Notice Charge for - Domestic alterations to a single building: underpinning (up to 20 linear metres)	Non-Statutory	394.80	411.00	Inflation	4.1%	16.20
Plan Charge for - Domestic alterations to a single building:Renovation of a thermal element to a single dwelling	Non-Statutory	160.80	167.00	Inflation	3.9%	6.20
Building Notice Charge for - Domestic alterations to a single building:Renovation of a thermal element to a single dwelling	Non-Statutory	160.80	167.00	Inflation	3.9%	6.20
Plan Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost less than £2,000	Non-Statutory	229.20	238.00	Inflation	3.8%	8.80
Building Notice Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost less than £2,000	Non-Statutory	229.20	238.00	Inflation	3.8%	8.80
Plan Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost over £2,000 up to £5000	Non-Statutory	309.60	322.00	Inflation	4.0%	12.40
Building Notice Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost over £2,000 up to £5000	Non-Statutory	309.60	322.00	Inflation	4.0%	12.40
Plan Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost exceeding £5,000 up to £25,000	Non-Statutory	381.60	397.00	Inflation	4.0%	15.40
Building Notice Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost exceeding £5,000 up to £25,000	Non-Statutory	381.60	397.00	Inflation	4.0%	15.40
Plan Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost exceeding £25,001 and up to £50,000	Non-Statutory	159.60	166.00	Inflation	4.0%	6.40
Inspection Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost exceeding £25,001 and up to £50,000	Non-Statutory	348.00	362.00	Inflation	4.0%	14.00
Building Notice Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost exceeding £25,001 and up to £50,000	Non-Statutory	506.40	527.00	Inflation	4.1%	20.60
Plan Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost exceeding £50,001 and up to £75,000	Non-Statutory	159.60	166.00	Inflation	4.0%	6.40
Inspection Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost exceeding £50,001 and up to £75,000	Non-Statutory	474.00	493.00	Inflation	4.0%	19.00
Building Notice Charge for Alterations, installation of fittings (not electrical) and/or structural alterations - Estimated cost exceeding £50,001 and up to £75,000	Non-Statutory	634.80	660.00	Inflation	4.0%	25.20
Plan Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Standalone electrical work not being carried out in conjunction with any other category of work. Carried out by an electrician not a member of a competent persons scheme, capable of demonstrating upto date qualifications and providing all design information, installation and test certification. - Any electrical works other than rewiring of a dwelling	Non-Statutory	267.60	278.00	Inflation	3.9%	10.40
Building Notice Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Standalone electrical work not being carried out in conjunction with any other category of work. Carried out by an electrician not a member of a competent persons scheme, capable of demonstrating upto date qualifications and providing all design information, installation and test certification. - Any electrical works other than rewiring of a dwelling	Non-Statutory	267.60	278.00	Inflation	3.9%	10.40

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Plan Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Standalone electrical work not being carried out in conjunction with any other category of work. Carried out by an electrician not a member of a competent persons scheme, capable of demonstrating upto date qualifications and providing all design information, installation and test certification. - Rewiring or new installation in a dwelling	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60
Building Notice Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Standalone electrical work not being carried out in conjunction with any other category of work. Carried out by an electrician not a member of a competent persons scheme, capable of demonstrating upto date qualifications and providing all design information, installation and test certification. - Rewiring or new installation in a dwelling	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60
Plan Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Additional charge for 'notifiable' electrical works carried out at the same time as the other work categories above. Carried out by an electrician not a member of a competent persons scheme, capable of demonstrating upto date qualifications and providing all design information, installation and test certification.	Non-Statutory	222.00	231.00	Inflation	4.1%	9.00
Building Notice Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Additional charge for 'notifiable' electrical works carried out at the same time as the other work categories above. Carried out by an electrician not a member of a competent persons scheme, capable of demonstrating upto date qualifications and providing all design information, installation and test certification.	Non-Statutory	222.00	231.00	Inflation	4.1%	9.00
Plan Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Standalone electrical work not being carried out in conjunction with any other category of work (carried out by a non qualified person) - Any electrical works other than rewiring of a dwelling	Non-Statutory	380.40	396.00	Inflation	4.1%	15.60
Building Notice Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Standalone electrical work not being carried out in conjunction with any other category of work (carried out by a non qualified person) - Any electrical works other than rewiring of a dwelling	Non-Statutory	380.40	396.00	Inflation	4.1%	15.60
Plan Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Standalone electrical work not being carried out in conjunction with any other category of work (carried out by a non qualified person) - Rewiring or new installation in a dwelling	Non-Statutory	505.20	525.00	Inflation	3.9%	19.80
Building Notice Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Standalone electrical work not being carried out in conjunction with any other category of work (carried out by a non qualified person) - Rewiring or new installation in a dwelling	Non-Statutory	505.20	525.00	Inflation	3.9%	19.80
Plan Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Additional charge for 'notifiable' electrical works carried out at the same time as the other work categories above (carried out by a non qualified person) - Any electrical works other than rewiring of a dwelling	Non-Statutory	296.40	308.00	Inflation	3.9%	11.60
Building Notice Charge for - Domestic Electrical Works: Additional charge for 'notifiable' electrical works carried out at the same time as the other work categories above (carried out by a non qualified person) - Any electrical works other than rewiring of a dwelling	Non-Statutory	296.40	308.00	Inflation	3.9%	11.60
Plan Charge for - Solid fuel appliances: Installation of a solid fuel appliance by non-competent person scheme member e.g. not HETAS registered	Non-Statutory	177.60	185.00	Inflation	4.2%	7.40
Inspection Charge for - Solid fuel appliances: Installation of a solid fuel appliance by non-competent person scheme member e.g. not HETAS registered	Non-Statutory	411.60	428.00	Inflation	4.0%	16.40

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Building Notice Charge for - Solid fuel appliances: Installation of a solid fuel appliance by non-competent person scheme member e.g. not HETAS registered	Non-Statutory	589.20	613.00	Inflation	4.0%	23.80
Plan Charge for - Domestic Window Replacements: Window replacements (non competent persons scheme member) - per installation up to 10 windows	Non-Statutory	134.40	140.00	Inflation	4.2%	5.60
Building Notice Charge for - Domestic Window Replacements: Window replacements (non competent persons scheme member) - per installation up to 10 windows	Non-Statutory	134.40	140.00	Inflation	4.2%	5.60
Plan Charge for - Domestic Window Replacements: Window replacements (non competent persons scheme member) - per installation upto 11 to 20 windows	Non-Statutory	253.20	263.00	Inflation	3.9%	9.80
Building Notice Charge for - Domestic Window Replacements: Window replacements (non competent persons scheme member) - per installation upto 11 to 20 windows	Non-Statutory	253.20	263.00	Inflation	3.9%	9.80
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 1 dwelling	Non-Statutory	338.40	352.00	Inflation	4.0%	13.60
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 1 dwelling	Non-Statutory	483.60	503.00	Inflation	4.0%	19.40
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 1 dwelling	Non-Statutory	1,000.80	1,041.00	Inflation	4.0%	40.20
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 2 dwellings	Non-Statutory	434.40	452.00	Inflation	4.1%	17.60
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 2 dwellings	Non-Statutory	676.80	704.00	Inflation	4.0%	27.20
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 2 dwellings	Non-Statutory	1,291.20	1,343.00	Inflation	4.0%	51.80
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 3 dwellings	Non-Statutory	531.60	553.00	Inflation	4.0%	21.40
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 3 dwellings	Non-Statutory	822.00	855.00	Inflation	4.0%	33.00
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 3 dwellings	Non-Statutory	1,531.20	1,592.00	Inflation	4.0%	60.80
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 4 dwellings	Non-Statutory	639.60	665.00	Inflation	4.0%	25.40
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 4 dwellings	Non-Statutory	967.20	1,006.00	Inflation	4.0%	38.80
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 4 dwellings	Non-Statutory	1,784.40	1,856.00	Inflation	4.0%	71.60
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 5 dwellings	Non-Statutory	724.80	754.00	Inflation	4.0%	29.20
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 5 dwellings	Non-Statutory	1,112.40	1,157.00	Inflation	4.0%	44.60
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 5 dwellings	Non-Statutory	2,016.00	2,097.00	Inflation	4.0%	81.00
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 6 dwellings	Non-Statutory	730.80	760.00	Inflation	4.0%	29.20

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 6 dwellings	Non-Statutory	1,299.60	1,352.00	Inflation	4.0%	52.40
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 6 dwellings	Non-Statutory	2,206.80	2,295.00	Inflation	4.0%	88.20
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 7 dwellings	Non-Statutory	733.20	763.00	Inflation	4.1%	29.80
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 7 dwellings	Non-Statutory	1,328.40	1,382.00	Inflation	4.0%	53.60
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 7 dwellings	Non-Statutory	2,240.40	2,330.00	Inflation	4.0%	89.60
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 8 dwellings	Non-Statutory	738.00	768.00	Inflation	4.1%	30.00
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 8 dwellings	Non-Statutory	1,526.40	1,587.00	Inflation	4.0%	60.60
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 8 dwellings	Non-Statutory	2,442.00	2,540.00	Inflation	4.0%	98.00
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 9 dwellings	Non-Statutory	741.60	771.00	Inflation	4.0%	29.40
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 9 dwellings	Non-Statutory	1,737.60	1,807.00	Inflation	4.0%	69.40
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 9 dwellings	Non-Statutory	2,658.00	2,764.00	Inflation	4.0%	106.00
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 10 dwellings	Non-Statutory	745.20	775.00	Inflation	4.0%	29.80
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 10 dwellings	Non-Statutory	1,934.40	2,012.00	Inflation	4.0%	77.60
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 10 dwellings	Non-Statutory	2,859.60	2,974.00	Inflation	4.0%	114.40
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 11 dwellings	Non-Statutory	752.40	782.00	Inflation	3.9%	29.60
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 11 dwellings	Non-Statutory	2,114.40	2,199.00	Inflation	4.0%	84.60
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 11 dwellings	Non-Statutory	3,044.40	3,166.00	Inflation	4.0%	121.60
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 12 dwellings	Non-Statutory	756.00	786.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 12 dwellings	Non-Statutory	2,302.80	2,395.00	Inflation	4.0%	92.20
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 12 dwellings	Non-Statutory	3,236.40	3,366.00	Inflation	4.0%	129.60
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings -13 dwellings	Non-Statutory	759.60	790.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.40
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings -13 dwellings	Non-Statutory	2,488.80	2,588.00	Inflation	4.0%	99.20

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings -13 dwellings	Non-Statutory	3,428.40	3,566.00	Inflation	4.0%	137.60
Plan Charge for -Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 14 dwellings	Non-Statutory	763.20	794.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.80
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 14 dwellings	Non-Statutory	2,676.00	2,783.00	Inflation	4.0%	107.00
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 14 dwellings	Non-Statutory	3,619.20	3,764.00	Inflation	4.0%	144.80
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 15 dwellings	Non-Statutory	769.20	800.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.80
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 15 dwellings	Non-Statutory	2,864.40	2,979.00	Inflation	4.0%	114.60
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 15 dwellings	Non-Statutory	3,811.20	3,964.00	Inflation	4.0%	152.80
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 16 dwellings	Non-Statutory	772.80	804.00	Inflation	4.0%	31.20
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 16 dwellings	Non-Statutory	3,050.40	3,172.00	Inflation	4.0%	121.60
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 16 dwellings	Non-Statutory	4,003.20	4,163.00	Inflation	4.0%	159.80
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 17 dwellings	Non-Statutory	777.60	809.00	Inflation	4.0%	31.40
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 17 dwellings	Non-Statutory	3,238.80	3,368.00	Inflation	4.0%	129.20
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 17 dwellings	Non-Statutory	4,194.00	4,362.00	Inflation	4.0%	168.00
Plan Charge for - andard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 18 dwellings	Non-Statutory	782.40	814.00	Inflation	4.0%	31.60
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 18 dwellings	Non-Statutory	3,426.00	3,563.00	Inflation	4.0%	137.00
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 18 dwellings	Non-Statutory	4,386.00	4,561.00	Inflation	4.0%	175.00
Plan Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 19 dwellings	Non-Statutory	787.20	819.00	Inflation	4.0%	31.80
Inspection Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 19 dwellings	Non-Statutory	3,613.20	3,758.00	Inflation	4.0%	144.80
Building Notice Charge for - Standard Charges for the creation of, or conversion to Form New Dwellings - 19 dwellings	Non-Statutory	4,578.00	4,761.00	Inflation	4.0%	183.00
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area not exceeding 10m squared: - Other residential (institution and Other)	Non-Statutory	267.60	278.00	Inflation	3.9%	10.40
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area not exceeding 10m squared: - Other residential (institution and Other)	Non-Statutory	676.80	704.00	Inflation	4.0%	27.20
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area not exceeding 10m squared: - Assembly and Recreational use	Non-Statutory	267.60	278.00	Inflation	3.9%	10.40

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area not exceeding 10m squared: - Assembly and Recreational use	Non-Statutory	579.60	603.00	Inflation	4.0%	23.40
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area not exceeding 10m squared: - Industrial and storage usage	Non-Statutory	267.60	278.00	Inflation	3.9%	10.40
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area not exceeding 10m squared: - Industrial and storage usage	Non-Statutory	386.40	402.00	Inflation	4.0%	15.60
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area not exceeding 10m squared: - All other use classes	Non-Statutory	267.60	278.00	Inflation	3.9%	10.40
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area not exceeding 10m squared: - All other use classes	Non-Statutory	579.60	603.00	Inflation	4.0%	23.40
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 10m squared but not exceeding 40m squared: - other residential (institution and Other)	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 10m squared but not exceeding 40m squared: - other residential (institution and Other)	Non-Statutory	772.80	804.00	Inflation	4.0%	31.20
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for Floor area exceeding 10m squared but not exceeding 40m squared: -Assembly and Recreational use	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 10m squared but not exceeding 40m squared: -Assembly and Recreational use	Non-Statutory	676.80	704.00	Inflation	4.0%	27.20
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 10m squared but not exceeding 40m squared: -Industrial and storage usage	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 10m squared but not exceeding 40m squared: -Industrial and storage usage	Non-Statutory	483.60	503.00	Inflation	4.0%	19.40
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for -Floor area exceeding 10m squared but not exceeding 40m squared: -All other use classes	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 10m squared but not exceeding 40m squared: -All other use classes	Non-Statutory	676.80	704.00	Inflation	4.0%	27.20
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 40m squared but not exceeding 100m squared: -other residential (institution and Other)	Non-Statutory	446.40	464.00	Inflation	3.9%	17.60
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 40m squared but not exceeding 100m squared: -other residential (institution and Other)	Non-Statutory	871.20	906.00	Inflation	4.0%	34.80
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 40m squared but not exceeding 100m squared: -Assembly and Recreational use	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 40m squared but not exceeding 100m squared: -Assembly and Recreational use	Non-Statutory	772.80	804.00	Inflation	4.0%	31.20
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for -Floor area exceeding 40m squared but not exceeding 100m squared: -Industrial and storage usage	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 40m squared but not exceeding 100m squared: -Industrial and storage usage	Non-Statutory	579.60	603.00	Inflation	4.0%	23.40
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 40m squared but not exceeding 100m squared: -All other use classes	Non-Statutory	356.40	371.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.60
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Extension & New Build) for - Floor area exceeding 40m squared but not exceeding 100m squared: -All other use classes	Non-Statutory	772.80	804.00	Inflation	4.0%	31.20
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) for - Underpinning: -estimated cost up to £50k	Non-Statutory	391.20	407.00	Inflation	4.0%	15.80
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) for - Underpinning: -estimated cost exceeding £50k and up to £100k	Non-Statutory	127.20	132.00	Inflation	3.8%	4.80
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) for - Underpinning: - estimated cost exceeding £50k and up to £100k	Non-Statutory	380.40	396.00	Inflation	4.1%	15.60
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) for - Underpinning: -estimated cost exceeding £100k and up to £250k	Non-Statutory	190.80	198.00	Inflation	3.8%	7.20
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) for - Underpinning: - estimated cost exceeding £100k and up to £250k	Non-Statutory	444.00	462.00	Inflation	4.1%	18.00
Plan Charge (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) Window replacement (non competent persons scheme) including shop fronts but excluding associated works. Per installation up to 20 windows	Non-Statutory	134.40	140.00	Inflation	4.2%	5.60
Plan Charge (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) Window replacement (non competent persons scheme) including shop fronts but excluding associated works. Per installation over 20 windows up to 50 windows	Non-Statutory	253.20	263.00	Inflation	3.9%	9.80
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) Renovation of a thermal element Estimated cost up to £50,000	Non-Statutory	216.00	225.00	Inflation	4.2%	9.00
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) Renovation of a thermal element Estimated cost exceeding £50,000 and up to £100,000	Non-Statutory	260.40	271.00	Inflation	4.1%	10.60
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) Renovation of a thermal element Estimated cost exceeding £100,000 and up to £250,000	Non-Statutory	380.40	396.00	Inflation	4.1%	15.60
Plan Charge : (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) - Alterations not described elsewhere including structural alterations and installation of controlled fittings estimated cost up to £5,000	Non-Statutory	193.20	201.00	Inflation	4.0%	7.80
Plan Charge : (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) - Alterations not described elsewhere including structural alterations and installation of controlled fittings estimated cost exceeding £5,000 and up to £25,000	Non-Statutory	260.40	271.00	Inflation	4.1%	10.60

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Plan Charge : (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) - Plan Charge - Alterations not described elsewhere including structural alterations and installation of controlled fittings estimated cost exceeding £25,000 and up to £50,000	Non-Statutory	216.00	225.00	Inflation	4.2%	9.00
Inspection Charge : (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) - Inspection Charge - Alterations not described elsewhere including structural alterations and installation of controlled fittings estimated cost exceeding £25,000 and up to £50,000	Non-Statutory	296.40	308.00	Inflation	3.9%	11.60
Plan Charge : (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) - Plan Charge - Alterations not described elsewhere including structural alterations and installation of controlled fittings estimated cost exceeding £50,000 and up to £100,000	Non-Statutory	216.00	225.00	Inflation	4.2%	9.00
Inspection Charge : (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) - Inspection Charge for - Alterations not described elsewhere including structural alterations and installation of controlled fittings -estimated cost exceeding £50k and up to £100k	Non-Statutory	394.80	411.00	Inflation	4.1%	16.20
Plan Charge : (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) - Plan Charge for - Alterations not described elsewhere including structural alterations and installation of controlled fittings - estimated cost exceeding £100k and up to £150k	Non-Statutory	216.00	225.00	Inflation	4.2%	9.00
Inspection Charge : (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) - Inspection Charge for - Alterations not described elsewhere including structural alterations and installation of controlled fittings -estimated cost exceeding £100k and up to £150k	Non-Statutory	553.20	575.00	Inflation	3.9%	21.80
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) for - Installation of Mezzanine floor up to 250m squared	Non-Statutory	336.00	349.00	Inflation	3.9%	13.00
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) for - Installation of Mezzanine floor up to 250m squared	Non-Statutory	614.40	639.00	Inflation	4.0%	24.60
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) for - office or shop fit out up to 250m squared	Non-Statutory	216.00	225.00	Inflation	4.2%	9.00
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) for - office or shop fit out up to 250m squared	Non-Statutory	426.00	443.00	Inflation	4.0%	17.00
Plan Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) for - office or shop fit out over 250m squared up to 2000m squared	Non-Statutory	364.80	379.00	Inflation	3.9%	14.20
Inspection Charge: (All Other Non-Domestic Work - Alterations) for - office or shop fit out over 250m squared up to 2000m squared	Non-Statutory	592.80	617.00	Inflation	4.1%	24.20
Additional charge for the change of use of a building (All Other Non-Domestic Work) (Fixed Price - All associated building work will be subject to the additional charges detailed above. This additional charge does not apply in relation to a building used for residential purposes that is altered to create more or fewer dwellings)	Non-Statutory	380.40	396.00	Inflation	4.1%	15.60
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit						
For the provision of ecological information an administrative charge is levied for any data search undertaken. There are exceptions for academic data searches and landowners or occupiers for SBI information that relates to their land.						
Charge for first hour	Non-Statutory	128.40	133.00	Inflation	3.6%	4.60
Charge for each hour after the first hour	Non-Statutory	63.60	66.00	Inflation	3.8%	2.40

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Housing Services/Adaptions						
Plan Drawing charge - Non Adaptation Housing Assistance - general improvement costing up to £10,000	Non-Statutory	230.40	240.00	Inflation	4.2%	9.60
Plan Drawing charge - Non Adaptation Housing Assistance - general improvements costing over £10,000	Non-Statutory	997.20	1,037.00	Inflation	4.0%	39.80
Corporate Landlord						
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Main Hall - Weekday	Non-Statutory	37.00	38.00	Under Review	2.7%	1.00
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Main Hall - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Under Review	4.3%	2.00
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Main Hall - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	68.00	71.00	Under Review	4.4%	3.00
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Community Room 6 - Weekday	Non-Statutory	26.00	27.00	Under Review	3.8%	1.00
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Community Room 6 - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	37.00	38.00	Under Review	2.7%	1.00
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Community Room 6 - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	62.00	64.00	Under Review	3.2%	2.00
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Community Room 7 - Weekday	Non-Statutory	26.00	27.00	Under Review	3.8%	1.00
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Community Room 7 - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	37.00	38.00	Under Review	2.7%	1.00
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Community Room 7 - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	62.00	64.00	Under Review	3.2%	2.00
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Pennine Lounge - Weekday	Non-Statutory	21.00	22.00	Under Review	4.8%	1.00
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Pennine Lounge - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	31.00	32.00	Under Review	3.2%	1.00
External Room Hire - Denton Festival Hall - Pennine Lounge - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	62.00	64.00	Under Review	3.2%	2.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - Jubilee Hall - Weekday	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Under Review	4.3%	2.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - Jubilee Hall - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	62.00	64.00	Under Review	3.2%	2.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - Jubilee Hall - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	83.00	86.00	Under Review	3.6%	3.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - George Hatton Hall - Weekday	Non-Statutory	31.00	32.00	Under Review	3.2%	1.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - George Hatton Hall - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	52.00	54.00	Under Review	3.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - George Hatton Hall - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	73.00	76.00	Under Review	4.1%	3.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - both Lesser Halls (as a single venue) - Weekday	Non-Statutory	31.00	32.00	Under Review	3.2%	1.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - both Lesser Halls (as a single venue) - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	52.00	54.00	Under Review	3.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - both Lesser Halls (as a single venue) - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	73.00	76.00	Under Review	4.1%	3.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - Lesser Hall 1, Lesser Hall 2 - Weekday	Non-Statutory	31.00	32.00	Under Review	3.2%	1.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - Lesser Hall 1, Lesser Hall 2 - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Under Review	4.3%	2.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - Lesser Hall 1, Lesser Hall 2 - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	68.00	71.00	Under Review	4.4%	3.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - Conference Rooms - Weekday	Non-Statutory	16.00	17.00	Under Review	6.3%	1.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - Conference Rooms - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	31.00	32.00	Under Review	3.2%	1.00

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External Room Hire - Dukinfield Town Hall - Conference Rooms - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Under Review	4.3%	2.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Park - Function Room - Weekday	Non-Statutory	26.00	27.00	Under Review	3.8%	1.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Park - Function Room - Saturday	Non-Statutory	26.00	27.00	Under Review	3.8%	1.00
External Room Hire - Dukinfield Park - Function Room - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	26.00	27.00	Under Review	3.8%	1.00
External Room Hire - George Lawton Hall - Main Hall - Weekday	Non-Statutory	42.00	44.00	Under Review	4.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - George Lawton Hall - Main Hall - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	62.00	64.00	Under Review	3.2%	2.00
External Room Hire - George Lawton Hall - Main Hall - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	83.00	86.00	Under Review	3.6%	3.00
External Room Hire - George Lawton Hall - Community Room - Weekday	Non-Statutory	26.00	27.00	Under Review	3.8%	1.00
External Room Hire - George Lawton Hall - Community Room - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	37.00	38.00	Under Review	2.7%	1.00
External Room Hire - George Lawton Hall - Community Room - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Under Review	4.3%	2.00
External Room Hire - Hyde Town Hall - Hyde Hall - Weekday	Non-Statutory	42.00	44.00	Under Review	4.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Hyde Town Hall - Hyde Hall - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	57.00	59.00	Under Review	3.5%	2.00
External Room Hire - Hyde Town Hall - Hyde Hall - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	78.00	81.00	Under Review	3.8%	3.00
External Room Hire - Hyde Town Hall - Rutherford Suite - Weekday	Non-Statutory	31.00	32.00	Under Review	3.2%	1.00
External Room Hire - Hyde Town Hall - Rutherford Suite - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Under Review	4.3%	2.00
External Room Hire - Hyde Town Hall - Rutherford Suite - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	68.00	71.00	Under Review	4.4%	3.00
External Room Hire - Hyde Town Hall - Newton Suite - Weekday	Non-Statutory	31.00	32.00	Under Review	3.2%	1.00
External Room Hire - Hyde Town Hall - Newton Suite - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Under Review	4.3%	2.00
External Room Hire - Hyde Town Hall - Newton Suite - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	68.00	71.00	Under Review	4.4%	3.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Ball Room - Weekday	Non-Statutory	52.00	54.00	Under Review	3.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Ball Room - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	52.00	54.00	Under Review	3.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Ball Room - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	52.00	54.00	Under Review	3.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Banquet Room - Weekday	Non-Statutory	42.00	44.00	Under Review	4.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Banquet Room - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	42.00	44.00	Under Review	4.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Banquet Room - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	42.00	44.00	Under Review	4.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Lounge - Weekday	Non-Statutory	42.00	44.00	Under Review	4.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Lounge - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	42.00	44.00	Under Review	4.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Lounge - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	42.00	44.00	Under Review	4.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Conference Room (ceremonies) - Weekday	Non-Statutory	52.00	54.00	Under Review	3.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Conference Room (ceremonies) - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	52.00	54.00	Under Review	3.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Ryecroft Hall - Conference Room (ceremonies) - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	52.00	54.00	Under Review	3.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - District Assembly Room - Weekday	Non-Statutory	31.00	32.00	Under Review	3.2%	1.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - District Assembly Room - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Under Review	4.3%	2.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - District Assembly Room - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	68.00	71.00	Under Review	4.4%	3.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - both Community Rooms (as a single venue) - Weekday	Non-Statutory	31.00	32.00	Under Review	3.2%	1.00

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External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - both Community Rooms (as a single venue) - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Under Review	4.3%	2.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - both Community Rooms (as a single venue) - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	68.00	71.00	Under Review	4.4%	3.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - Community Room 3 - Weekday	Non-Statutory	31.00	32.00	Under Review	3.2%	1.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - Community Room 3 - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Under Review	4.3%	2.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - Community Room 3 - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	68.00	71.00	Under Review	4.4%	3.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - Community Room 4 - Weekday	Non-Statutory	31.00	32.00	Under Review	3.2%	1.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - Community Room 4 - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	47.00	49.00	Under Review	4.3%	2.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - Community Room 4 - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	68.00	71.00	Under Review	4.4%	3.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - Victoria Market Hall - Weekday	Non-Statutory	42.00	44.00	Under Review	4.8%	2.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - Victoria Market Hall - Evening/Saturday	Non-Statutory	57.00	59.00	Under Review	3.5%	2.00
External Room Hire - Stalybridge Civic Hall - Victoria Market Hall - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	78.00	81.00	Under Review	3.8%	3.00
External Room Hire - Stamford Park - Function Room - Weekday	Non-Statutory	26.00	27.00	Under Review	3.8%	1.00
External Room Hire - Stamford Park - Function Room - Saturday	Non-Statutory	26.00	27.00	Under Review	3.8%	1.00
External Room Hire - Stamford Park - Function Room - Sunday / Bank Holiday	Non-Statutory	26.00	27.00	Under Review	3.8%	1.00
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE						
Registrars						
Approved Premises Marriage fees	Non-Statutory	343.00	357.00	Inflation	4.1%	14.00
Private Citizenship ceremony	Non-Statutory	116.00	121.00	Inflation	4.3%	5.00
Decommissioned Rooms - Mon-Fri	Non-Statutory	0.00	155.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	155.00
Decommissioned Rooms -Sat	Non-Statutory	0.00	185.00	Full cost recovery	0.0%	185.00
Postage	Non-Statutory	2.00	3.00	Statutory	50.0%	1.00
S38/S106/S278 Legal Fees	Statutory	0.00	0.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
SR certificate	Statutory	11.00	11.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Registrar certificate	Statutory	11.00	11.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Registrar certificate (after reg)	Statutory	11.00	11.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
SR fee attend housbound marriage notice	Statutory	47.00	47.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
SR notice of marriage	Statutory	35.00	35.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
SR notice for RG licence	Statutory	15.00	15.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Attending marriage housbound	Statutory	84.00	84.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Attending marriage by Registrar at housebound	Statutory	84.00	84.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Attending marriage RO	Statutory	46.00	46.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00

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Attending marriage at registered building	Statutory	84.00	84.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Certification of place of meeting for religious worship	Statutory	29.00	29.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages (man and woman)	Statutory	123.00	123.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages - building previously registered(same sex)	Statutory	64.00	64.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages of man and woman (building not previously registered for solemnization of marriage between same sex couples)	Statutory	123.00	123.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Registration of a building for the solemnization of marriages of man and woman (building previously registered for solemnization of marriage between same sex couples)	Statutory	64.00	64.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Consideration by SR of a divorce obtained outside of the British Isles	Statutory	50.00	50.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Consideration by RG of a divorce obtained outside of the British Isles (payable to GRO LA % triage fee)	Statutory	75.00	75.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Conversion of a CP into a marriage completing declaration	Statutory	27.00	27.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Conversion of a CP into a marriage in a religious building registered for the marriage of same sex couples	Statutory	91.00	91.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Change forename added within 12 months of registration	Statutory	40.00	40.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Consideration fee by Registrar/SR for a correction	Statutory	75.00	75.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Consideration fee by RG for a correction payable to GRO LA % triage fee	Statutory	90.00	90.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Legal Services						
Development Agreement (Please call legal services)	Non-Statutory	0.00	0.00		0.0%	0.00
Freehold sale – above the value of £10,000 (1.5% of sale price subject to a minimum of £1,000)	Non-Statutory	1,000.00	1,040.00	Inflation	4.0%	40.00
Freehold Sale – garden/grazing land up to the value of £10,000	Non-Statutory	500.00	520.00	Inflation	4.0%	20.00
Sale of Ground Rent – Sale of freehold to long leaseholder	Non-Statutory	500.00	520.00	Inflation	4.0%	20.00
Freehold purchase (1.5% of sale price subject to a minimum of £1000)	Non-Statutory	0.00	0.00	Inflation	0.0%	0.00
Agreement for Lease	Non-Statutory	1,000.00	1,040.00	Inflation	4.0%	40.00
Lease (£1,000 Minimum)	Non-Statutory	1,000.00	1,040.00	Inflation	4.0%	40.00
Licence to Assign	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Authorise Guarantee Agreement	Non-Statutory	250.00	260.00	Inflation	4.0%	10.00
Licence to Sublet	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Licence for Alterations	Non-Statutory	475.00	494.00	Inflation	4.0%	19.00
Licence to Occupy	Non-Statutory	475.00	494.00	Inflation	4.0%	19.00
Agreement to extend or vary licence	Non-Statutory	300.00	312.00	Inflation	4.0%	12.00
Deed of Release (From £750)	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Deed of Variation (From £750)	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Easement (From £750)	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Deed of Covenant (Surveyor Fee)	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Deed of Surrender (From £750)	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Copy Lease	Non-Statutory	50.00	52.00	Inflation	4.0%	2.00

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Auction (Minimum £1500 or 1.5%)	Non-Statutory	1,500.00	1,560.00	Inflation	4.0%	60.00
Crane licence	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Lease Renewal	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Contracting out (£105 in addition to lease fee)	Non-Statutory	105.00	109.00	Inflation	3.8%	4.00
Licences – general	Non-Statutory	475.00	494.00	Inflation	4.0%	19.00
Licence for site investigations	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Market lease - Legal Fee	Non-Statutory	75.00	78.00	Inflation	4.0%	3.00
Market - Legal Fee Deed of Surrender	Non-Statutory	50.00	52.00	Inflation	4.0%	2.00
Licence to underlet	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
POS advert (£235 plus cost of advert)	Non-Statutory	235.00	244.00	Inflation	3.8%	9.00
Wayleaves	Non-Statutory	350.00	364.00	Inflation	4.0%	14.00
Overage Deed (From £1,059)	Non-Statutory	1,059.00	1,101.00	Inflation	4.0%	42.00
Conditional contract/sale (Higher of £4,000 or 1% of premium)	Non-Statutory	4,000.00	4,160.00	Inflation	4.0%	160.00
Garden Tenancy (£750 Minimum)	Non-Statutory	750.00	780.00	Inflation	4.0%	30.00
Notice of Assignment	Non-Statutory	125.00	130.00	Inflation	4.0%	5.00
			0.00			
RESOURCES						
Digital Tameside						
Duct Access (Charge per Metre per year)	Non-Statutory	0.60	0.60	Market rate	0.0%	0.00
Rack in Ashton Old Baths Data Centre (Charge per Full Rack per year) plus power at cost	Non-Statutory	7,920.00	8,237.00	Inflation	4.0%	317.00
Rack in Mini-DX site (Charge per Full Rack per year) including power	Non-Statutory	1,980.00	2,059.00	Inflation	4.0%	79.00
Lamp Column Rental (Charge per column per year) First Year	Non-Statutory	110.00	114.00	Inflation	3.6%	4.00
Lamp Column Rental (Charge per column per year) Subsequent Years	Non-Statutory	55.00	57.00	Inflation	3.6%	2.00
Dark fibre rental (Charge per metre per year)	Non-Statutory	0.13	0.13	Market rate	0.0%	0.00
Client Finance						
Deputyship Fee (greater than 16k assets) - Set up fee	Statutory	775.00	775.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Deputyship Fee (greater than 16k assets) - annual cost after year one	Statutory	650.00	650.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Deputyship Fee - Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) annual report - one off if requested	Statutory	216.00	216.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Deputyship Fee (less than 16k assets) cannot charge greater than 3.5% of net assets	Statutory	0.00	0.00	Statutory	0.0%	0.00
Appointeeship Fee - per week	Non-Statutory	11.50	12.00	Inflation	4.3%	0.50
Deferred Payment Admin Fee	Non-Statutory	769.00	799.00	Full cost recovery	3.9%	30.00
Annual self-funder fee for arranging non-residential care	Non-Statutory	95.00	99.00	Full cost recovery	4.2%	4.00
Exchequer						

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Cost of Summons/Liability Order - CTAX	Non-Statutory	86.00	86.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
Cost of Summons/Liability Order - NNDR	Non-Statutory	129.00	129.00	N/A	0.0%	0.00
ADULTS SERVICES						
Day Care Meals - per day	Non-Statutory	3.70	3.80	Inflation	2.7%	0.10
Day Care Drinks - per day	Non-Statutory	1.15	1.20	Inflation	4.3%	0.05
Day Care Attendance - per day	Non-Statutory	3.00	3.10	Inflation	3.3%	0.10
Day Care Transport- per journey	Non-Statutory	2.10	2.20	Inflation	4.8%	0.10
Direct Payments - Personal Assistant - per hour	Non-Statutory	13.10	13.60	Inflation	3.8%	0.50
Direct Payments - Care Provider Rate - per hour	Non-Statutory	19.50	21.10	Inflation	8.2%	1.60
Direct Payments - sleep in	Non-Statutory	68.30	70.80	Inflation	3.7%	2.50
Direct Payments - night Sit	Non-Statutory	116.10	120.30	Inflation	3.6%	4.20
Direct Payments Care Provider Rate - sleep-in	Non-Statutory	110.63	110.63		0.0%	0.00
Direct Payments Care Provider Rate - night sit	Non-Statutory	147.48	147.48		0.0%	0.00
Direct Payments Managed Account - weekly	Non-Statutory	7.90	8.20	Inflation	3.8%	0.30
Direct Payments Hydrotherapy - session	Non-Statutory	49.60	51.40	Inflation	3.6%	1.80
Direct Payments Day Care - day rate	Non-Statutory	37.10	38.40	Inflation	3.5%	1.30
Direct Payments Day Care - additional hour	Non-Statutory	13.00	13.50	Inflation	3.8%	0.50
Direct Payments Respite - weekly rate	Non-Statutory	512.80	531.30	Inflation	3.6%	18.50
Community Alarm - per week	Non-Statutory	7.50	7.80	Inflation	4.0%	0.30
Respite Care – Cumberland St - nightly rate	Non-Statutory	14.30	14.90	Inflation	4.2%	0.60
Support at home - per hour	Non-Statutory	21.14	23.00	Real Living Wage & Inflation	8.8%	1.86
Homecare - Commissioned - per hour	Non-Statutory	19.50	21.10	Real Living Wage & Inflation	8.2%	1.60
Homecare - per Hour	Non-Statutory	24.57	25.80	Inflation	5.0%	1.23
Homecare - sleep in	Non-Statutory	58.60	60.90	Inflation	3.9%	2.30
Homecare - night sit	Non-Statutory	99.70	103.70	Inflation	4.0%	4.00
Homecare - standard disregard	Non-Statutory	16.70	17.40	Inflation	4.2%	0.70
Extra care - per hour	Non-Statutory	17.20	17.90	Inflation	4.1%	0.70
Supported accommodation - per hour	Non-Statutory	17.20	17.90	Inflation	4.1%	0.70
Supported Accommodation- sleep in	Non-Statutory	60.50	62.90	Inflation	4.0%	2.40
Supported Accommodation - Night Sit	Non-Statutory	102.90	107.00	Inflation	4.0%	4.10
Maximum Charge - maximum weekly charge for non-residential services	Non-Statutory	521.50	542.40	Inflation	4.0%	20.90
Shared Lives - Respite - per night	Non-Statutory	34.20	35.60	Inflation	4.1%	1.40
Shared Lives - Long Term - per week	Non-Statutory	239.60	249.20	Inflation	4.0%	9.60
Shared Lives - Long Term Complex Needs - per week	Non-Statutory	520.50	541.30	Inflation	4.0%	20.80
Shared Lives - Day Support - per hour	Non-Statutory	7.20	7.50	Inflation	4.2%	0.30

Description of Fee	Statutory or Non-Statutory	2023/24 Total (inc VAT) £	2024/25 Total (inc VAT) £	Basis of 24/25 Increase	2024/25 % Changes (to 1 d.p.)	2024/25 £ Changes
Residential & Dementia - standard	Non-Statutory	638.00	686.40	Real Living Wage & Inflation	7.6%	48.40
Residential & Dementia - enhanced	Non-Statutory	682.66	734.40	Real Living Wage & Inflation	7.6%	51.74
Specialist dementia - standard	Non-Statutory	696.30	749.60	Real Living Wage & Inflation	7.7%	53.30
Specialist dementia - enhanced	Non-Statutory	745.04	802.10	Real Living Wage & Inflation	7.7%	57.06
Nursing - standard *	Non-Statutory	700.54	767.50	Real Living Wage & Inflation	9.6%	66.96
Nursing - enhanced *	Non-Statutory	763.29	835.20	Real Living Wage & Inflation	9.4%	71.91
Nursing & dementia - standard *	Non-Statutory	774.24	847.50	Real Living Wage & Inflation	9.5%	73.26
Nursing & dementia - enhanced *	Non-Statutory	842.15	920.80	Real Living Wage & Inflation	9.3%	78.65

* Rate excludes Funded Nursing Care (FNC) element funded by Health

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2024/25

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Treasury management is the management of the Council's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Council has substantial levels of borrowing and investments and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Council's prudent financial management.
- 1.2 Treasury risk management at the Council is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Council to approve a treasury management strategy before the start of each financial year. This report fulfils the Council's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to the CIPFA Code.

2 EXTERNAL CONTEXT

- 2.1 The below update is provided by the Council's advisors, Arlingclose:
- 2.2 Economic background: The impact on the UK from higher interest rates and inflation, a weakening economic outlook, an uncertain political climate due to an upcoming general election, together with war in Ukraine and the Middle East, will be major influences on the Council's treasury management strategy for 2024/25.
- 2.3 The Bank of England (BoE) increased Bank Rate to 5.25% in August 2023, before maintaining this level in September and then again in November. Members of the BoE's Monetary Policy Committee voted 6-3 in favour of keeping Bank Rate at 5.25%. The three dissenters wanted to increase rates by another 0.25%.
- 2.4 The November quarterly Monetary Policy Report (MPR) forecast a prolonged period of weak Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth with the potential for a mild contraction due to ongoing weak economic activity. The outlook for CPI inflation was deemed to be highly uncertain, with near-term risks to CPI falling to the 2% target coming from potential energy price increases, strong domestic wage growth and persistence in price-setting.
- 2.5 Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures showed CPI inflation was 3.9% in November 2023, down from a 4.6% rate in the previous month and, in line with the recent trend, lower than expected. The core CPI inflation rate declined to 5.1% from the previous month's 5.7%, again lower than predictions. Looking ahead, using the interest rate path implied by financial markets the BoE expects CPI inflation to continue falling slowly, but taking until early 2025 to reach the 2% target before dropping below target during the second half 2025 and into 2026.
- 2.6 ONS figures showed the UK economy contracted by 0.1% between July and September 2023. The BoE forecasts GDP will likely stagnate through 2024. The BoE forecasts that higher interest rates will constrain GDP growth, which will remain weak over the entire forecast horizon.

- 2.7 The labour market appears to be loosening, but only very slowly. The unemployment rate rose slightly to 4.2% between June and August 2023, from 4.0% in the previous 3-month period, but the lack of consistency in the data between the two periods made comparisons difficult. Earnings growth remained strong, with regular pay (excluding bonuses) up 7.8% over the period and total pay (including bonuses) up 8.1%. Adjusted for inflation, regular pay was 1.1% and total pay 1.3%. Looking forward, the MPR showed the unemployment rate is expected to be around 4.25% in the second half of calendar 2023, but then rising steadily over the forecast horizon to around 5% in late 2025/early 2026.
- 2.8 Having increased its key interest rate to a target range of 5.25-5.50% in August 2023, the US Federal Reserve appears now to have concluded the hiking cycle. It is likely this level represents the peak in US rates following a more dovish meeting outcome in December 2023. US GDP grew at an annualised rate of 4.9% between July and September 2023, ahead of expectations for a 4.3% expansion and the 2.1% reading for Q2. But the impact from higher rates has started to feed into economic activity and growth will weaken in 2024. Annual CPI inflation was 3.1% in November.
- 2.9 Eurozone inflation has declined steadily since the start of 2023, falling to an annual rate of 2.9% in October 2023. Economic growth has been weak, and GDP was shown to have contracted by 0.1% in the three months to September 2023. In line with other central banks, the European Central Bank has been increasing rates, taking its deposit facility, fixed rate tender, and marginal lending rates to 3.75%, 4.25% and 4.50% respectively.
- 2.10 **Credit outlook:** Credit Default Swap (CDS) prices were volatile during 2023, spiking in March on the back of banking sector contagion concerns following the major events of Silicon Valley Bank becoming insolvent and the takeover of Credit Suisse by UBS. After then falling back in Q2 of calendar 2023, in the second half of the year, higher interest rates and inflation, the ongoing war in Ukraine, and now the Middle East, have led to CDS prices increasing steadily.
- 2.11 On an annual basis, CDS price volatility has so far been lower in 2023 compared to 2022, but this year has seen more of a divergence in prices between ringfenced (retail) and non-ringfenced (investment) banking entities once again.
- 2.12 Moody's revised its outlook on the UK sovereign to stable from negative to reflect its view of restored political predictability following the volatility after the 2022 mini-budget. Moody's also affirmed the Aa3 rating in recognition of the UK's economic resilience and strong institutional framework.
- 2.13 Following its rating action on the UK sovereign, Moody's revised the outlook on five UK banks to stable from negative and then followed this by the same action on five rated local authorities. However, within the same update the long-term ratings of those five local authorities were downgraded.
- 2.14 There remain competing tensions in the banking sector, on one side from higher interest rates boosting net income and profitability against another of a weakening economic outlook and likely recessions that increase the possibility of a deterioration in the quality of banks' assets.
- 2.15 However, the institutions on our adviser Arlingclose's counterparty list remain well-capitalised and their counterparty advice on both recommended institutions and maximum duration remain under constant review and will continue to reflect economic conditions and the credit outlook.

- 2.16 Interest rate forecast (December 2023): Although UK inflation and wage growth remain elevated, the Authority's treasury management adviser Arlingclose forecasts that Bank Rate has peaked at 5.25%. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee will start reducing rates in 2024 to stimulate the UK economy but will be reluctant to do so until it is sure there will be no lingering second-round effects. Arlingclose sees rate cuts from Q3 2024 to a low of around 3% by early-mid 2026.
- 2.17 Arlingclose expects long-term gilt yields to be broadly stable at current levels (amid continued volatility), following the decline in yields towards the end of 2023, which reflects the expected lower medium-term path for Bank Rate. Yields will remain relatively higher than in the past, due to quantitative tightening and significant bond supply. As ever, there will undoubtedly be short-term volatility due to economic and political uncertainty and events.
- 2.18 A more detailed economic and interest rate forecast provided by Arlingclose is in Appendix 1A.

3 LOCAL CONTEXT

- 3.1 On 31 December 2023 the Council held £121m of investments and £139m of borrowing. This is set out in further detail in the table below and in Appendix 1B.

	31/12/2023 Actual £m	31/03/2024 Estimate £m	31/03/2025 Estimate £m
Loans CFR	195.832	190.856	188.262
PFI & Leases	90.617	89.080	84.397
Total CFR	286.450	279.936	272.659
External Borrowing	139.025	136.025	136.025
Internal Borrowing	56.807	54.831	52.237
Treasury Investments	121.400	120.000	100.000

- 3.2 The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while balance sheet resources are the underlying sums available for investment. The Council's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing. The strategy of internal borrowing is beneficial as the interest charged on borrowing is greater than that available on investments, and also has the benefit of reducing the Council's exposure to counterparty credit risk.

4 BORROWING STRATEGY

- 4.1 The Council currently holds £139m of loans as part of the strategy for funding previous capital expenditure. It is not anticipated that any further borrowing will be taken up in the short term.

- 4.2 The Council's chief objective when borrowing money is to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving certainty of those costs over the period for which funds are required. Given the significant cuts to public expenditure and in particular to local government funding, the Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term and bearing refinancing risk.
- 4.3 By using internal resources, the Council is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The benefits of internal borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by taking up borrowing. Arlingclose will assist the Council with this 'cost of carry' and breakeven analysis. The monitoring output may determine whether the Council borrows additional sums at long-term fixed rates in 2024/25 with a view to keeping future interest costs low, even if this causes additional cost in the short-term.
- 4.4 The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the PWLB but will consider long-term loans from other sources including banks, pension funds and local authorities, and will investigate the possibility of issuing bonds and similar instruments, in order to reduce interest costs and reduce over-reliance on one source of funding in line with the CIPFA Code. PWLB loans are no longer available for any form of borrowing need to local authorities where they declare plans to buy investment assets primarily for yield.
- 4.5 Alternatively, the Council may arrange forward starting loans, where the interest rate is fixed in advance, but the cash is received in later years. This would enable certainty of cost to be achieved without suffering a cost of carry in the intervening period. In addition, the Council may borrow short-term loans to cover unplanned cash flow shortages.
- 4.6 **Sources of borrowing:** The approved sources of long-term and short-term borrowing are:
- HM Treasury's PWLB lending facility (formerly the Public Works Loan Board)
 - UK Infrastructure Bank Ltd
 - any institution approved for investments (see below)
 - any other bank or building society authorised to operate in the UK
 - any other UK public sector body
 - UK public and private sector pension funds
 - capital market bond investors
 - UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc and other special purpose companies created to enable local authority bond issues
- 4.7 **Other sources of debt finance:** In addition, capital finance may be raised by the following methods that are not borrowing, but may be classed as other debt liabilities:
- leasing
 - hire purchase
 - Private Finance Initiative
 - sale and leaseback
 - similar asset based finance

- 4.8 **Municipal Bonds Agency:** UK Municipal Bonds Agency plc was established in 2014 by the Local Government Association as an alternative to the PWLB. It issues bonds on the capital markets and lends the proceeds to local authorities. This is a more complicated source of finance than the PWLB for two reasons: borrowing authorities will be required to provide bond investors with a guarantee to refund their investment in the event that the agency is unable to for any reason; and there will be a lead time of several months between committing to borrow and knowing the interest rate payable. Any decision to borrow from the Agency will therefore be the subject of a separate report.
- 4.9 **LOBOs:** The Council holds £30m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate or to repay the loan at no additional cost. These LOBOs have options during 2024/25, and with interest rates having risen recently, there is now an increased likelihood that lenders will exercise their options. If they do, each decision will be reviewed but it is likely the Council will elect to repay and either use internal borrowing or take up alternative borrowing
- 4.10 **Short-term and variable rate loans:** These loans leave the Council exposed to the risk of short-term interest rate rises and are therefore subject to the interest rate exposure limits in the treasury management indicators below. The Council currently has no variable borrowing.
- 4.11 **Debt rescheduling:** The PWLB allows authorities to repay loans before maturity and either pay a premium or receive a discount according to a set formula based on current interest rates. Other lenders may also be prepared to negotiate premature redemption terms. The Council may take advantage of this and replace some loans with new loans, or repay loans without replacement, where this is expected to lead to an overall cost saving or a reduction in risk. The recent rise in interest rates means that more favourable debt rescheduling opportunities should arise than in previous years.

5 TREASURY INVESTMENT STRATEGY

- 5.1 The Council has held an average of £140m in invested funds over 2023/24 to date, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. It is anticipated that similar levels will be maintained going forwards.
- 5.2 **Objectives:** The CIPFA Code requires the Council to invest its treasury funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return, or yield. The Council's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, the Council will aim to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested. The Council aims to be a responsible investor and will consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues when investing.
- 5.3 **Strategy:** As outlined above, the Council has significant cash balances, and expects to continue to do so in 2024/25. Treasury investments primarily include short-term low risk instruments to manage cash flows; however, longer term investments with the potential for higher returns will be evaluated, particularly in expectation of current higher rates falling later in the year.

- 5.4 **ESG policy:** Environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations are increasingly a factor in global investors' decision making, but the framework for evaluating investment opportunities is still developing and therefore the Council's ESG policy does not currently include ESG scoring or other real-time ESG criteria at an individual investment level. When investing in banks and funds, the Council will prioritise banks that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Banking and funds operated by managers that are signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment, the Net Zero Asset Managers Alliance and/or the UK Stewardship Code.
- 5.5 **Business models:** Under the IFRS 9 standard, the accounting for certain investments depends on the Council's "business model" for managing them. The Council aims to achieve value from its treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore, where other criteria are also met, these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost.
- 5.6 **Approved counterparties:** The Council may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty types in the table below, subject to the limits shown.

Sector	Time limit	Counterparty limit	Sector limit
The UK Government	50 years	Unlimited	n/a
Local authorities & other government entities	25 years	£15m	Unlimited
Secured investments *	25 years	£15m	Unlimited
Banks (unsecured) *	13 months	£15m	Unlimited
Building societies (unsecured) *	13 months	£15m	£15m
Registered providers (unsecured) *	5 years	£15m	£30m
Money market funds *	n/a	£15m	Unlimited
Strategic pooled funds	n/a	£15m	£75m
Real estate investment trusts	n/a	£15m	£30m
Other investments *	5 years	£15m	£30m

- 5.7 This table represents the Council's upper limits only and is to be used in combination with the recommended limits set out in Arlingclose's regularly updated credit list. At the time of writing this report the Arlingclose list mostly has significantly shorter limits than those in the table above, as a result of market conditions. The table should be read in conjunction with the following notes:

- 5.8 * **Minimum credit rating:** Treasury investments in the sectors marked with an asterisk will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than A-. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.
- 5.9 **Government:** Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency and therefore may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.
- 5.10 **Secured investments:** Investments secured on the borrower's assets, which limits the potential losses in the event of insolvency. The amount and quality of the security will be a key factor in the investment decision. Covered bonds and reverse repurchase agreements with banks and building societies are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used. The combined secured and unsecured investments with any one counterparty will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.
- 5.11 **Banks and building societies (unsecured):** Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.
- 5.12 **Registered providers (unsecured):** Loans to, and bonds issued or guaranteed by, registered providers of social housing or registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (in England), the Scottish Housing Regulator, the Welsh Government and the Department for Communities (in Northern Ireland). As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.
- 5.13 **Money market funds:** Pooled funds that offer same-day or short notice liquidity and very low or no price volatility by investing in short-term money markets. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. Although no sector limit applies to money market funds, the Council will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.
- 5.14 **Strategic pooled funds:** Bond, equity and property funds that offer enhanced returns over the longer term but are more volatile in the short term. These allow the Council to diversify into asset classes other than cash without the need to own and manage the underlying investments. Because these funds have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council's investment objectives will be monitored regularly.
- 5.15 **Real estate investment trusts:** Shares in companies that invest mainly in real estate and pay the majority of their rental income to investors in a similar manner to pooled property funds. As with property funds, REITs offer enhanced returns over the longer term, but are more volatile especially as the share price reflects changing demand for the shares as well as changes in the value of the underlying properties.

- 5.16 **Other investments:** This category covers treasury investments not listed above, for example unsecured corporate bonds and company loans. Non-bank companies cannot be bailed-in but can become insolvent placing the Council's investment at risk.
- 5.17 **Operational bank accounts:** The Council may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £15m per bank. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the Council maintaining operational continuity.
- 5.18 **Risk assessment and credit ratings:** Credit ratings are obtained and monitored by the Council's treasury advisers, who will notify changes in ratings as they occur. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:
- no new investments will be made,
 - any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
 - full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.
- 5.19 **Other information on the security of investments:** The Council understands that credit ratings are good, but not perfect, predictors of investment default. Full regard will therefore be given to other available information on the credit quality of the organisations in which it invests, including credit default swap prices, financial statements, information on potential government support, reports in the quality financial press and analysis and advice from the Council's treasury management adviser. No investments will be made with an organisation if there are substantive doubts about its credit quality, even though it may otherwise meet the above criteria.
- 5.20 **Reputational aspects:** The Council is aware that investment with certain counterparties, while considered secure from a purely financial perspective, may leave it open to criticism, valid or otherwise, that may affect its public reputation, and this risk will therefore be taken into account when making investment decisions.
- 5.21 When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008, 2020 and 2022, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Council will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the Council's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, or with other local authorities. This will cause investment returns to fall but will protect the principal sum invested.

6 GREATER MANCHESTER PENSION FUND (GMPF)

- 6.1 The Council also carries out treasury management activities on behalf of Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF). GMPF holds cash in accordance with its strategic asset allocation as determined by the GMPF Management Panel, which may be increased or decreased on a tactical basis by the external investment managers within risk parameters also set by the Panel. As at 31 December 2023 the Pension Fund cash totalled around £575m.

- 6.2 The GMPF counterparty list mirrors that of Tameside MBC, along with the following operating constraints:
- a) The maximum duration for an investment is 1 year.
 - b) The maximum investment per counterparty is £75m
- 6.3 Along with these limits, further constraints are in place for the different categories of cash. The bulk of the fund managers' allocations must be available at short notice; therefore the following constraints are enforced:
- a) 35% must be available within one week
 - b) 70% must be available within two weeks

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 That the Treasury Management Strategy be recommended for approval.
- 7.2 That the MRP policy (Appendix 1C) be recommended for approval.
- 7.3 That the Prudential Indicators (Appendix 1D) be recommended for approval.

Arlingclose Economic & Interest Rate Forecast – December 2023

The below is provided by the Council's advisors, Arlingclose:

Underlying assumptions:

- UK inflation and wage growth remain elevated but have eased over the past two months fuelling rate cuts expectations. Near-term rate cuts remain unlikely, although downside risks will increase as the UK economy likely slides into recession.
- The MPC's message remains unchanged as the Committee seeks to maintain tighter financial conditions. Monetary policy will remain tight as inflation is expected to moderate to target slowly, although some wage and inflation measures are below the Bank's last forecasts.
- Despite some deterioration in activity data, the UK economy remains resilient in the face of tighter monetary policy. Recent data has been soft but mixed; the more timely PMI figures suggest that the services sector is recovering from a weak Q3. Tighter policy will however bear down on domestic and external activity as interest rates bite.
- Employment demand is easing. Anecdotal evidence suggests slowing recruitment and pay growth, and we expect unemployment to rise further. As unemployment rises and interest rates remain high, consumer sentiment will deteriorate. Household and business spending will therefore be weak.
- Inflation will fall over the next 12 months. The path to the target will not be smooth, with higher energy prices and base effects interrupting the downtrend at times. The MPC's attention will remain on underlying inflation measures and wage data. We believe policy rates will remain at the peak for another 10 months, or until the MPC is comfortable the risk of further 'second-round' effects has diminished.
- Maintaining monetary policy in restrictive territory for so long, when the economy is already struggling, will require significant loosening in the future to boost activity.
- Global bond yields will remain volatile. Markets are currently running with expectations of near-term US rate cuts, fuelled somewhat unexpectedly by US policymakers themselves. Term premia and bond yields have experienced a marked decline. It would not be a surprise to see a reversal if data points do not support the narrative, but the current 10-year yield appears broadly reflective of a lower medium-term level for Bank Rate.
- There is a heightened risk of fiscal policy and/or geo-political events causing substantial volatility in yields.

Forecast:

- The MPC held Bank Rate at 5.25% in December. We believe this is the peak for Bank Rate.
- The MPC will cut rates in the medium term to stimulate the UK economy but will be reluctant to do so until it is sure there will be no lingering second-round effects. We see rate cuts from Q3 2024 to a low of around 3% by early-mid 2026.
- The immediate risks around Bank Rate have become more balanced, due to the weakening UK economy and dampening effects on inflation. This shifts to the downside in the short term as the economy weakens.
- Long-term gilt yields are now substantially lower. Arlingclose expects yields to be flat from here over the short-term reflecting medium term Bank Rate forecasts. Periodic volatility is likely.

	Current	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26	Sep-26
Official Bank Rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00
Central Case	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.00	4.75	4.25	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	3.00
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
3-month money market rate													
Upside risk	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00
Central Case	5.40	5.40	5.40	5.30	5.15	4.80	4.30	4.10	3.80	3.50	3.25	3.05	3.05
Downside risk	0.00	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
5yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	3.77	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.30	3.35
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
10yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	3.72	3.75	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.80	3.75	3.65	3.60	3.65	3.70
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
20yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	4.16	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.20	4.25
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00
50yr gilt yield													
Upside risk	0.00	0.25	0.75	0.85	0.85	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Central Case	3.76	3.80	3.85	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.90	3.95	3.95	3.95
Downside risk	0.00	-0.25	-0.75	-0.85	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00	-1.00

PWLB Standard Rate = Gilt yield + 1.00%

PWLB Certainty Rate = Gilt yield + 0.80%

PWLB HRA Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

UK Infrastructure Bank Rate = Gilt yield + 0.40%

APPENDIX 1B

Investments

The below table shows all of the Council's treasury investments as at 31st December 2023.

	Amount £m	Rate	Start	End
Fixed Deposits - Local Authorities				
Eastbourne BC	5.000	4.20%	13-Feb-23	15-Jan-24
	5.000			
Fixed Deposits - Banks				
Landesbank Hessen Thuringen Girozentrale (Helaba)	5.000	5.19%	18-Dec-23	18-Jan-24
	5.000			
Instant Access - Banks				
Bank of Scotland	13.400	5.14%		n/a
	13.400			
Money Market Funds				
Invesco	15.000	5.35%		n/a
Insight	11.800	5.32%		n/a
SSGA	15.000	5.32%		n/a
Federated	9.200	5.38%		n/a
DB Advisors	15.000	5.34%		n/a
AAM	2.000	5.30%		n/a
Legal & General	15.000	5.35%		n/a
Morgan Stanley	15.000	5.38%		n/a
	98.000			
Total Investments	121.400			

APPENDIX 1C

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy

The Council is required to pay off an element of the accumulated General Fund capital spend each year through a revenue charge (the Minimum Revenue Provision - MRP), although it is also allowed to undertake additional voluntary payments (VRP).

Regulations require Full Council to approve an MRP Statement in advance of each year. The Council is recommended to approve the following MRP Statement. *Additions to the previous policy are in italics.*

Borrowing taken up prior to 1 April 2015 will be provided for using a straight-line method of calculating MRP. £185.215m will be provided for in equal instalments over 50 years, which will result in an annual charge of £3.704m. The debt will be extinguished in full by 31 March 2065. If the Council elects to make additional voluntary MRP then the annual charge will be adjusted accordingly.

For borrowing taken up on or after 1 April 2015, MRP is to be provided for based upon the average expected useful life of the assets funded by borrowing in the previous year. The debt will be repaid on a straight-line basis over the average useful life calculated, meaning the debt will be fully extinguished at the end of period. If the Council elects to make additional voluntary MRP then the annual charge will be adjusted accordingly.

For certain investment projects it may be deemed more prudent to use the asset life annuity method in order to calculate MRP. In this case the Council will use the annuity method, with the MRP based on the prevailing PWLB interest rate for a loan with a term equal to the estimated life of the project. If the Council uses capital receipts to repay borrowing for the year then the value of MRP which would have otherwise been set aside to repay borrowing will be reduced by the this amount. The level of capital receipts to be applied to redeem borrowing will be determined annually by the Section 151 Officer, taking into account forecasts for future expenditure and the generation of further receipts.

For any leases and any on-balance sheet Public Finance Initiative (PFI) schemes, the MRP charge will be equal to the principal repayment during the year, calculated in accordance with proper practices. In previous years only finance leases were on balance sheet and contributed towards the MRP. However, following the adoption of IFRS 16 in April 2024, all leases will fall on balance sheet and impact the MRP calculation. The full impact of this change is yet to be determined but updates will be provided as part of the regular Treasury Management reporting process.

There will be no MRP charge for any cash backed Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS) that the Council operates. As for this type of scheme, any future debt liability would be met from the capital receipt arising from the deposit maturing after a five-year period. Any repossession losses for this type of scheme would be charged to a LAMS reserve.

The Council has considered the Statutory Guidance, which recommends a 25 year repayment charge for loans to third parties, and concluded that this provision is not necessary where there is a realistic expectation that the loan will be repaid. The Council considers an MRP charge is not necessary in respect of any loans made to third parties as the debt liability is covered by the existence of a debtor; typically long term depending on the life of the loan. The only expenditure consequence of a loan for an authority is the interest on its cash shortfall whilst the loan is

outstanding, so provision for the principal amount would be over-prudent until such time as the assumption has to be made that the loan will not be repaid.

For any Equity Investment or other investments not specified above, the Council will have regard to the DLUHC Statutory Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision.

The revised DLUHC MRP Guidance provides a disclosure item for any revenue resources over and above of the required MRP applied to capital expenditure within the MRP Policy. The disclosure of the amounts applied allows some flexibility in financing future capital programmes and the implications on the budget. Revenue resources applied to 31 March 2023 as overpayments or VRP were £123m.

APPENDIX 1D

Prudential Indicators

1. Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

Limit/Indicator	2024/25 %	2025/26 %	2026/27 %
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	6.6	6.6	6.5

This ratio represents the total of all financing costs e.g. interest payable and minimum revenue provision (MRP) that are charged to the revenue budget as a percentage of the amount to be met from Government grants and taxpayers (net revenue stream).

This ratio has been calculated based on the future year's level of borrowing.

2. Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

Limit/Indicator	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Core Capital Financing Requirement	190.856	188.262	183.110
Other long term liabilities (e.g. PFI and leases)	84.397	79.620	74.758
Total Capital Financing Requirement	275.253	267.882	257.868

The Capital Financing Requirement is aimed to represent the underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose and is calculated from the aggregate of specified items on the balance sheet. The opening balance at 1 April 2023 has been estimated together with the movement in the Capital Financing Requirement for future years.

Following accounting changes the Capital Financing Requirement now includes any other long term liabilities (e.g. PFI schemes and leases) brought onto the balance sheet. Whilst this increases the Capital Financing Requirement, and therefore the Council's borrowing requirement, these types of scheme include a borrowing facility and so the Council is not required to separately borrow for these schemes.

From the 2024/25 financial year a new accounting standard on leases (IFRS16) is to be implemented. This will result in a number of leases that would previously have been classified as operating leases being moved on to the Council's balance sheet. This in turn will result in an increase in the level of other long term liabilities and the total CFR. As the Council is still in the data gathering stage of implementing this new standard the level of this increase is not yet know. This indicator will therefore be updated mid-year as part of the regular Capital and Treasury Management reporting process.

The CFR increases by the value of capital expenditure not immediately financed (i.e. borrowing) and is reduced by the annual MRP repayment.

3. Capital Expenditure

Limit/indicator	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Capital expenditure	56.111	8.027	0

This is the estimate of the total capital expenditure to be incurred (from all funding sources) for future years and recommended for approval.

This estimate will continue to be updated as part of the monitoring process as new resources are subsequently identified.

4. Incremental Impact of Capital Investment Decisions

Limit/indicator	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	2026/27 £
For the Band D Council Tax	0.01	2.17	2.17

This is the estimate of the net incremental impact of the capital investment decisions, based on the level of borrowing set out in the report and reflects the total cost of this additional borrowing (interest payments and minimum revenue provision), as a cost on Council Tax. The actual cost will depend on final funding. For every £1 increase on Band D properties, approximately £0.066m would be raised.

5. Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit on External Debt and Other Long Term Liabilities

Limit/indicator	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Operational Boundary for external debt	201.400	206.248	211.646
Operational Boundary for other long term liabilities	84.397	79.620	74.758
Operational Boundary	285.797	285.868	286.404
Authorised Limit for external debt	221.400	226.248	231.646
Authorised Limit for other long term liabilities	85.937	80.620	75.758
Authorised Limit	306.797	306.868	307.404

These limits include provision for borrowing in advance of our requirement for future capital expenditure. This may be carried out if it is thought to be financially advantageous to the Council.

The limits are made up as follows:

Limit/indicator	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Estimated 31 March 2023	136.025		
Previous year Operational Boundary		201.400	206.248
Add debt maturing in year	-	0	0.550
Add borrowing for 2023/24 and previous years' requirement not taken up	60.383		
Add borrowing in advance for 2024/25 and future years	10.000	10.000	10.000
Less already borrowed in advance for future years			
Less previous year maturing fall out		0	0
Less MRP	(5.009)	(5.152)	(5.152)
Operational Boundary - borrowing	201.400	206.248	211.646
Add allowances for cash flow etc.	20.000	20.000	20.000
Authorised Limit - borrowing	221.400	226.248	231.646

The allowance for cash flow is made up of 2 elements. (a). it is possible that a rescheduling exercise where the Council borrows prior to repayment could take place. The Council has allowed £10 million for this. (b). Normally the amount of investments that the Council holds would mean that there would be no need to borrow, however, an allowance of £10 million has been made for liquidity purposes.

The Council is also required to set operational boundaries and authorised limits for Other Long Term Liabilities (e.g. PFI schemes and finance leases), which are now shown on balance sheet, following recent accounting changes. The table below includes all current PFI schemes and finance leases in place, with an allowance of £1 million for any new agreements that may arise.

Limit/indicator	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Operational Boundary for other long term liabilities	84.397	79.620	74.758
Add allowance for new agreements	1.000	1.000	1.000
Authorised Limit for other long term liabilities	85.397	80.620	75.758

The total authorised limit of £306m (including both external borrowing and other long-term liabilities) should be set as the Council's affordable borrowing limit for 2024/25 as required under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2003.

6. Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement.

Limit/indicator	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Core capital financing requirement	190.856	188.262	183.110
Gross borrowing	190.856	188.262	183.110

To ensure that medium term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the Council will ensure that the gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the highest forecast capital financing requirement (CFR) in any one year.

7. Upper and lower limits on Interest Rate Exposures

Limit/indicator	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure	190.856	188.262	183.110
Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure	63.619	62.754	61.037

These limits are in respect of our exposure to the effects of changes in interest rates.

The limits reflect the net amounts of fixed/variable rate debt (i.e. fixed/variable loans less fixed/variable investments).

8. Maturity Structure of Borrowing for the Forthcoming Financial Year

These limits set out the amount of projected borrowing that is fixed rate maturing in each period expressed as a percentage of total projected borrowing that is fixed rate.

		Upper %	Lower %
Upper/lower limit for maturity structure	Under 12 months	15	0
	12 months and within 24 months	15	0
	24 months and within 5 years	30	0
	5 years and within 10 years	40	0
	10 years and above	100	50

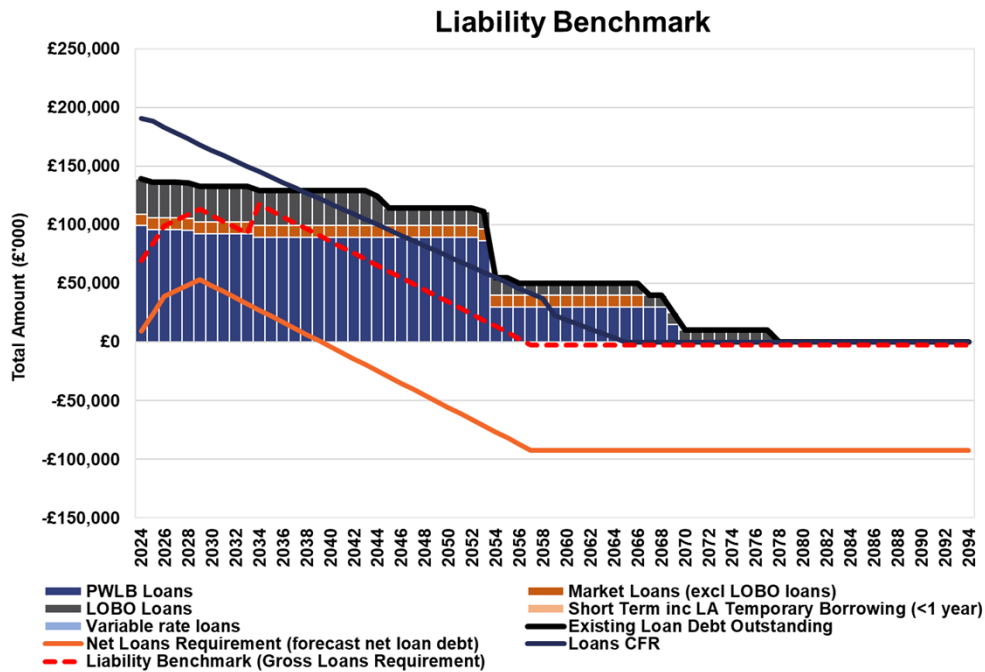
Future fixed rate borrowing will normally be for periods in excess of 10 years, although if longer term interest rates become excessive, shorter-term borrowing may be used. Given the low current long term interest rates, the Council feels that it is acceptable to have a long maturity debt profile.

9. Limit for Total Principal Sums Invested for Periods Longer than 364 days

2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	2026/27 £m
30	30	30

The Council can invest for periods greater than one year providing the counterparty is of sufficient credit quality. It is felt that the amounts shown above should be the limits maturing in future years.

10. Liability Benchmark



The liability benchmark is a new prudential indicator introduced for 2023/24. This gives a long-term view of the Council's borrowing needs based on current commitments. This demonstrates that there is currently no borrowing need and the Council currently has a significant level of surplus cash which makes up its investment portfolio. If further schemes to be funded by borrowing are added to the Capital Programme in future then the benchmark will increase and more borrowing could potentially be required.

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APPENDIX 17

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Tameside MBC Budget 2024/25

Capital Programme 2023-26

Capital Programme Budgets - January 2024	2023/24 £m	2024/25 £m	2025/26 £m	Earmarked £m	Total £m
Place: Property, Development and Planning					
Development & Investment	8.718	31.413	8.007	1.542	49.680
Corporate Landlord	0.993	-	-	-	0.993
Vision Tameside	0.073	-	-	-	0.073
Active Tameside	0.102	-	-	-	0.102
Place: Operations and Neighbourhoods					
Engineers, Highways & Traffic Management	8.046	1.195	-	-	9.241
Operations & Greenspace	1.176	0.200	-	-	1.376
Waste & Fleet Management	-	0.826	-	-	0.826
Estates	0.057	-	-	0.095	0.152
Management & Operations	0.250	0.478	-	-	0.728
Community Safety & Homelessness	0.328	-	-	-	0.328
Children					
School Related Works	26.567	7.729	-	-	34.296
Children's Social Care Safeguarding & Quality Assurance	1.234	2.612	-	-	3.846
Adults					
Commissioning & Homes for All	3.933	6.757	0.020	-	10.710
Governance					
Governance	0.032	-	-	0.440	0.472
Total Approved	51.509	51.210	8.027	2.077	112.823
Contingency	-	-	-	2.800	2.800
Total	51.509	51.210	8.027	4.877	115.623

Capital Programme Financing 2022-25

Capital Programme Financing – January 2024	Grants & Contributions	Revenue Contributions	Prudential Borrowing	Receipts & Reserves	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Place: Property, Development and Planning					
Development & Investment	41.239	0.178	-	8.263	49.680
Corporate Landlord	0.156	-	-	0.837	0.993
Vision Tameside	-	-	-	0.073	0.073
Active Tameside	-	-	0.031	0.071	0.102
Place: Operations and Neighbourhoods					
Engineers, Highways & Traffic Management	8.286	-	-	0.955	9.241
Operations & Greenspace	1.050	-	-	0.326	1.376
Waste & Fleet Management	-	-	0.826	-	0.826
Estates	-	-	-	0.152	0.152
Management & Operations	-	-	-	0.728	0.728
Community Safety & Homelessness	0.328	0	0	0	0.328
Children					
School Related Works	33.845	0.451	-	-	34.296
Children's Social Care Safeguarding & Quality Assurance	1.890	-	1.589	0.367	3.846
Adults					
Commissioning & Homes for All	10.710	-	-	-	10.710
Governance					
Governance	-	-	-	0.472	0.472
Other					
Contingency	-	-	-	2.800	2.800
Total	97.504	0.629	2.446	15.044	115.623

Financing Capital Expenditure

The Council has limited resources available to fund Capital Expenditure. On 29 September 2021, Executive Cabinet approved the allocation of the remaining capital reserves to immediate priorities. No further capital projects will be approved in the short term unless the schemes are fully funded from external sources. Any additional priority schemes that are put forward for consideration and that are not fully grant funded will need to be evaluated, costed and subject to separate Member approval. There will be a revenue cost for any new capital schemes that are not fully funded from alternative sources and the implications of this will need to be carefully considered, given the on-going pressures on the revenue budget.

In some cases, borrowing may be required in order to facilitate investments in schemes with potential revenue generation or investment to save elements. Borrowing to fund Capital Investment has revenue consequences as budget is required to fund interest and repayment of loans, and therefore any such schemes will need to be subject to full business cases. The Council will need a sustainable financial plan for the revenue budget before borrowing commitments are agreed

The current capital programme (2023 – 2026) includes £15.044m of schemes which will need to be funded from Capital Receipts and existing Capital Reserves; £10.167m is required for approved schemes and a further £4.877m for earmarked schemes. There is currently £0.022m available in Capital Reserves and therefore £15.022m is required in Capital Receipts to fund the current programme. Careful monitoring of progress in realising these capital receipts must be undertaken to ensure that there is timely and pro-active disposal of assets and that the actual receipts are in line with projections.

The remainder of the capital programme is largely funded by external Grants (£95.875m) & Contributions (£1.629m), with internal Revenue Contributions (£0.629m) and Prudential Borrowing (£2.446m) completing the funding position.

Appendix 18

CAPITAL STRATEGY 2024/25

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The CIPFA Prudential Code (revised 2021) requires that the Council produces an annual Capital Strategy. The Strategy provides a long term context in which capital decisions are made, the approach for governance for those decisions, and also information on the Council's approach towards treasury management and other investments.
- 1.2. The Capital Strategy is the Council's framework for the allocation and management of capital resources within the authority, which takes account of the Council's key priorities in the Corporate Plan. It forms a key part of the Council's integrated revenue, capital, and balance sheet planning with a view towards deliverability, affordability, sustainability and risk.
- 1.3. The Capital Strategy identifies the current capital programme and the processes that are carried out to maintain an ongoing investment plan together with the links between its objectives and that of the Corporate Plan. It also gives an insight into how the strategy might develop in terms of achieving the priority outcomes in the next 5-10 years and beyond.

2 Capital Strategy Objectives

- 2.1. The main objectives of the Council's Capital Strategy are as follows:
 - Maintain and effectively monitor the capital programme.
 - Provide a clear process with which to evaluate proposals for new capital expenditure in line with the Council's priorities.
 - Maximise capital resources available to the Council and spend these in accordance with corporate objectives as outlined in the Corporate Plan.
 - Ensure the affordability of the approved capital programme.
 - Identify and bid for external resources of capital finance on a co-ordinated basis.
 - Determine transparent schemes of option appraisal to assess new internal bids and post contract evaluation.
 - Explore alternative procurement and financing options.
 - Maximise the efficient use of assets via the Asset Management Plan.
 - Identify and monitor benchmarking and performance measures for all aspects of the capital investment process.
 - Ensure that Prudential Guidelines are identified in determining the capital programme and these are kept under continuous review.
 - Utilise opportunities under the Prudential Guidelines regime to maximise capital development opportunities.
 - Ensure that the developments in capital processes keep pace with securing an unqualified value for money conclusion in the annual audit letter.
- 2.2. These objectives are kept under regular review and progress monitored by the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel.

3 Council Key Objectives

3.1. The Council's Corporate Plan represents a long term vision for the borough to be "a place where everyone can achieve their hopes and ambitions" and is based around the following priorities:

- Best start in life.
- Opportunity to learn and earn.
- Safe, green and supportive communities.
- Healthy and active lives.
- Financially sustainable public services (underpinning priority).

3.2. These priorities are outlined below along with some key objectives and examples of schemes from the Capital Programme that support them.

3.3. **Best Start in Life**

3.3.1. Objectives:

- Enhance early years' health, support and childcare provisions and prioritise early identification of those needs
- Support parents and carers with parenting skills and resources.
- Promote child protection and safeguarding measures, and support cared for children.
- Reduce child poverty and improve child and family social support systems.
- Promote early intervention and support for children with additional needs.
- Strengthen partnerships with educational institutions and community organizations through collaboration and sharing information

3.3.2. Within this areas, some of the recently completed and current key capital projects include:

- New Children's Home
- Family Hubs Grant
- Respite Unit

3.4. **Opportunity to Learn and Earn**

3.4.1. Objectives:

- Ensure all children have a high quality, enjoyable and inclusive education that enables them to achieve their full potential.
- Promote lifelong learning and upskilling programs for adults.
- Provide the infrastructure and support for local businesses to create job opportunities.
- Enhance digital skills and access to technology for all residents.
- Encourage entrepreneurship and support business growth and social enterprises.
- Promote fair wages and equitable employment practices.

3.4.2. Within these areas, some of the recently completed and current key capital projects include:

- Hawthorns Primary
- Longdendale Academy
- Rayner Stephens

- All Saints Academy

3.5. **Safe, Green and Supportive Communities**

3.5.1. Objectives:

- Enhance community safety through crime prevention initiatives.
- Champion and deliver environmental sustainability including waste reduction, recycling and reuse.
- Increase the supply of high-quality, affordable homes and improve the housing circumstances of those most in need
- Invest in community infrastructure and facilities.
- Design sustainable town centres and other public spaces based around resident needs

3.5.2. Within this area, some of the recently completed and current key capital projects and proposals include:

- Ashton Levelling Up Funding
- Stalybridge Levelling Up Funding
- Stalybridge Heritage Action Zone
- Godley Garden Village
- Highways and Town Capital

3.6. **Healthy and Active Lives**

3.6.1. Objectives:

- Develop system-wide responses to reduce health inequalities and improve health outcomes for all residents.
- Support people to be as resilient and independent as possible.
- Enhance access to and quality of care for those who need it
- Provide early support for children and adults at risk of poor mental health and loneliness
- Encourage and support people towards more healthy behaviours.
- Enhance and promote preventative care.

3.6.2. Within this area, some of the recently completed and current key capital projects and proposals include:

- Disabled Facilities Grants – allowing people to live independently for longer
- Disability Assessment Centre
- Extra Care Assistive Technology

3.7. In order to ensure that these priorities are met, the capital programme is co-ordinated by the corporate section within the Financial Management team. The team work closely with representatives from within the service areas of the Council, Project Managers and Sponsors, the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel (SPCMP) and senior officers to ensure the planned capital programme is achieved through a programme of effective planning and monitoring. Responsibility for the achievement of the programme lies with Portfolio Holders and Directors together with Project Sponsors and Managers.

3.8. The Council has in place a solid platform for collating information on both the financial and physical progress of capital schemes. Detailed capital updates are submitted to

Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel (SPCMP) by each Directorate and the minutes of these meetings are sent to Executive Cabinet for ratification. The updates include details of the progress of schemes, notification of new external funding allocations and requests for changes to the funding of capital schemes.

- 3.9. Monitoring of the Capital Programme, both in financial and physical terms, is reported 3 times a year in July, September and January, and also at year end when actual outturn figures are reported. The monitoring report goes through several stages of review and approval; firstly to Senior Leadership Team (SLT), then on to Executive Cabinet and Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel. The reports show details of actual expenditure against planned spend, a forecast of outturn figures and in the case of schemes with a projected variation above £100,000, more detailed information on progress and the scheme's current status. All changes to the Capital Programme and any necessary changes to the Prudential Indicator limits are approved through the Capital Monitoring reports.
- 3.10. Monitoring is supported by regular meetings between financial management staff, Executive Directors and Project Sponsors/Managers. Details of major variations are determined and reported on, as a minimum, at the corporate monitoring points. Individual Council officers will sometimes attend the SPCMP to help give Members an enhanced understanding of the progress of specific schemes and any related issues, as well as providing an opportunity for Members to ask questions about more complex projects.

4 Capital Programme and Resources

- 4.1. The Council maintains a three year Capital Programme, which currently covers the period 2023/24 to 2025/26. This is updated annually during the budget process in February and quarterly during the year.
- 4.2. As of December 2023 the Programme has a total value of £116m including both fully approved and earmarked schemes. A summary of the Programme is included in this report as **Appendix 18A**.
- 4.3. A major source of capital funding available to the Council is via grants from Central Government. Such grants are often obtained alongside conditions that they are allocated to specific schemes or programmes.
- 4.4. The Council also actively seeks further investment to fund the capital programme, such as capital receipts from the sale of assets or joint funding opportunities on a wide range of projects.
- 4.5. The strategy is intended to consider all potential funding options available to the Council and maximise the available resources for capital investment in line with the priorities set out within.
- 4.6. The main areas of funding available are set out below:
 - 4.6.1. **Borrowing** - Under the Prudential Guidelines the Council is able to determine its own level of unsupported borrowing provided it is affordable, prudent and sustainable. The majority of borrowing taken up is from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) which is, in effect, the government.

The additional cost of any prudential borrowing undertaken must be met through the Council's revenue budget, and therefore has a direct link to the local taxpayer. The

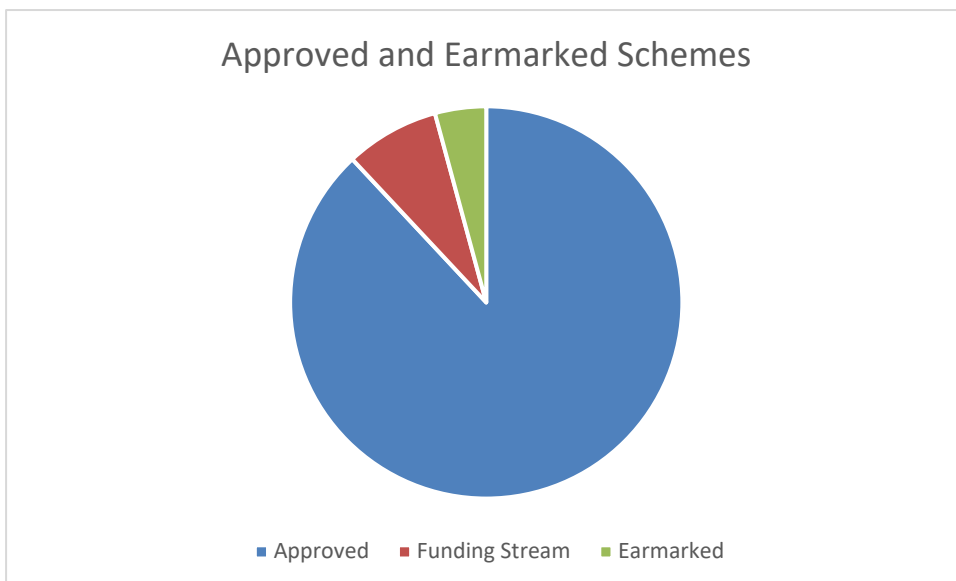
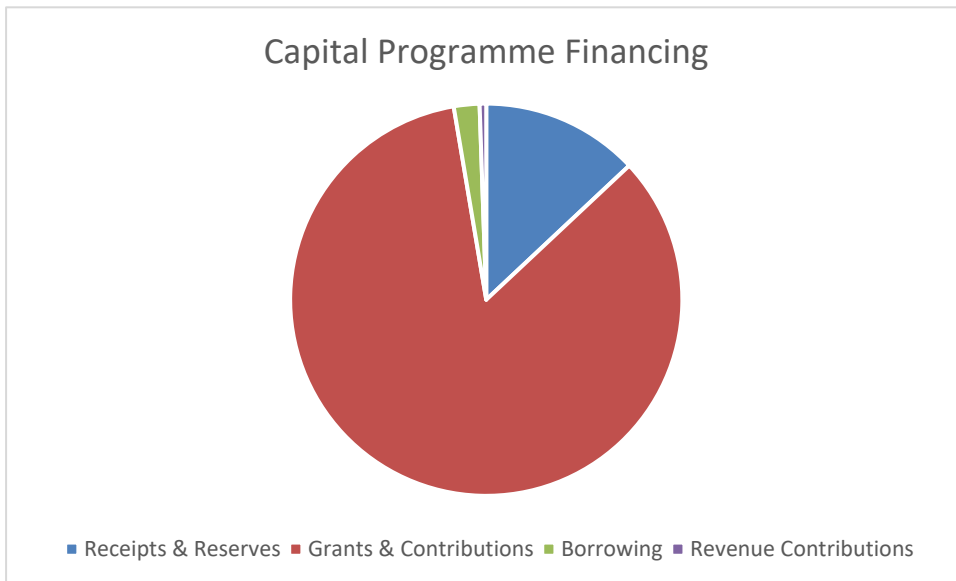
impact of this must be considered when seeking approval for any schemes funded through borrowing. The Council can only normally borrow to fund capital expenditure.

The Council took up £30m of long term borrowing from the PWLB in August 2019 when rates were at favourable levels. The average interest rate across these two loans is 1.81%. In the intervening period the PWLB increased their margin over gilts (the basis for their interest rates) by 1%, but lowered this back to the previous margin in November 2020. Interest rates have since risen substantially and as of January 2024 the interest rate on loans of similar terms to those taken up in August 2019 is around 5%.

The Council continues to monitor the borrowing requirement on a regular basis, alongside the movement in interest rates. In the short term, borrowing would only be taken up if interest rates were at a favourable level, which is unlikely given the current economic forecast.

- 4.6.2. **Grants and Contributions** - Capital grants mainly come from a variety of government funded departments or agencies. Grants currently make up 84% (£97m) of the capital programme. Grants can be either ringfenced to particular areas or schemes, or non-ringfenced and therefore available for use on any project. The majority of Government grants are now non-ringfenced, although there is usually a bidding process to go through to obtain approval for capital grants and therefore an implicit ringfencing.
- 4.6.3. **Revenue Financing** – Revenue financing, paying for capital expenditure from the revenue budget, is not a major element of capital financing and due to ever increasing pressures on revenue budgets this has been reduced over time. In the current financial environment this is unlikely to increase.
- 4.6.4. **Capital Reserves** – Use of the Council’s reserves will be determined by the Reserves Strategy. In 2017, an earmarked reserve of just under £70m was created to fund Capital Investment in the borough. Further use of reserves to fund Capital Investment will require approval in accordance with the reserves strategy. As of 2023/24, £0.022m of this reserve remains.
- 4.6.5. **Leasing** – Under the Prudential Guidelines the amount of leasing will depend on the cost compared to borrowing. In recent years it has often been more attractive to finance schemes using prudential borrowing rather than leasing. Where appropriate, appraisals will be undertaken in order to ensure the most appropriate funding source is used.
- 4.6.6. **Capital receipts** – Capital receipts are actively being pursued as the Council seeks to rationalise its asset base and encourage development in the borough. Receipts are earmarked as a corporate resource unless a case is made to reinvest them towards a specific project. Capital receipts can only be used to fund capital expenditure, or the repayment of borrowing.
- 4.7. Schemes within the Capital Programme can be categories in 3 ways:
- **Approved** – Schemes which have been fully approved and are in the delivery phase
 - **Earmarked** – Schemes for which funding has been identified and set aside but require further information before they are fully approved
 - **Funding Streams** – Funding allocated to the Council for which schemes have not yet been identified and approved. Funding streams most commonly relate to annual grants from Central Government

4.8. The below graphs demonstrate the current three year programme split by funding source and also by approved and earmarked schemes:



4.9. A financing exercise is completed at the end of every year to determine the final allocation of funding. Generally grants and external contributions will be used first, before then considering the allocation of capital receipts, reserves, and prudential borrowing. This is, however, at the discretion of the Section 151 Officer.

5 Bidding Process for New Projects

5.1. The Council has limited resources available to fund Capital Expenditure and therefore has in place a thorough bidding process for the allocation of capital investment. In September 2021, Executive Cabinet approved the allocation of the remaining capital reserves to immediate priorities. No further capital projects will be approved in the short term unless the schemes are fully funded from external sources. However, it is expected the process outlined below will be reinstated when further capital investment is available in future years.

5.2. The stages of the current process in place to bid for capital investment are as follows:

- **Application for Investment** – This is the first step and should be a brief outline of the project and its financing.
- **Business Case Brief** – This should be a two page outline of the required project with a summary business case
- **Scoping, Design, and Costing** – This stage will involve seeking external support and carrying out feasibility work.
- **Full Business Case** – This is a full case for the project including the strategic, economic, commercial, financial, and management cases for proceeding. Once approved this will be presented to SPCMP.
- **Project Delivery and Monitoring** – Following approval of the business case, key milestones should be identified and monitored.
- **Project Evaluation** – Following completion, a post implementation evaluation should be completed in order to assess the success of the project.

5.3. A flow chart illustrating this process can be seen in **Appendix 18B**.

6 Prioritisation of Allocation of Resources

6.1 A prioritisation process has been developed in order to aid the decision making process when new investment is required. For proposed schemes, officers will undertake an assessment against a number of criteria including:

- **Strategic Context** – What is the purpose of the scheme and how does it fit with the Council's priorities, the Budget Strategy and the local and national context.
- **Mandatory or discretionary investment** – Is the scheme intended to address Health and Safety, Legal or Statutory obligations? Is it a cost-avoidance or invest to save scheme? Is the planned scheme to address regeneration, improvement and development or transformation of services?
- **Objectives and benefits of the scheme** – What is the scheme expected to deliver for the Council, service users and residents?
- **Financial implications and options for delivery** – to consider whether alternative options can be considered, what financial investment is required and whether any external funding is available.

6.1 This prioritisation methodology is used to support future capital investment decisions and ensure that scarce capital resources are allocated in the most efficient, effective and sustainable way and thus ensuing value for money.

7 Future Years

7.1 In September 2021, Executive Cabinet approved the allocation of the remaining capital reserves to immediate priorities and agreed that no new capital investment would be agreed until the Council has a sustainable medium-term financial plan. Currently, no further capital projects will be approved in the short-term unless the schemes are fully funded from external sources.

7.2 Any additional priority schemes that are put forward for consideration and that are not fully funded from external sources will need to be evaluated and costed using the process outlined in Section 5 and will be subject to separate Member approval.

8 Asset Management

- 8.1. The Council maintains a fairly typical local authority property portfolio. As at 31 March 2023, and subject to audit, this consisted of:

Asset Class	£m
Land and Buildings	351
Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	15
Infrastructure	134
Community Assets	15
Surplus Assets	20
Assets Under Construction	4
Investment Properties	38
Total	577

- 8.2. The Council's land and property estate is its largest resource after its staff. Therefore it is crucial that this resource is managed, maintained, and used effectively and efficiently in order to obtain the greatest possible benefit in terms of meeting its aims and priorities for the borough. Due to the continued pressure on local authority finances there is more importance than ever placed on ensuring that there is a robust strategic approach and the correct decisions are made regarding the effective use and management of the Council's asset base.
- 8.3. It is vital that the Council's assets are fit for purpose, provide value for money, and help meet the needs of the borough and its residents. Decisions to invest in (or dispose of) assets should be based upon these factors and follow a robust and transparent process driven by the Council's statutory duties and corporate objectives.
- 8.4. The Council uses a corporate landlord approach and will endeavour, through its programme of capital investment to maintain its assets to such a standard that they remain fit for purpose and enable service delivery towards meeting Council priorities. Regular surveys of buildings and structures should be ongoing in order to determine their state of repair and inform decisions over what level of remedial works are required. Any service reviews across the organisation should also be taken into consideration, with the service driving its asset needs. For example, new ways of working or service restructures could result in some assets becoming surplus to requirements.
- 8.5. It is therefore important that the Council's capital strategy considers the other corporate plans and strategies to ensure that its capital resources are appropriately deployed to enable the delivery of services.
- 8.6. As is outlined in section 4 of this report, capital receipts form a significant part of the Council's available funding for capital investments. Therefore opportunities for disposals should be investigated wherever possible. Assets should only be retained when they;
- Support the objectives of the Corporate Plan
 - Contribute towards service delivery
 - Provide value for money (in terms of the above for operational properties, or in terms of income generation or growth of capital value for investment properties)
- 8.7. In addition to the above, the responsibilities of the estates and corporate landlord functions include:
- Considering alternative property solutions for service delivery
 - Negotiating agreements for the occupation or purchase of property

- Advising on proposals relating to property
- Carrying out scheduled repairs and maintenance and also making business cases where appropriate for additional repairs and maintenance
- Assisting with the rationalisation of the asset base
- Appraising options for the portfolio
- Managing the safety and security of the portfolio
- Arranging and administer facilities management
- Managing property related budgets

8.8 A key priority for 2023/24 is the implementation of the Strategic Asset Management Plan and associated estates strategy, which supports the delivery of investment. Through a more effective asset management plan the Council aims to deliver One Public Estate, generate income, realise recyclable capital receipts and provide a strategic approach to our capital programme and major projects, realising opportunities for economic growth, new housing and local jobs for local people.

9 Procurement Strategy

9.1. Procurement is a critical mechanism for delivering value for money and achieving sustainable outcomes for local communities. The Council recognises that effective procurement will assist in achieving its ambitions by realising value for money from the way it procures and delivers its services and uses its resources in an effective way. This allows savings to be redirected into front line services. It is essential that innovative methods to improve procurement practices and to deliver savings are adopted where appropriate.

9.2. The Council entered into a strategic partnering arrangement as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme in 2009. This partnering arrangement was delivered through a Local Education Partnership (LEP) which is a limited company. The original LEP arrangement ran for ten years with an option to extend by a further five years, up to February 2024. The majority of the Council's capital expenditure has been delivered by the LEP.

9.3. In September 2018, the Council formally joined the STAR procurement shared service, a partnership arrangement between Stockport, Trafford and Rochdale. This arrangement provides the Council with capacity and procurement expertise. The STAR Business Plan and STAR Procurement Strategy sets out five objectives that help to deliver a successful procurement service. These objectives are commercial, communities, collaboration, compliance and champions. Further detail can be found at www.star-procurement.gov.uk

10 Links to Partners

10.1. Tameside Council works with a wide range of partners to deliver the vision and priorities set out in the Council's Corporate Plan. Some of the ways we work together are listed below, along with links to the relevant web pages:

- Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership
[Home | Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](http://gmintegratedcare.org.uk)
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority
<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/>
- Tameside Health and Wellbeing Board -
<http://www.tameside.gov.uk/healthwellbeingboard>

- Tameside Safeguarding Children’s Board - <https://www.tamesidesafeguardingchildren.org.uk/>
- Tameside Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board - <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/AdultServices/Tameside-Adults-Safeguarding-Partnership-Board>

10.2. Other partners that the Council works with include; Job Centre Plus, Stockport Foundation Trust, Pennine Care, Tameside College, Jigsaw Homes Tameside, to name but a few.

11 Investments and Liabilities

11.1. The Council’s capital programme and balance sheet consists of investments made by the Council to support its strategic aims. A key part of the capital process is monitoring and reviewing such investments once they are made. Traditionally, the Council has focused the Capital Strategy on the delivery of capital schemes; however, with the increasing national focus on broader investment activities undertaken by local authorities, the Capital Strategy has been expanded in order to take a wider overview of other relevant investments and liabilities.

11.2. As at 31 March 2023, the Council had the following long term investments on its balance sheet:

	£m
Investment Properties	38.130
Long Term Debtors	43.520
Long Term Investments	33.501
Total	115.151

11.3. The long term debtors figure includes loan stock held by the Council in Inspiredspaces Tameside (Holdings 1) Ltd (£1.6m), loan stock held in Inspiredspaces Tameside (Holdings 2) Ltd (£3.0m), the Council’s share of loan debt to Manchester Airport (£29.6m), and some other minor amounts.

11.4. The long term investments held by the Council include investments in Manchester Airport Group (£24.4m) and Inspiredspaces (£9.1m).

11.5. The Council has an investment property portfolio of around 150 assets. These are revalued annually. The largest of these assets are Manchester Airport Land (£11.3m), Ashton Market Hall (£1.3m) and a car park based at the Tameside Hospital (£1.9m).

12 Treasury Management

12.1. Treasury Management is a key component of the Council’s capital planning, largely as the Council has the ability to borrow in order to finance capital projects. A separate Treasury Management Strategy is produced annually, but what follows are some of the key issues.

12.2. At 31 December 2023 the Council had £121m of investments which need to be safeguarded, and £139m of long term debt, which has been accrued over the years to help to fund the Council’s capital investment programmes.

- 12.3. The Council's treasury activities are strictly regulated by statutory requirements and a professional code of practice (the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management – revised 2021) and the Prudential Code. The Council has adopted the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. Part of this code is for the Council to set out Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). These are in place and are being adhered to.
- 12.4. The key objectives of the Prudential Code are to ensure, within a clear framework, that the capital plans of local authorities are affordable, prudent and sustainable and to ensure that treasury management decisions are taken in accordance with good professional practice and in a manner that supports these objectives.
- 12.5. The Council's long term borrowing requirement in any year depends on the following factors:-
- (a) Existing loans which are due to mature during the year. These will include external loans, and any reduction of internal resources that are temporarily being used to finance capital expenditure.
 - (b) The amount of capital expenditure that the Council has determined should be financed by borrowing. Under the Prudential Code on Borrowing the Council may determine its own levels of borrowing and is set by the Council as part of the main budget process. The Council is able to borrow in advance of its requirements, when it is considered beneficial to do so.
 - (c) The amount of outstanding debt required to be repaid during the year, including the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and additional voluntary MRP to repay prudential borrowing.
- 12.6. The primary objectives of the Council's investment strategy are safeguarding the repayment of the principal and interest of its investments on time, ensuring adequate liquidity, with the investment rate of return being the final consideration. The current investment climate continues to have one over-riding risk, counterparty risk; the risk that a borrower may default on a loan.
- 12.7. Normally when the Council has surplus cash, this is invested to try to ensure that interest earned is optimised with minimal risk of capital loss. Higher interest rates are earned by investing any large amounts on the London money markets, rather than by leaving such sums with the Council's own bank. The Treasury Management Strategy sets out the type of institutions with which the Council may deposit funds for this purpose. The list has been compiled to reflect the creditworthiness of these banks and building societies, rather than the rates of interest payable, as the safety of the asset is the most important consideration. Nonetheless, the interest received from these institutions is competitive.

13 Risk

13.1. The Council faces a broad range of risks. Examples include:

- Financial risk – related to the Council's investments
- Credit and Counterparty risk – related to investments and loans
- Interest rate risk – the risk that interest rates move in a manner that is adverse to the Council's investments or borrowings.
- Reputational risk – that any adverse outcomes could affect the Council's reputation and public perception

- Environmental risks – due to the Council’s investments or capital projects
- Asset condition risk – the need to continually invest in condition of property and highway estate
- Governance risks – ensuring that appropriate decision making procedures are adhered to

13.2. The Council has a low risk appetite, so as to safeguard taxpayer funds, and this is reflected in the Treasury Management Strategy and outlined above.

14 Skills and Knowledge

14.1. The Financial Management team responsible for Treasury Management and Capital contains several professionally qualified accountants with extensive relevant experience. The team regularly attend a variety of training courses in order to keep up to date with the latest developments. The Council also have a contract with Arlingclose, who provide up to date specialist advice and technical services.

14.2. Capital investment proposals, the quarterly capital monitoring reports, and capital update papers, and their associated minutes, are submitted to a number of meetings including SLT, Executive Board and Cabinet, and SPCMP. In addition, officers from senior management and financial management meet regularly in order to support the effective prioritisation, management and monitoring of the Capital Programme.

14.3. In January 2018 a new treasury management directive, Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II (MiFID II) came into force. This required the Council to pass a number of qualitative and quantitative tests in order to maintain its status as a “professional” investor. Part of this involved demonstrating that the treasury management team had sufficient skills and experience to be classified in this fashion. Tameside successfully opted up to professional status with all counterparties that required it.

15 Summary

15.1. The Council in conjunction with its partners has identified a clear set of priorities. The Capital Strategy gives clear guidance as to where capital resources should be directed in achievement of those priorities over the length of the current capital programme and over the longer term.

15.2. The Strategy also demonstrates that the Council does and will continue to work closely with a variety of partners to obtain quality projects and maximise potential resources in the achievement of its aims. The Council also encourages the continued exploration of securing external funding, the examination of different forms of procurement and maintaining current levels of innovation.

15.3. The Council has a good framework in place to achieve its strategy and will strive to achieve continual improvement on a number of its processes as set out in its main objectives. This will be monitored and reviewed by the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel.

15.4. The Capital Strategy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis and revised annually.

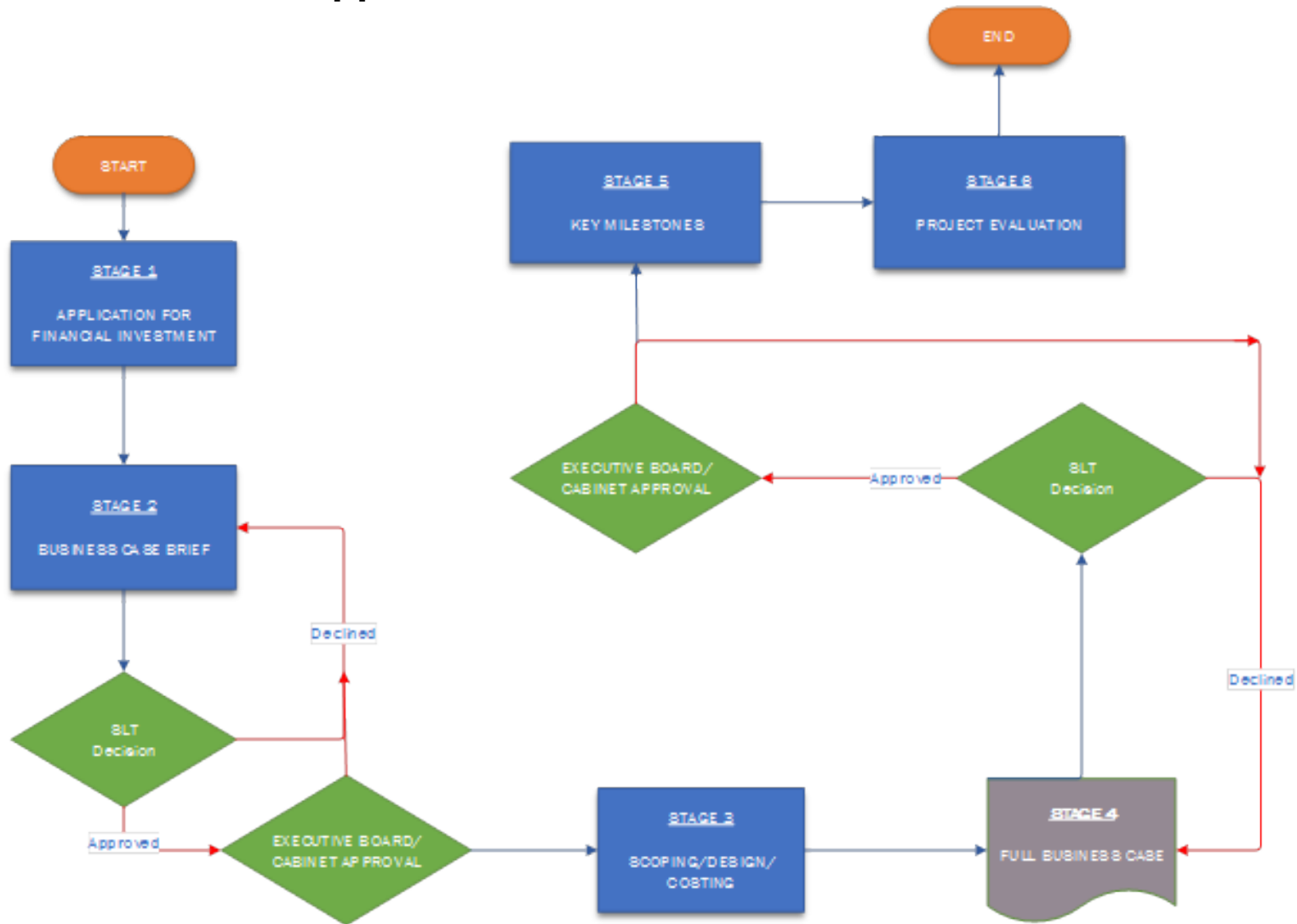
16 Recommendations

16.1. The Capital Strategy is approved and is reviewed and revised annually.

TOTAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23 – 2024/25

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Earmarked	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Place: Property, Development and Planning					
Development & Investment	8.718	31.413	8.007	1.542	49.680
Corporate Landlord	0.993	-	-	-	0.993
Vision Tameside	0.073	-	-	-	0.073
Active Tameside	0.102	-	-	-	0.102
Place: Operations and Neighbourhoods					
Engineers, Highways & Traffic Management	8.046	1.195	-	-	9.241
Operations & Greenspace	1.176	0.200	-	-	1.376
Waste & Fleet Management	-	0.826	-	-	0.826
Estates	0.057	-	-	0.095	0.152
Management & Operations	0.250	0.478	-	-	0.728
Community Safety & Homelessness	0.328	-	-	-	0.328
Children's					
School Related Works	26.567	7.729	-	-	34.296
Children's Social Care Safeguarding & Quality Assurance	1.234	2.612	-	-	3.846
Adults					
Adults Commissioning Service	3.933	6.757	0.020	-	10.710
Governance					
Governance	0.032	-	-	0.440	0.472
Total Approved	51.509	51.210	8.027	2.077	112.823
Contingency	-	-	-	2.800	2.800
Total	51.509	51.210	8.027	4.877	115.623

Business Case Approval Process



Pay Policy Statement 2024/25

1. Pay Policy Statement for the Year 2024/25

- 1.1. The Pay Policy Statement sets out the Council's approach to pay policy in accordance within the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. The Pay Policy Statement has also been revised to take into account the Council's approach to approval by Full Council for severance payments in excess of £95K in line with guidance received from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). This pay policy applies for the year 2024/25 unless replaced or varied by Full Council.
- 1.2. It does not cover teaching staff whose salaries and terms and conditions of employment are set by the Secretary of State. Academy Schools are an entirely separate legal entity from the Council and are covered by Academies Act 2010 and as a separate employer are responsible for setting salaries for their employees.
- 1.3. The purpose of the Pay Policy Statement is to ensure transparency and accountability with regard to the Council's approach to setting pay. The Pay Policy Statement has been approved by Council and is publicised on the Council's website in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 in March each year.

2. Underlying Principles

- 2.1. The Council is committed to, and supports, the principle of equal pay for all our employees. Equal pay between men and women is a legal right under both United Kingdom and European Law. The Equality Act 2010 requires employers not to discriminate on grounds of the nine protected characteristics.
- 2.2. The Council applies terms and conditions of employment that have been negotiated and agreed through appropriate collective bargaining mechanisms (national or local) or as a consequence of authority decisions, these are then incorporated into contracts of employment.
- 2.3. The Pay Policy Statement identifies:
 - The method by which salaries and severance payment are determined.
 - The detail and level of remuneration of the Council's most senior managers, i.e. Chief Executive and Leadership Team, which accords with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.
 - The process for ensuring that the Pay Policy Statement is applied consistently, including the Staffing Panel which has delegated powers in relation to senior manager pay and employment.
 - The detail and level of remuneration for the lowest level of employee.
 - The ratio of pay of the top earner and that of the median earner.
- 2.4. It should be noted that the Pay Policy Statement does not include information relating to the pay of Teachers or Support Staff in schools who are outside the scope of the Localism Act 2011. This Statement complies with all statutory and legal requirements.

- 2.5. In this Pay Policy Statement we use the term “Senior Manager” to mean the same as “Chief Officer” as described in the Localism Act 2011. The Council already separately publishes information about pay and average pay, which is also set out here.

Highest Pay (per annum)	£193,227 p.a. (fte)
Average Pay (per annum)	£33,127.31p.a. (fte) (based on mean) £31,364.04p.a. (fte) (based on median)
Pay difference (between average & highest pay)	£160,099.69 (based on mean) £161,862.96 (based on median)
Pay Multiple (ratio between the average and the highest pay)	5.8:1 (based on mean) 6.2:1 (based on median)
Pay Multiple (ratio between the lowest and the highest pay)	8.6:1

3. Policy on the remuneration of its Senior Managers

- 3.1. Chief Executive and Chief Officers conditions of service are in line with the Joint Negotiating Committees for Chief Executives and Chief Officers. The pay levels for the Chief Executive and Directors are determined by the Council’s Senior Staffing Panel on appointment, having regard to the Council’s duty to ensure best value and after taking professional advice on pay levels, market conditions and other relevant employment factors.
- 3.2. Assistant Director pay is determined by a job evaluation process, which was undertaken in 2011. The scheme used was one designed by the Local Authority Employers Organisation, which advises Councils at a national and regional level on employment and pay issues.
- 3.3. The level of remuneration is determined as set out above. Other than allowable out of pocket expenses, the Council does not make other payments to Senior Managers in addition to basic salary for undertaking their core role. Overtime is not payable to Senior Managers. Any remuneration package in excess of £100K will be determined by Council.

4. Policy on the remuneration of its lowest paid employees

- 4.1. In this policy, we use the definition of lowest paid employee as being those paid on spinal column point (SCP) 2 of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services, plus the Living Wage (LW) supplement payment where SCP 2 is below the LW rate, which was introduced within the Council pay structure in September 2016. We use this because it is the lowest substantive pay grade used for local authority employees.
- 4.2. Our policy is that an employee would normally only be paid at this rate if they were in the first year of appointment to a post which has been evaluated under the national scheme for evaluating local authority jobs. The Council uses the nationally agreed job evaluation scheme for employees of local authorities, which, is used by a large proportion of other local authorities.
- 4.3. Once someone has been in post a year, they will, subject to satisfactory performance, move to the next increment in the pay scale (Grade B upwards). Increments are payable each year on 1 April, until the maximum point of the grade is reached.
- 4.4. The Council’s pay structure is available on the website at <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/paystructure>

5. Policy on the relationship between -

- (i) the remuneration of its Senior Managers, and**
- (ii) the remuneration of its employees who are not Senior Managers**

5.1. The Council has no formal policy on the relationship between the remuneration of Senior Managers. The Hutton review entitled Fair Pay in the Public Sector considered the multiple should be no greater than 20 to 1 (lower is better) and based on the current situation the Council falls well below this threshold. The authority does not have a policy on maintaining or reaching a specific 'pay multiple', however, the authority is conscious of the need to ensure that the salary of the highest paid employee is not excessive and is consistent with the needs of the authority. These pay rates may increase in accordance with any pay settlements, which are reached through their respective national negotiating bodies.

5.2. At Tameside, the pay multiple between the Chief Executive's pay and the lowest paid employee in the organisation is 8.6:1 and is therefore well within this recommended range.

6. Policy relating to the remuneration of Senior Managers on recruitment

6.1. All posts are subject to the Council's recruitment and selection process for job appointments, including promotion. Appointments will normally be made at the minimum of the relevant pay scale for the grade, although this can be varied if it is necessary to secure the best candidate. When recruiting to all posts the Council will take full and proper account of all provisions of relevant local government, employment and equalities legislation.

6.2. On occasions, the Council may need to consider market forces supplements for employees, which might include Senior Management posts. Authorisation arrangements for market forces supplements would be subject to approval by the Senior Staffing Panel. No such supplements are currently in place.

6.3. The Council will ensure that before an offer of appointment is made, any salary package for any post that is in excess of £100,000 is considered by full Council.

7. Policy relating to increases and additions to remuneration for each Senior Manager

7.1. Senior Managers are paid at a spot rate salary. The majority of Council staff receive nationally agreed pay awards when they are applied. These do not automatically apply to Senior Managers at Assistant Director level and above. The Senior Staffing Panel make the determination as to whether and when there is to be an increase in the current spot rate salaries. The Senior Staffing Panel will take account of the national pay awards when making their determination. Senior Management salaries were increased by 3.50% on basic salary in 2023/24 to reflect the national pay award.

8. Policy relating to the use of performance related pay for Senior Managers

8.1. The Council does not pay performance related pay to Senior Managers or any other member of the workforce. The Council believes that it has sufficiently strong performance management arrangements in place to ensure high performance. Any areas of under-performance would be addressed through the capability/disciplinary procedure as appropriate.

9. Policy relating to the use of bonuses for Senior Managers

9.1. The Council does not pay bonuses to Senior Managers or any other member of the workforce and does not intend to introduce any bonus schemes.

10. The approach to payment of Senior Managers on their ceasing to hold office under or to be employed by the Authority

- 10.1. The approach to payment of Senior Managers is the same as those which apply to all Council employees.
- 10.2. Compensation payments for loss of office are considered in situations where an employee's post becomes at risk and/or the employment relationship is no longer tenable. A maximum payment of 12 weeks applies to all employees, including Senior Managers subject to the requirements set out in [Statutory guidance on the making and disclosure of Special Severance Payments by local authorities in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/281222/Statutory_guidance_on_the_making_and_disclosure_of_Special_Severance_Payments_by_local_authorities_in_England_-_GOV.UK.pdf)
- 10.3. The Council's approach is to treat each case on its individual merits, taking professional advice on the appropriateness, and ensuring that all payments represent value for money to the taxpayer.
- 10.4. Employees who are 'at risk', having been displaced from their role, are supported to seek suitable alternative employment across the organisation. If the secured employment is at a grade lower than their previous post they will be assimilated to the new grade at the top spinal column point and receive pay protection up to their previous salary rate for a maximum period of 6 months. If an employee does not secure alternative employment, subject to the individual case, employees will receive statutory redundancy.

11. Transparency

- 11.1. The Council meets its requirements under the Localism Act, the Code of Practice on Data Transparency and the Accounts and Audit Regulations in order to ensure that it is open and transparent regarding senior officer remuneration.
- 11.2. Senior Managers' pay is published on the Council's website each year. The current pay rates for senior managers are available at: [Transparency in Local Government \(tameside.gov.uk\)](http://tameside.gov.uk/transparency)

12. Gender Pay Gap

- 12.1. From April 2017, gender pay legislation requires employers (public, private or voluntary sector) with 250 or more employees to publish statutory calculations every year showing how large the pay gap is between their male and female employees.
- 12.2. There are two sets of regulations which impose the mandatory gender pay gap reporting obligations on employers:
- The Equality Act 2010 (Gender Pay Gap Information) Regulations 2017
 - The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties and Public Authorities) Regulations 2017
- 12.3. The legislation requires the following 6 measures to be reported:

1	Mean gender pay gap	The difference between the mean hourly rate of pay of male full-pay relevant employees and that of female full-pay relevant employees.
2	Median gender pay gap	The difference between the median hourly rate of pay of male full-pay relevant employees and that of female full-pay relevant employees
3	Mean bonus gap*	The difference between the mean bonus pay paid to male relevant employees and that paid to female relevant employees

4	Median bonus gap*	The difference between the median bonus pay paid to male relevant employees and that paid to female relevant employees
5	Bonus proportions*	The proportions of male and female relevant employees who were paid bonus pay during the relevant period
6	Quartile pay bands	The proportions of male and female full-pay relevant employees in the lower, lower middle, upper middle and upper quartile pay bands

**Measures 3, 4 and 5 are not reportable at Tameside Council as there are no bonus payments.*

12.4. As at 31 March 2023 a snapshot of the Council's workforce (including all employees, apprentices and casual staff in post) provides:

Mean gender pay gap	-0.68%			
Median gender pay gap	-3.98%			
Mean bonus gap	N/a			
Median bonus gap	N/a			
Bonus proportions	N/a			
Quartile Pay Bands	Quartile	Male	Female	Grand Total
	Lower	299 (42.2%)	410 (57.8%)	709 (100%)
	Lower Middle	242 (34.1%)	467 (65.9%)	709 (100%)
	Upper Middle	212 (29.9%)	497 (70.1%)	709 (100%)
	Upper	248 (34.9%)	462 (65.1%)	710 (100%)
	Grand Total	1001 (35.3%)	1836 (64.7%)	2837 (100%)

12.5. Tameside's mean gender pay gap is -0.68% meaning that overall females have higher pay than males. Tameside's median gender pay gap is -3.98% meaning that overall females have higher pay than males.

12.6. The mean gender pay gap has decreased from +1.07% in the previous year, and the median gender pay gap has reduced from -4.68%.

12.7. Tameside's negative median gender pay gap shows that females are paid more than males, due to the high percentage of females in the middle quartiles. Over half, 52.5% of females are in the middle quartiles.

12.8. There is a significantly higher percentage of females in the upper two quartiles than males, 52.3% and 45.9% respectively. The highest percentage of males (29.9%) are in the lower quartile.

12.9. The Council is committed to continue to achieve a low gender pay gap and will continue to monitor and review recruitment and reward processes, develop career pathways to enable and support career progression and continue to support flexible working and family friendly policies to enable both men and women to progress within the workforce.

13. Commitment to The Living Wage

13.1. The Council is committed to becoming an accredited Living Wage Foundation Employer. The Living Wage is a rate of pay per hour, which is enough to make sure workers and their families can live free from poverty.

13.2. The Council implemented the Living Wage Foundation rate of pay in September 2016 for all employees (excluding apprentices, work placements and traineeships, which have been created to enable access to the work place training and job opportunities). This is paid by means of a supplement to Council employees whose hourly rate of pay falls below the nationally set rate, as required annually. This rate will continue to be reviewed in line with the nationally negotiated NJC pay award.

13.3. The Council will encourage and promote all employers, both directly and through their subcontractors, to pay a Living Wage, and promote the Living Wage principles when there are opportunities to so do in the Borough.

13.4. The Council strives to make Tameside a better place and is of the view that payment of a Living Wage can have a positive impact on the delivery of services as well as economic and social benefits in the Borough.

13.5. The Council is committed to providing better quality value for money services and feels the payment of the Living Wage Foundation will contribute to this goal.

14. Pension Enhancement

14.1. The Council has agreed policies in place on how it will apply any discretionary powers it has under Pensions regulations. It is not Council policy to apply the available discretions to award additional pension to any members of the pension scheme (regulation 31).

15. Re-employment of Staff

15.1. The Council is under a statutory duty to appoint on merit and has to ensure that it complies with all appropriate employment and equalities legislation. The authority will always seek to appoint the best available candidate to a post who has the skills, knowledge, experience, abilities and qualities needed for the post.

15.2. In recent years significant numbers of individuals have left the Council voluntarily on enhanced exit payments owing to the significant reduction in its budget. These exit payments have helped unlock substantial reductions in staff costs in the medium to longer term and have helped in meeting the challenge of reducing the deficit. However, given the scale of the costs associated with exit payments it is vital that they offer value for money to the taxpayer who funds them.

15.3. As it would be damaging to the Council reputation to use public funds for employees to receive exit payments and then quickly returned to public sector roles, the Council has a policy that any employee who returns to the Tameside public sector or on public sector contracts or agency work within 12 months of exit are required to repay their exit payment. This is in line with government guidance to ensure that the taxpayer is not unduly compensating an individual for loss of employment only for them to return to the public sector after a short period of time hence getting a windfall. Employees who have received an enhanced exit package can accept

employment with the Council but where they do this within 12 months of signing a compromise agreement they will be obliged to repay their exit package.

- 15.4. If a candidate is a former employee in receipt of an LGPS pension or a redundancy payment this will not rule them out from being re-employed by the Council. Clearly where a former employee left the authority on redundancy terms then the old post has been deleted and the individual cannot return to the post as it will not exist.
- 15.5. The Council will also apply the provisions of the Statutory Redundancy Payments Modification Order regarding the recovery of redundancy payments if this is relevant and appropriate. Pensions Regulations also have provisions to reduce pension payments in certain circumstances to those who return to work within the local government service.
- 15.6. The authority will apply the provisions of the Recovery of Public Sector exit payments in accordance with any regulations made under The Enterprise Act 2016 and any other applicable legislation and guidance.

16. Policy Amendment

- 16.1. The Council may seek to change elements within the pay policy as part of any necessary efficiency review or as other circumstances dictate.
- 16.2. This policy statement will be reviewed each year and will be presented to full Council each year for consideration in order to ensure that a policy is in place for the authority prior to the start of each financial year.

17. Pay Policy References

- Agency workers directive 2011
- Hutton Fair Pay in the Public Sector Final Report (March 2011)
- Joint Negotiating Committee for Local Authority Chief Executives
- Joint Negotiating Committee for Chief Officers of Local Authorities
- Local Government (Early Termination of Employment)(Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006
- Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership Contributions) Regulations 2007
- Localism Act 2011
- National Joint Council for Local Government Services
- Tameside Borough Council Scheme of Delegation
- The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations (2011)
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Secretary of State for CLG Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on Data Transparency
- Local Government Transparency Code 2014
- Statutory guidance on the making and disclosure of Special Severance Payment by local authorities in England

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FULL COUNCIL MEETING 5 MARCH 2024

Council Tax 2024/25

1 Background

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Council to calculate and set the Council Tax for 2024/25. The Council, in its role as a billing authority, is required to set amounts of Council Tax before 11 March in the financial year preceding that for which it is set.
- 1.2 The relevant sections of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that govern the setting of Council Tax in England (Chapter 14, Part I, Chapter III, Sections 30-37) have been amended by the Localism Act 2011 (Chapter 20, Part 5, Chapter 1, Sections 74 and 78) and the Local Government Finance Act 2012 (Chapter 17, Sections 9-16). The amended Local Government Finance Act 1992 is referred to as “the Act” in this report.
- 1.3 The Local Government Financial Settlement, announced on 5 February 2024 permits an increase in general council tax. The referendum threshold is set at 3% before a referendum is required under legislation.
- 1.4 In addition, local authorities with responsibility for social care may levy a precept to spend exclusively on adult social care. This precept equates to up to 2% on top of the core principle.
- 1.5 The Council proposes to increase the Council tax in 2024/25 by 2.99% for general council tax and 2% as a social care precept.
- 1.6 The precept levels for the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner and the Mayoral General Budget (including Fire and Rescue), as well as Mossley Parish Council, have been confirmed and are detailed below:

Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept

- 1.7 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Police, Crime and Fire met on 30 January 2024 and set their Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner precept at £16,588,377 for the financial year 2024/25. This results in a Band D Council Tax equivalent figure of £256.30.

Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)

- 1.8 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority met on 9 February 2024 and set their Mayoral General (including Fire and Rescue) precept at £7,310,406 for the financial year 2024/25. This results in a Band D Council Tax equivalent figure of £112.95.

Mossley Parish Council

- 1.9 Mossley Parish Council met on 17 January 2024 and resolved to set a parish precept for the financial year 2024/25 of £36,000. This results in a Band D equivalent figure of £10.32.

2 Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The formal Council Tax Resolution set out at **Appendix 1** is adopted;
2. The calculation of aggregate amounts as set out at **Appendix 2** is noted;

Council Tax Resolution 2024/25**Council is recommended to resolve the following:**

1. That it be noted that Executive Cabinet on 24 January 2024 formally approved the relevant Council Tax bases for 2024/25 be as follows:
 - (a) 64,722.5 for the whole Council area (including the Mossley Parish area) [item T in the formula in Section 31B(1) of “the Act”].
 - (b) 3,487.1 for the Mossley Parish area to which a local precept relates.
2. That the Council approves the Council Tax Requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2024/25 (excluding the Mossley Parish precept) as being £117,867,412. The Council Tax Requirement including the Mossley Parish precept is £117,903,412 for the 2024/25 financial year.
3. That the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2024/25:
 - (a) £660,678,670 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of “the Act” taking into account the precept issued for the year by Mossley Parish Council (Appendix 2).
 - (b) £542,775,258 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of “the Act” (Appendix 2).
 - (c) £117,903,412 being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of “the Act”, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year [item R in the formula in Section 31B(1) of the “the Act”].
 - (d) £1,821.68 being the amount at 3(c) above, divided by item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of “the Act”, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year (including the Mossley Parish precept).
 - (e) £36,000 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of “the Act”, being the Mossley Parish precept.
 - (f) £1,821.12 being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by item T (1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of “the Act”, as the basic amount of tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relate.
 - (g) £1,831.44 being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amount of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of “the Act”, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

4. That it be noted that for the year 2024/25 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester and the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of “the Act”, for each category of dwelling in the Council's area as indicated in the tables below.
5. That the Council, in accordance with “the Act”, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2024/25 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

VALUATION BANDS - TAMESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (EXCLUDING MOSSLEY PARISH COUNCIL)

	A £0.00	B £0.00	C £0.00	D £0.00	E £0.00	F £0.00	G £0.00	H £0.00
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	1,038.66	1,211.77	1,384.87	1,557.99	1,904.21	2,250.43	2,596.65	3,115.98
Precepts								
Adult and Social Care Precept	175.41	204.65	233.89	263.13	321.59	380.07	438.54	526.25
Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	170.86	199.34	227.82	256.30	313.25	370.21	427.16	512.60
Mayoral General Precept	75.30	87.85	100.40	112.95	138.05	163.15	188.25	225.90
Aggregate of the Council Tax requirement (including Precepts)								
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council (excluding Mossley)	1,460.23	1,703.61	1,946.98	2,190.37	2,677.10	3,163.86	3,650.60	4,380.73

VALUATION BANDS - TAMESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL (INCLUDING MOSSLEY PARISH COUNCIL)

	A £0.00	B £0.00	C £0.00	D £0.00	E £0.00	F £0.00	G £0.00	H £0.00
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	1,038.66	1,211.77	1,384.88	1,557.99	1,904.21	2,250.43	2,596.65	3,115.98
Precepts								
Adult and Social Care Precept	175.41	204.65	233.89	263.13	321.60	380.07	438.54	526.25
Mossley Parish Council	6.88	8.02	9.17	10.32	12.61	14.90	17.20	20.64
Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	170.86	199.34	227.82	256.30	313.25	370.21	427.16	512.60
Mayoral General Precept	75.30	87.85	100.40	112.95	138.05	163.15	188.25	225.90
Aggregate of the Council Tax requirement (including Precepts)								
Mossley Parish Council Boundary	1,467.11	1,711.63	1,956.16	2,200.69	2,689.72	3,178.76	3,667.80	4,401.37

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CALCULATING THE COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT**Calculations included in Section 31A of “the Act”**

1. Section 31A of the “the Act” requires the Council to make three calculations as set out below:

- (i) an estimate of the Council's required gross revenue expenditure - Section 31A(2) of “the Act”, £660,678,670
- (ii) an estimate of its anticipated income (excluding that from council tax) and of reserves to be used to aid the revenue account - Section 31A(3) of “the Act”, £542,775,258.
- (iii) a calculation of the difference between (i) and (ii) above, known as the Council Tax Requirement - Section 31A(4) of “the Act”, **£117,903,412**

2. The calculation in (i) above requires the Council to calculate the aggregate of:

Section 31A(2)(a) - the expenditure the Council estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account, for the year in accordance with proper practices;

Section 31A(2)(b) - such allowance as the Council estimates will be appropriate for contingencies in relation to amounts to be charged or credited to a revenue account for the year in accordance with proper practices;

Section 31A(2)(c) - the financial reserves which the Council estimates it will be appropriate to raise in the year for meeting estimated future expenditure;

Section 31A(2)(d) - such financial reserves as are sufficient to meet so much of the amount estimated by the Council to be a revenue account deficit for any earlier financial year as has not already been provided for;

Section 31A(2)(e) - any amount estimated to be transferred from the General Fund to the Collection Fund in accordance with Section 97(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, i.e. the Council's share of any Collection Fund deficit, and

Section 31A(2)(f) - any amounts estimated to be transferred in the year from the General Fund to the Collection Fund pursuant to a direction under Section 98(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and charged to a revenue account for the year.

3. The calculation in (ii) above requires the Council to calculate the aggregate of:

Section 31A(3)(a) - the income which the Council estimates will accrue to it in the year and which it will credit to a revenue account, for the year in accordance with proper practices;

Section 31A(3)(b) - any amounts which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year from the Collection Fund to the General Fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, i.e. the Council's share of any Collection Fund surplus;

Section 31A(3)(c) - any amounts which the Council estimates will be transferred from the Collection Fund to the General Fund pursuant to a direction under Section 98(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and will be credited to a revenue account for the year; and

Section 31A(3)(d) - the amount of financial reserves/balances which the Council intends to use towards meeting its revenue expenditure.

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- Report to:** COUNCIL
- Date:** 5 March 2024
- Executive Member:** Councillor Jan Jackson - Executive Member (Planning, Transport and Connectivity)
- Reporting Officer:** Julian Jackson - Director of Place
- Subject:** **ADOPTION OF PLACES FOR EVERYONE**
A Joint Development Plan Document for nine Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) 2022-2039 (The Places for Everyone Plan)
- Report Summary:** The report seeks the approval of Council to formally adopt The Places for Everyone Plan - incorporating the Main Modifications, amendments to the Policies Map and Minor Modifications - in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ("2012 Regulations") and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) ("2004 Act").
- Recommendations:** That Council is recommended to:
- (i) Accept the findings of the Inspectors' Report and approve the Main Modifications to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document proposed by the independent Inspectors, as set out in **Appendix 1.1** and **Appendix 1.2** to this report, for incorporation into the final version of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.
 - (ii) Approve the amendments to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document Policies Map, as set out in **Appendix 2** to this report, for incorporation of all the changes which relate to Tameside's administrative area into the Tameside Policies Map.
 - (iii) Approve the Additional Modifications to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document, as set out in **Appendix 3** to this report, for incorporation into the final version of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.
 - (iv) Adopt the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document 2022 – 2039 (as provided at **Appendix 4**), with effect from 21 March 2024 – incorporating the Main Modifications and Additional Modifications – as part of the Development Plan for Tameside, in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended).
 - (v) Adopt the Policies Map (**Appendix 5**) which incorporates the Modifications to it (**Appendix 2**) and is necessary to give effect to the policies of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.
 - (vi) Delegate authority to the Director of Place, to make any minor non-material editorial amendments to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document and Policies Map ahead of its final publication, subject to consultation and agreement with the eight other Places for Everyone authorities. These

amendments will be limited to correcting minor errors and formatting text.

Corporate Plan:

Places for Everyone's vision is to support the achievement of the Greater Manchester Strategy and deliver sustainable inclusive growth across the nine boroughs. In doing so it seeks to make this one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old, strategically complementing and assisting in the delivery of the Tameside's Corporate Plan themes of starting well, living well, and ageing well.

Policy Implications:

Places for Everyone is a joint Development Plan Document for nine boroughs, which has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. Upon adoption, Places for Everyone will provide a policy framework to guide investment and development decisions. Its policy provisions will be a material planning consideration, given full weight in the determination of planning applications. Places for Everyone will replace some of the saved policy content of the Unitary Development and details of this are set out within appendices to the plan.

Places for Everyone is a statutory plan, which seeks to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development, delivering economic, social and environmental benefits together in a mutually reinforcing way. It is informed by an Integrated Assessment, which includes Impact Assessments for both Equalities and Health and a Habitats Regulations Assessment, undertaken in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

**Financial Implications:
(Authorised by the
statutory Section 151
Officer & Chief Finance
Officer)**

The development of the joint Places for Everyone Plan has been funded using monies earmarked in reserve and revenue budget. There will be some minor costs associated with the notifications following adoption of the plan; these will be absorbed within existing revenue budgets and through utilising existing staff time.

This joint development plan provides a policy framework for individual Local Authority Plans and, as part of it, includes a commitment to develop new housing within the borough. The required growth in housing on adoption of the Plan will have costs, in terms of infrastructure and service delivery, but will also generate additional revenues from Council Tax. The profile of growth in demand for services and Council Tax revenues will be dependent on delivery across the 15 years from adoption.

Following the adoption of Places for Everyone, the development of the subsequent Homes, Spaces, Places plan is to be funded by a combination of revenue budget and monies earmarked in reserve, as shown in the table below. The total estimated investment required totals £1.194m over a 3-year period and detailed monitoring will be undertaken as the work progresses, to track the actual expenditure against planned.

	24/25 £m	25/26 £m	26/27 £m	Total £m
Revenue Budget Available	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.600
Profiled estimated spend	0.161	0.509	0.524	1.194
Expenditure to be funded from reserve	(0.039)*	0.309	0.324	0.594

*A transfer of the expected underspend in 24/25 is subject to separate approval

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the
Borough Solicitor)**

The legislative and constitutional requirements for the preparation of a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (“2004 Act”) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (“2012 Regulations”) have been complied with.

The joint DPD was submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination (s20 of the 2004 Act) along with the documents prescribed by Regulation 22 of the 2012 Regulations. Prior to its submission to the Secretary of State, the joint DPD was published and representations were invited, pursuant to Regulation 19 and Regulation 20 of the 2012 Regulations.

Following Submission, the Joint DPD was subject to independent examination, as prescribed by section 20 of the Act; the modifications consultation stage which took place between October and December 2023 fell within that stage of the plan preparation process. The Inspectors issued their report on 14 February 2024 which signals the end of the examination stage. It is now the case that the nine districts must either accept in full the recommendations in their report or reject them in full.

Risk Management:

There are several risks associated with plan making activities and Places for Everyone, namely if the jointly prepared Development Plan Document is not taken forward in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended), any decision to adopt the plan may be susceptible to challenge.

Places for Everyone forms part of the borough’s local plan, and by adopting it ensures the Council has an up-to-date local plan in place, minimising the risk of government intervention in plan making in Tameside or the withholding of central funding.

Access to Information:

Appendices can be accessed by clicking on links below, other than appendix 8 which is attached separately:

Appendix 1.1. [Inspectors’ Report \(Document 1 of 2\)](#)

Appendix 1.2 [Inspectors’ Report Appendix - Main Modifications to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document \(Document 2 of 2\)](#)

Appendix 2. [Schedule of Policy Map changes](#)

Appendix 3. [Consultation Report into the Additional Modifications incorporating the Schedule of Additional Modifications](#)

- Appendix 4. [Places for Everyone Plan for Adoption](#)
- Appendix 5. [Places for Everyone Policies Map](#)
- Appendix 6. [Correspondence between the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Secretary of State](#)
- Appendix 7. [Schedule of Policy number changes between the Submitted PfE Plan \(examination document SD1\) and the PfE Plan being presented for Adoption.](#)
- Appendix 8. Schedule of Tameside Library opening times.
- Appendix 9. [Report to AGMA Executive Board – December 2020](#)
- Appendix 10. [Report to AGMA Executive Board – February 2021](#)
- Appendix 11. [Report to Places for Everyone Joint Committee – July 2021](#)
- Appendix 12. [District Governance Meetings – July 2021](#)
- Appendix 13. [District Governance Meetings – September/October 2023](#)
- Appendix 14. [Places for Everyone Submission Plan – Examination Document SD1](#)
- Appendix 15. [Places for Everyone - Documentation](#)
- Appendix 16. [Places for Everyone – Examination Website](#)
- Appendix 17. [Integrated Assessment Reports including the Sustainability Assessment](#)

Background Information: The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Graham Holland, Planning Policy Manager



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e-mail: graham.holland@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Every Council has a statutory duty to prepare a Local Plan, with a requirement set in law that planning decisions must be taken in line with the Local Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Indeed, in a recent letter to the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Secretary of State has reaffirmed his Government's dedication to a plan-led system and its role in ensuring housing requirements are planned for appropriately (**Appendix 6**). The Places for Everyone Plan: A joint Development Plan Document for nine Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) 2022-2039 is the strategic spatial plan for the nine constituent boroughs and as such sets out a collective planning policy framework. All policies within the plan are strategic policies. It has been prepared as a Joint Development Plan Document of the nine local planning authorities. Once adopted, Places for Everyone (PfE) will form part of Tameside's development plan and will be used to assess individual planning applications, alongside existing policy. Other parts of Tameside's Local Plan, including the emerging Homes, Spaces, Places (HSP), will need to be consistent with it. Neighbourhood plans will also need to be in general conformity with the strategic policies within it.
- 1.2 PfE is a strategic plan and does not cover everything that a single local plan would do. Tameside's Local Plan is a sum of its parts. HSP will set out more detailed policies for Tameside, including both strategic and non-strategic policies, reflecting local circumstances as appropriate. HSP, alongside the Greater Manchester Minerals Plan, the Greater Manchester Waste Plan and PfE are collectively intended to be the boroughs' local plan. Appendix A of PfE sets out the policies in the relevant adopted Greater Manchester district local plans which will be replaced by it.
- 1.3 HSP, as the borough's next plan to prepare, will be expected to look ahead a minimum period from its adoption, in line with national policy. In amending the plan period from 2020 - 2037 to 2022 - 2039, PfE will provide an appropriate strategic policy framework for plans prepared for Tameside following its adoption.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2014 the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities resolved to prepare a joint development plan, known as Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF). Following the decision of Stockport council to withdraw from the GMSF in December 2020, the remaining nine GM authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) decided to progress a joint plan. This became known as the Places for Everyone Plan (PfE). Before submission to the Secretary of State, PfE had been the subject of various consultations since its inception in 2014 as follows:
- November 2014 - Scope of the plan and the initial evidence base (Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations)
 - November 2015 - Vision, strategy and strategic growth options (Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations)
 - October 2016 – Draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations)
 - The Greater Manchester Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment: the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Revised Draft 2019 (GMSF 2019) (Regulation 18 of the 2012 Regulations)
 - Publication version of Places for Everyone (Pre-Submission Consultation) 2021 (Regulation 19 of the 2012 Regulations)
- 2.2 Full details of the consultation undertaken, the key issues raised at each stage of consultation, and how these issues have been taken into account in the plan making process

up until submission, are set out in the Statement of Consultation 2022¹ which is available to view on the GMCA web site.

- 2.3 PfE was submitted to the Secretary of State on February 14, 2022, pursuant to Regulation 22 of The Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012. This marked the beginning of the independent examination into the plan, the final stage in the plan making process. Three Inspectors were appointed to examine whether the submitted plan met the tests of soundness defined in the National Planning Policy Framework² and met all the relevant legislative requirements, including the duty to co-operate³.
- 2.4 The public hearing sessions started at the beginning of November 2022 and sat for 12 weeks in total, including a final session at the beginning of July 2023.
- 2.5 The Inspectors' post hearing note (IN39) was published on the examination website on 11 August 2023, setting out their conclusions on the key issues of soundness and the Main Modifications that would be required to ensure the Plan was sound. A consultation on the Main Modifications was carried out for a period of eight weeks, between 11 October and 6 December 2023. More detail on this consultation is provided below.
- 2.6 Having considered the consultation responses to the Main Modifications, the Inspectors' Report (IR) was published by the GMCA on behalf of the nine local authorities on 15 February 2024.
- 2.7 The IR concludes that subject to inclusion of the Main Modifications, the Plan is sound, complies with all relevant legal requirements and provides an appropriate basis for the planning of the nine boroughs. The Inspectors are satisfied that where necessary the local planning authorities engaged constructively, actively and on an on-going basis in the preparation of the Plan and the duty to co-operate has been met.
- 2.8 It should be noted that the Council can only adopt the Joint Development Plan Document if it incorporates all the Main Modifications as recommended by the independent Inspectors.

3. MAIN MODIFICATIONS

- 3.1 The Inspectors' post hearing note (IN39) set out their conclusions on the key issues of soundness. In summary the Inspectors concluded that:
 - No significant changes were required to the spatial strategy policies.
 - No significant changes were required in relation to the scale of distribution of employment and housing.
 - Exceptional circumstances case was not made for release of Green Belt sites JPA10 (Global Logistics) and JPA28 (North of Irlam Station).
 - Exceptional circumstances case was not made for 31 of the 49 proposed Green Belt Additions.
 - Some Modifications were required to policy wording to ensure that they were consistent, removed duplication and were therefore effective.
- 3.2 A schedule of Main Modifications was prepared and agreed with the Inspectors. A schedule of Additional Modifications was also prepared. These were amendments which were not

¹ <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/5692/110401-pfe-statement-of-consultation-submission.pdf>

² The tests of soundness in paragraph 35 of the NPPF require that the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

³ Paragraph 24 of the NPPF requires that local planning authorities cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries.

required to address issues of soundness. They were, for example, typographical issues and were included for completeness. The Inspectors have not considered the responses to the additional modifications, this is a role for the districts, and a report summarising the responses is available at (**Appendix 3**). The additional modifications (taken together) do not materially affect the policies set out in the PfE Plan if it is adopted with the Main Modifications. A composite plan was prepared which showed the Main Modifications and Additional Modifications to help people understand the proposed changes and help them to respond to the consultation.

- 3.3 The Main Modifications underwent further Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment, which were consulted on, alongside the modifications themselves. All the Main Modifications consultation documents are available to view on the GMCA website⁴.
- 3.4 Following approval by all nine PfE authorities, (details of the individual meetings can be found on the GMCA website), the Modifications were published for a period of public consultation which ran for eight weeks, from 11 October – 6 December 2023. 177 representations were received in total. A list of respondents is published on the examination website (examination document reference RMM1). All the responses are available on the GMCA website⁵.
- 3.5 A report listing all the representations, a summary of the main issues raised and a brief response to those main issues was prepared and published on the examination website (examination document reference RMM2).
- 3.6 A Summary of Key Issues report was also prepared and is available on the examination website (examination document reference RMM3). The main issues raised related to:
 - Extension of the plan period
 - Relationship to district local plans
 - Cancellation of HS2
 - Implications of proposed changes to National Planning Policy Framework
 - Approach to Brownfield Land in Sustainable Development policy (JP-S1)
 - Modifications to the Carbon and Energy policy (JP-S2)
 - Modifications to the Affordable Housing policy (JP-H2)
 - Retention of the Walshaw (JPA9) site
 - Approach to streamlining allocation policies
 - Inadequacy of Integrated Assessment
 - Inadequacy of consultation
- 3.7 It was not considered that any new substantive issues were raised during the consultation which required further work and/or further hearing sessions. However, a small number of further Main Modifications were identified which were considered necessary to make the plan sound, particularly in relation to HS2. A schedule of these further Main Modifications was submitted to the Inspectors and is published on the examination website (examination document reference RMM4⁶).

⁴ <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/places-for-everyone/modifications/>

⁵

https://www.gmconsult.org/pfe/mainmods2023/consultation/published_select_respondent?sort=excerpt&order=ascending

⁶ https://www.hwa.uk.com/site/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Further-Main-Mods_ISSUED_160124.pdf

4. CHANGES TO NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY

4.1 Following the closure of the Modifications consultation, Government published two documents which had potential implications for PfE.

4.2 Government published a Written Ministerial Statement⁷ on energy efficiency on 13 December 2023, alongside a consultation on the Future Homes and Buildings Standard. It states that “the Government does not expect plan-makers to set local energy efficiency standards for buildings that go beyond current or planned buildings regulations”. The Written Ministerial Statement goes on to clarify that “Any planning policies that propose local energy efficiency standards for buildings that go beyond current or planned buildings regulation should be rejected at examination if they do not have a well-reasoned and robustly costed rationale that ensures:

- That development remains viable, and the impact on housing supply and affordability is considered in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework.
- The additional requirement is expressed as a percentage uplift of a dwelling’s Target Emissions Rate (TER) calculated using a specified version of the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP).”

4.3 A further main modification was proposed to policy JP-S2 to reflect this statement (as referenced within Examination document RMM4).

4.4 A revised National Planning Policy Framework⁸ was published on 19 December 2023 (as amended). For PfE, the most significant section is the provision in Annex 1, paragraph 230 relating to transitional arrangements:

“The policies in this Framework (published on 19 December 2023) will apply for the purpose of examining plans, where those plans reach regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (pre-submission) stage after 19 March 2024. Plans that reach pre-submission consultation on or before this date will be examined under the relevant previous version of the Framework...”

4.5 The pre-submission stage referred to in the above paragraph is the Regulation 19 or Publication stage. The Publication stage consultation on the PfE plan took place in August 2021. Therefore, the plan continued to be examined under the relevant previous version of the Framework and is unaffected by the changes in the December 2023 version in relation to plan-making.

4.6 Once PfE is adopted, the policies in NPPF December 2023 will apply until such time as it is superseded. A further Main Modification was proposed in relation to Policy JP-H1 to reflect the proposed changes to the requirement for local authorities to maintain a 5-year supply of housing sites.

5. THE INSPECTORS’ REPORT

5.1 The Inspectors’ Report⁹ was published by the GMCA on behalf of the nine local authorities on 15 February 2024. The report concludes “that all legal requirements have been met and that with the recommended main modifications set out in the Appendix the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document for Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham,

⁷ <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-statements/detail/2023-12-13/hcws123>

⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

⁹ Please note that PfE policy and paragraph numbers referenced in the IR relate to the submission version of the plan, (examination document reference SD1), a schedule of current and submitted plan policy numbers is provided in **Appendix 7** to this report.

Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan satisfies the requirements referred to in Section 20(5)(a) of the 2004 Act and is sound” (paragraph 938).

5.2 The main modifications can be summarised as follows:

- Various changes to clarify the relationship between, and relative roles of, the Plan and individual local plans, and to clarify that the Plan does not apply to the parts of Oldham that are within the Peak District National Park.
- Extension of the plan period to look ahead to 2039 (rather than 2037), and updates to the housing and employment land supply information to 2022 (rather than 2021).
- Clarifications to spatial strategy policies JP-Strat1 to JP-Strat11 and associated diagrammatic maps, and deletion of High Crompton Broad Location from policy JP-Strat7.
- Extensive changes to the detailed wording of site allocation policies JPA1 to JPA37 to ensure they are consistent with national policy, justified, internally consistent and effective in achieving sustainable development having regard to relevant site-specific issues.
- Deletion of allocation JPA10 Global Logistics and retention of parts of the site in the Green Belt.
- Deletion of allocation JPA28 North of Irlam Station and retention of the site in the Green Belt.
- Amendments to the site boundaries of allocations JPA1.2 Simister and Bowlee; JPA3.2 Timperley Wedge; JPA14 Broadbent Moss; JPA18 Rosary Road; JPA26 Hazelhurst Farm; and JPA32 South of Hyde.
- Modifications to policies JP-S1 to JP-S7 to ensure consistency with national policy and effectiveness, including deletion of policy JP-S4 Resilience as it serves no decision-making purpose.
- Modifications to policies JP-J1 to JP-J4 to reflect changes to the plan period, and to remove unnecessary or inconsistent requirements.
- Clarifications to policies JP-H1 to JP-H4 relating to housing development, and changes to the approaches to phasing and five-year supply to ensure consistency with national policy and that housing needs are met as soon as possible.
- Modifications to policies JP-G1 to JP-G7 to ensure consistency with national policy and effectiveness.
- Changes to JP-G5, JP-G9, JP-C7 and relevant site allocation policies relating to the South Pennine Moors, Rochdale Canal and Manchester Mosses protected habitats having regard to the habitat regulations assessment.
- Changes to policy JP-G9 and site allocation policies relating to biodiversity including any irreplaceable habitats on sites containing peat.
- Changes to JP-G2 and site allocation policies to secure compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of remaining Green Belt.
- Deletion of policy JP-G8 relating to green space standards.
- Deletion of policy JP-G11 relating to safeguarded land.
- Modifications to policies JP-Strat12, JP-P1 to JP-P7 to ensure consistency with national policy and effectiveness.
- Inclusion of an additional policy in chapter 10 relating to the strategic road network.
- Various changes to the transport improvements referred to in the Plan, and addition of Appendix D setting out indicative transport mitigations for each allocation.
- Deletion of 30 of the 49 Green Belt additions proposed in the Plan.
- A number of other modifications to ensure that the plan is positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy.

5.3 The Inspectors did not consider that the further main modification to Policy JP-S2 referred to in Section 4 above, was necessary to make the plan sound. Their reasons are set out in paragraphs 721-724 of their Report.

- 5.4 The Inspectors accepted the proposed further modification to policy JP-H1 referred to in Section 4 above and proposed some further wording to the reasoned justification. There is a typographical error in the Main Modifications schedule in relation to MM7.2 at paragraph 7.19. This should read Table 7.2 not Table 7.1.

6. POLICIES MAP

- 6.1 The Policies Map is not defined in legislation as a development plan document. This means it is not formally part of the PfE Plan that it is intended will be adopted, nor was it within the Planning Inspectors' remit to recommend main modifications to it. However, local planning authorities must maintain an adopted Policies Map which illustrates geographically the application of the policies in the adopted development plan.
- 6.2 When the PfE Plan was submitted for examination, the PfE authorities were required to provide a Submission Policies Map showing the changes to the adopted Policies Maps within the PfE authorities, that would result from the proposals in the submitted PfE Plan. Subsequent to this, a number of modifications to the Policies Map were proposed during the plan's examination and these were consulted upon alongside the Main and Additional Modifications.
- 6.3 The Council will adopt the Policies Map (**Appendix 5**) incorporating the changes in so far as they relate to Tameside's administrative area into the Tameside Policies Map

7. IMPLICATIONS FOR TAMESIDE OF THE PLACES FOR EVERYONE PLAN AS MODIFIED¹⁰

- 7.1 PfE, through the Spatial Strategy objective to boost northern competitiveness, including provision of significant new employment opportunities, allocates JPA30 Ashton Moss West for employment uses, supports infrastructure provision and a commitment that collectively the northern districts meet their own local housing need, including through allocations JPA31 Godley Green Garden Village and JPA32 South of Hyde.

Jobs

- 7.2 Economic prosperity is central to the overall strategy. JPA30 Ashton Moss West is identified in Tameside for 160,000 square metres of employment floorspace, within the E(g)(ii) - Research and Development, E(g)(iii) – Light Industrial and B2 - General Industrial use classes. Following main modifications to the Ashton Moss West policy, any ambiguity as to the acceptable use classes considered acceptable has been removed through deletion of the word 'primarily' from policy criterion 1. Further, several other main modifications have been made to the site allocation policy to achieve consistency in wording across all site allocation policies and ensure the plan is read as a whole. These matters are considered in detail within the IR, at paragraphs 571 to 584.
- 7.3 In addition, reference is now explicitly made within the policy concerning compensatory improvements to the remaining Green Belt; ensuring that the peat underlying the site is given appropriate consideration through construction techniques; alongside the need to consider the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Development Plan and the viable extraction of mineral resources.
- 7.4 In conclusion, the Inspectors consider that policy JPA30 Ashton Moss West is justified, consistent with national policy and would be effective in achieving sustainable development.

¹⁰ Please note that PfE policy numbers referenced relate to the submission version of the plan, (examination document reference SD1), a schedule of current and submitted plan policy numbers is provided in **Appendix 7** to this report.

Homes

- 7.5 For Tameside, the plan establishes an annual average requirement of 485 net homes per year. This is consistent with the submitted plan, even with the extension to the plan period as referenced in Section 1 of this report. The borough's target steps upward over the lifetime of the plan, in three time periods, with 8,245 homes needing to be delivered in total. Accordingly, allocations JPA31 Godley Green Garden Village for around 2,350 new homes and JPA32 South of Hyde for around 440 new homes, are identified to help deliver this.
- 7.6 The Main modifications to JPA31 Godley Green Garden Village and JPA32 South of Hyde, have principally been made to ensure consistent wording across all the site allocation policies, as well as to ensure the plan is read as a whole. The Inspectors' considerations in detail are set out within the IR at paragraphs 585 to 608 for Godley Green and 609 to 624 for the South of Hyde.
- 7.7 Reference is now made specifically within the Godley Green policy to ensure that the potential recreational impacts on the South Pennine Moors are mitigated. Further, on reflection following the main modifications consultation a change is no longer considered necessary relating to strengthening the Green Belt boundary along the A560 and the Inspectors' reasons for this are set out in paragraph 590 of the IR.
- 7.8 At the South of Hyde site, there has been a small reduction in the site allocation boundary. This now omits an area which is designated as a Site of Biological Importance and the Inspectors' reasons for making this modification are set out within the IR at paragraph 612. There is a small typographical error in the inspectors' Main Modifications schedule in relation to the South of Hyde site, MMTa8, at paragraph 11.301 of the reasoned justification which should not strike through the word 'that', without which the sentence does not make sense.
- 7.9 Across both sites, explicit reference is now also made concerning compensatory improvements to the remaining Green Belt, alongside the need to also consider the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Development Plan and the viable extraction of mineral resources.
- 7.10 In conclusion, the Inspectors consider, subject to the main modifications set out, that both policy JPA31 Godley Green Garden Village and JPA32 South of Hyde, are justified, consistent with national policy and would be effective in achieving sustainable development.
- 7.11 More broadly, the plan also includes policies for all homes to meet the nationally described spaces standards (NDSS) and the accessible and adaptable home standard as set out in Part M of the Building Regulations to help meet the needs of the borough's ageing demographic.

Environment

- 7.12 The plan includes a range of policies designed to protect and enhance Tameside's many and varied green spaces and features. The Plan supports the important role of natural assets by:
- Taking a landscape scale approach to nature restoration;
 - Seeking to protect and enhance our network of green and blue infrastructure;
 - Seeking a significant overall enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity; and
 - Seeking to maintain a new and defensible Green Belt which will endure beyond the plan period.
- 7.13 Furthermore, the plan supports wider strategies around clean air, walking and cycling and underpins Greater Manchester's ambition to be a carbon neutral city-region by 2038 alongside Tameside's own Climate Change and Environment Strategy objectives.

Brownfield Land

- 7.14 The plan contains a strong focus on directing new development towards sites within the existing urban area, which are often in sustainable locations, close to facilities and served by existing infrastructure. Tameside's urban area and the sites within it are expected to continue to provide most of the growth which occurs within the borough and Tameside's Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment¹¹, alongside the Brownfield Land Register¹² are kept up to date to promote and monitor this.

Green Belt

- 7.15 PfE includes a limited release of Green Belt for both housing and employment, with the three sites for development in Tameside identified above. Alongside losses to the Green Belt, exceptional circumstances exist to justify adding eight (of 12 originally proposed) parcels of land to the Green Belt. The Inspectors' consideration of additions to the Green Belt in Tameside are set out from paragraphs 905 to 926 of the IR inclusive. Following further reflection and consideration of the representations made during the modifications consultation the Inspectors no longer consider it necessary to delete GBA34 Cowbury Green from the plan for it to be sound, and that exceptional circumstances exist to justify this addition, this addition forms part of the aforementioned eight additions in total.

- 7.16 The eight sites where exceptional circumstances exist that are to be part of the borough's Green Belt are:

- GBA31 Fox Platt, Mossley;
- GBA32 Manor Farm Close, Waterloo, Ashton-under-Lyne;
- GBA34 Cowbury Green, Long Row, Carrbrook, Stalybridge;
- GBA35 Woodview, Southview, Carrbrook, Stalybridge;
- GBA37 Broadbottom Road, Broadbottom;
- GBA39 Cemetery Road, Denton;
- GBA40 Hyde Road, Mottram; and
- GBA41 Ashworth Lane, Mottram.

- 7.17 Overall across the nine boroughs, the net loss of Green Belt proposed is 2,210 hectares, a 4.1% reduction in Green Belt. The previously adopted Green Belt covers almost 47% of land in those boroughs, where policies in the plan would reduce this to just under 45% remaining as designated Green Belt.

- 7.18 In Tameside the net loss of Green Belt proposed is 176 hectares, a 3.5% reduction in Green Belt across the borough. The previously adopted Tameside Green Belt covers just over 49% of land, where policies in the plan would reduce this to 47.5% remaining as designated Green Belt.

- 7.19 There is a typographical error in the inspectors' Main Modifications schedule in relation to MMApxB.4 which relates to various Green Belt addition pictures (maps) in the plan. This should not include B39 but should include B40. Paragraph 873 of the IR sets this out correctly as does the schedule of policy map changes.

8. INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The Integrated Assessment (IA) has contributed to the development of PfE through an iterative assessment process which reviewed the draft policies and the discrete site allocations against the IA framework. This has ensured the full range of environmental impacts have been assessed and appropriate mitigation measures included, where

¹¹ <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/Planning/Strategic-Housing-Land-Availability-Assessment>

¹² <https://www.tameside.gov.uk/planning/brownfieldregister>

necessary. The IA documentation can be found in examination documents SD8 to SD17 and MDC6 to MDC12

9. HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 A Habitats Regulations Assessment refers to several distinct stages of Assessment which must be undertaken in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) to determine if a plan or project may affect the protected features of a habitats site before deciding whether to undertake, permit or authorise it.
- 9.2 PfE 2021 was assessed as a plan which was considered likely to have significant effect on one or more European protected site and was therefore informed (and accompanied) by a Habitats Regulations Assessment (November 2022) with mitigation measures identified as appropriate. As set out in the Habitats Regulations Assessment of Places for Everyone, November 2022. The outcome of the screening assessment of the Main Modifications to Places for Everyone was that none of them would have a likely significant effect on European designated sites and therefore do not change the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of Places for Everyone, November 2022.
- 9.3 In November 2022 the Habitats Regulations Assessment concluded that traffic levels resulting from a combined impact of development proposed in both the PfE and Warrington's Local Plan could create an adverse air quality impact on the Holcroft Moss compartment of the Manchester Mosses Special Area of Conservation. Consequently, air quality mitigation is proposed in both PfE and the Warrington Local Plan for the Holcroft Moss site, in the form of a developer contribution towards a Habitat Mitigation Plan and the provision of measures to reduce reliance of cars, reduce trip generation and promote ultra-low vehicle emissions. The details of the developer contribution will be set out in district Supplementary Planning Documents following adoption of PfE.
- 9.4 The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Places for Everyone, November 2022 also identified an adverse impact on the South Pennine Moors Special Areas of Conservation / Special Protection Area because of increased recreation pressure arising out of development levels proposed in PfE. Consequently, PfE proposes recreation disturbance mitigation in the form of a development exclusion zone within 400m of the Moors, a requirement to assess and mitigate land for functionally linked habitats within 2.5km of the Moors and a requirement for development to provide or contribute towards the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and contribute toward a Strategic Access, Monitoring and Management Strategy (SAMMS) within 7km of the Moors. Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside will set out further details within district Supplementary Planning Documents.

10. NEXT STEPS

- 10.1 Subject to and following Council's decision, officers will complete the final tasks that need to be undertaken to meet the requirements of the relevant regulations. This includes preparing an Adoption Statement and making the following documents available on the council's website and at Tameside's inspection locations¹³ where documents can be viewed electronically¹⁴:
- Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document (PfE Plan)
 - Places for Everyone Policies Map
 - Integrated Appraisal Reports (including Sustainability Appraisal Report)
 - Adoption Statement

¹³ Details of Tameside library opening times are provided within **Appendix 8** to this report.

¹⁴ A paper copy of the Plan and IR will be available at Ashton Library.

- Details of where the PfE Plan is available for inspection and the times at which the document can be inspected.

- 10.2 The council will issue the Adoption Statement in line with the relevant regulations.
- 10.3 In addition to these documents, in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the council will publish a Sustainability Appraisal post adoption statement, which explains how the sustainability appraisal reports undertaken at various stages during the preparation of the PfE Plan meet the requirements of these regulations.
- 10.4 Once PfE has been adopted, it will become part of the statutory development plan for Tameside with immediate effect. This means that it will have full weight in the determination of planning applications in Tameside. Applications for planning permission must be determined in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 10.5 If the council adopts PfE, in accordance with section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004), any person aggrieved by the adoption of it can only challenge this by making an application to the High Court on one of two grounds; that PfE is not within the appropriate power, i.e. any action that went further than the powers that are authorised under Part 2 of the Act, or a procedural requirement has not been complied with (these are terms cited within the Act). An application for leave to challenge must be made before the end of the period of six weeks beginning with the day after the relevant date, which for the purposes of PfE, begins on 22 March 2024 (the day after adoption of the plan comes into effect) and runs until 2 May 2024.
- 10.6 The High Court may make an interim order suspending the operation of the relevant development plan document or quash the plan wholly or in part. The purpose of this provision is to provide certainty as to the legal validity of the PfE Plan and to prevent later challenges.
- 10.7 The PfE Plan contains a monitoring framework with targets and indicators which will be used to monitor the achievement of the policies and reported on. Although the plan covers the period to 2039, in accordance with paragraph 33 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the policies in local plans should be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years and should then be updated as necessary. The review process is a method to ensure that a plan and the policies within it remain effective. As explained in chapter 12 of the PfE Plan, the outcomes of PfE monitoring will form part of each PfE district's Local Plan Authority Monitoring Reports.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Tameside							
<i>*Please note that some/part of these sessions are Open+ self-access only, you need to register in advance, library members 16+ or under 16's with an adult, for opening times see https://www.tameside.gov.uk/Libraries/Library-Contacts,-Hours-and-Services.</i>							
Inspection Location	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Ashton Library, Tameside One, Market Place, Ashton, OL6 6BH	8:30am – 5pm	8:30am – 8pm	8:30am – 5pm	8:30am – 8pm	8:30am – 5pm	10am – 3pm	Closed
Denton Library, Denton Town Hall, Market Street, Denton M34 2AP	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	10am – 3pm	Closed
Droylsden Library, Guardsman Tony Downes House, Manchester, Droylsden, M43 6EP	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	10am – 3pm	Closed
Dukinfield Library, Concord Way, Dukinfield, SK16 4D	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 1pm	Closed
Hattersley Library, The Hub, Stockport Road, Hattersley, SK14 6NT	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 1pm*	Closed
Hyde Library, Hyde Town Hall, Greenfield Street, Hyde, SK14 1AL	9am – 8pm* 8	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	10am – 3pm	Closed
Mossley Library, George Lawton Hall, Stamford Street, Mossley OL5 0HR	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm	9am – 8pm*	9am – 8pm*	9am – 1pm*	Closed
Stalybridge Library, Trinity Street, Stalybridge, SK15 2BN	9am – 7pm*	9am – 7pm*	9am – 7pm*	9am – 7pm*	9am – 4pm*	10am – 3pm	Closed

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Agenda Item 10

Report to :	COUNCIL
Date :	5 February 2024
Report of:	Councillor Gerald P. Cooney – Executive Leader. Sandra Stewart – Chief Executive.
Subject :	CORPORATE PLAN 2024-27.
Report Summary :	<p>Tameside Council's current corporate plan was agreed pre-Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis. Reflecting on those significant events and other changes it is timely to undertake a review and refresh of the corporate plan. This report summarises the process undertaken for that review and refresh.</p> <p>The current draft new Tameside Council Corporate Plan 2024-27 is attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>The new strategic performance and delivery framework agreed by Executive Cabinet in September sets the context for the Corporate Plan and is attached at Appendix 2 for information.</p>
Recommendations :	That Council agree the new Corporate Plan for the period 2024-27 and agree to starting a consultation and implementation process.
Links to Corporate Plan:	A review and refresh of the corporate plan is part of this report.
Policy Implications :	The report has policy implications across the council in that it outlines a new corporate plan and associated priorities. All services need to reflect on the new plan and respond accordingly when developing new strategies, plans and services.
Financial Implications : (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)	<p>The report provides an initial draft of the Council's Corporate Plan for the period 2024 to 2027. There are no direct financial implications arising from the report at this stage as the plan requires further internal stakeholder engagement and dialogue alongside colleagues from the Local Government Association via the peer challenge that is taking place in January 2024.</p> <p>The corporate plan is the framework on which the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) will be built on. Resources will be aligned to priorities and outcomes in the revised plan to ensure the Council delivers its objectives.</p> <p>Any related additional investment that is aligned to the approved priorities within the plan will require robust business cases. These will need to clearly demonstrate affordability and return on the proposed investment, the details of which will be set out in the financial implications of the corresponding Executive Cabinet report.</p> <p>No expenditure that results from decisions can have an adverse impact to the General Fund. Investment must support the Council's ongoing financial sustainability.</p>
Legal Implications : (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	A clearly understood and effectively implemented corporate plan to good governance and the achievement of better outcomes.
Risk Management :	The absence of such a plan risks service failure for residents and reputational damage for the council.

Access to Information :

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Tom Hoghton, Policy and Strategy Service Manager.



Telephone:0161 342 3542



e-mail: Tom.Hoghton@tameside.gov.uk

1. CURRENT PLAN

- 1.1 Tameside Council's current corporate plan was agreed in 2019 as a joint plan between Tameside Council and Tameside & Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Priorities were arranged across the life course with a heavy focus on health and wellbeing. The plan was well adopted by the workforce, being cited as the start point for strategy and service development. The current Corporate Plan can be viewed here: [Our People Our Place Our Plan – Corporate Plan for Tameside & Glossop](#)

2. DEVELOPING A NEW PLAN

- 2.1 The current live plan was agreed pre-Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis. The CCG was disbanded in 2022 and became part of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care (GMIC). There have also been significant leadership changes at the council – both political and officer – since the plan was agreed. Reflecting on those significant events and other changes it was agreed to undertake a review and refresh of the corporate plan in 2023 with an ambition to have a new plan in place by the start of the 2024 municipal year.
- 2.2 The evidence gathering stage has been completed and a new set of proposed aims, objectives and priorities developed by officers. The next stage is for Executive Cabinet to review, comment and amend. It is also proposed to get some LGA support to review the draft for discussion – through a facilitated workshop and then the LGA peer challenge. Once these stages are completed it is proposed to bring a further report brought to outline a process to finalise and agree the new corporate plan.

3. EVIDENCE SOURCES

- 3.1 The development of the proposed new corporate plan has been informed by a range of evidence sources. Both quantitative and qualitative. The main sources are summarised below.
- Inequalities Reference Group – reports on key issues such as digital access, language barriers, hearing the voices of young people and those with learning disabilities, mental wellbeing.
 - Service user and community advocacy groups such as the Maternity Voices Partnerships (MVP); Independent Advisory Group (IAG); Community Champions, Caribbean and African Health Network (CAHN); Diversity Matters North-West (DMNW); LGBT Foundation, Manchester Pride (All Equals Charter), People First Tameside (PFT); Infinity Initiatives.
 - Tameside Poverty Truth Commission.
 - Partnership Engagement Network – outputs from a range of engagement exercises.
 - Big Conversation – outputs from a range of service specific consultations.
 - Tameside Insight Survey – accessing information; climate change and the environment; town centres; services that are important to residents, feelings about access, concerns for the future (e.g., jobs, opportunities for young people, cost of living); impact of cost of living; and employment.
 - Greater Manchester Insight Survey (Tameside results)
 - Strategic Neighbourhood Forums – topics including litter campaign; domestic abuse; Equality Strategy; Family Hubs; Early Help Strategy; fostering; corporate parent; Helping Hand Warm Hubs; Building Resilience Anti-Poverty Strategy; and Ashton, Stalybridge and Hyde town centres.
 - Youth Council and Children in Care Council.
 - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
 - Thematic needs assessments – e.g. Poverty Needs Assessment; Ageing Well Needs Assessment; Children and Young People Needs Assessment.
 - Census 2021 results.
 - Data from national systems such as ONS, NOMIS and Fingertips.
 - Service performance data.

- Strategy development and supporting evidence – e.g. Early Help Strategy; Building Resilience – Tackling Poverty in Tameside; Equality Strategy; Community Safety Strategy; Inclusive Growth Strategy; Climate Change and Environment Strategy; Housing Strategy; Health and Wellbeing Strategy / Locality Plan; and Children and Young People’s Plan.
- Greater Manchester Strategy.
- Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Strategy.
- Greater Manchester Police and Crime Partnership.
- Election 2023 (all out) and ongoing conversations between elected members and residents.
- Scrutiny – outputs from the Scrutiny activity across the three panels and Overview.
- Service feedback – learning from formal complaints, service satisfaction information and feedback from elected members.
- Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO) – learning from public interest reports, in-focus reports and good practice guides.
- Ofsted / DfE – outputs from inspections, annual conversation and improvement advisor support.
- Reports from the Local Government Association (LGA).
- Benchmarking and learning opportunities such as Customer Service Excellence (CSE).

3.3 The new Office for Local Government (Oflog) being established by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) will provide a further evidence base and framework for the ongoing reporting against the corporate plan and future development of key programmes of work. Similarly, the monitoring and delivery of the corporate plan will be informed by the new Best Value Duty statutory guidance being develop by DLUHC.

4. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

4.1 The evidence sources outlined above identified a range of objectives and priorities that officers recommend should be reflected in the new plan. These are a mix of key issues identified from data such as needs assessments; through feedback from residents, elected members and partners; and areas for action in key strategies.

4.2 A tiered approach is proposed as shown below.

Vision <i>“A place where everyone can achieve their hopes and ambitions”</i>
Priorities (see below)
Objectives (see below)
Strategies (list on the website alongside the corporate plan)
Key Delivery Projects (listed within the corporate plan document)

4.3 The **five priorities** are:

- Best start in life.
- Opportunity to learn and earn.
- Safe, green and supportive communities.
- Healthy and active lives.
- Financially sustainable public services (underpinning priority).

4.4 The **24 objectives** are:

BEST START IN LIFE:

- Enhance early years' health, support and childcare provisions.

- Support parents and carers with parenting skills and resources.
- Promote child protection and safeguarding measures, and support cared for children.
- Reduce child poverty and improve child and family social support systems.
- Promote early intervention and support for children with additional needs.
- Strengthen partnerships with educational institutions and community organizations.

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN AND EARN:

- Promote lifelong learning and upskilling programs for adults.
- Ensure all children have a high quality, enjoyable education that enables them to achieve their full potential.
- Provide the infrastructure and support for local businesses to create job opportunities.
- Enhance digital skills and access to technology for all residents.
- Encourage entrepreneurship and supporting business growth and social enterprises.
- Promote fair wages and equitable employment practices.

SAFE, GREEN AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES:

- Enhance community safety through crime prevention initiatives.
- Champion and deliver environmental sustainability including waste reduction, recycling and reuse.
- Improve access to housing – including affordable housing and homelessness support.
- Invest in community infrastructure and facilities.
- Enhance town centres and other public spaces.
- Target the key drivers of inequality in Tameside.

HEALTHY AND ACTIVE LIVES:

- Enhance access to and quality of adult social care.
- Support people to be as resilient and independent as possible.
- Improve mental health services and support networks.
- Encourage healthy choices and behaviours.
- Enhance healthcare access and promote preventive care.
- Address health inequalities and improve health outcomes for all residents.

4.5 All the above is supported by three cross-cutting approaches.

- Reformed and modernised enabling services.
- Early intervention, prevention and resilience – individuals, families and communities.
- Evidence based decision making – voice, demographics, equalities and finance.

4.6 A draft corporate plan document for discussion – based on the above – for member input is attached at **Appendix 1**.

5. WIDER CONTEXT

5.1 The corporate plan does not sit, or operate, in isolation. It nests within a wider regional and local framework. It has relevance to, and aligns with, regional work such as the Greater Manchester Strategy 2021-31; the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Strategy 2023-28; and Greater Manchester Standing Together Police and Crime Plan 2022-25.

5.2 The new corporate plan will set the context for council's approach to service development and delivery. It will be supported by a number of key strategies and plans. These include, but aren't limited to, the Inclusive Growth Strategy 2021-26; Building Resilience: Tackling Poverty in Tameside 2023-27; Community Safety Strategy 2021-24; Housing Strategy 2021-26; Early Help Strategy 2023-26; and Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-26. These strategies and plans operate as place based approaches and articulate shared objectives that are overseen

through forums such as the Tameside Provider Partnership (TPP), the Tameside Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) and the Tameside Inclusive Growth Board.

- 5.3 Likewise, delivery against the priorities is enabled through a range of key projects and initiatives. These include, but aren't limited to, Ashton Public Realm; Hyde Town Centre Masterplan; Stalybridge Strategic Plan; Family Hubs; Improvement Plan for Children's Services; Hawthorns School; Adolescent Hub; cultural framework; Places for Everyone; anti-social behaviour policy and action plan; Real Living Wage Foundation accreditation.
- 5.4 Monitoring and reporting on delivery of the corporate plan will be through progress updates on the key projects and a refreshed corporate plan scorecard. These will be reported publicly through democratic channels such as the Executive Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Panels, and communications channels such as press releases, the Citizen and social media.
- 5.5 The delivery of the new corporate plan will be supported by the new strategic performance and delivery framework agreed by the Executive Cabinet in September 2023 and attached at **Appendix 2**.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

CORPORATE PLAN 2024-27

CONTENTS:

1. FOREWORD
 2. CONTEXT
 3. OUR VISION, PRIORITIES & OBJECTIVES
 4. PRIORITY DELIVERY PROJECTS
 5. EVIDENCE
 6. KEEPING RESIDENTS INFORMED ON PROGRESS (incl. performance measures)
 7. FEEDBACK
 8. APPENDIX 1 – PROJECTS
 9. APPENDIX 2 – PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
-

1. FOREWORD

Welcome to the new Corporate Plan for Tameside Council.

Our new plan is an unashamedly ambitious document that aims to build an energy in our communities and a confidence in our residents that we are delivering for Tameside. It will provide the foundations for a broad agenda to take the fight to the cost-of-living crisis, encourage jobs and business growth, reduce economic and health inequalities and give all our residents the best start in life and the opportunity to thrive.

The Covid-19 pandemic, followed immediately by the cost-of-living crisis, has exposed and exacerbated deep structural inequalities that need to be tackled. For too long the story of Tameside, and Britain as a whole, for some of our most vulnerable communities has been characterised by low wages, unaffordable and poor-quality housing, inadequate social security, poor health outcomes, and insecure employment. The urgency with which we need to act means we cannot wait for national government to save the day. We can, and must, roll up our sleeves and make a difference ourselves.

This plan sets what we believe are the key priorities to make that difference. Importantly, we also state how we will do it with clear and transparent reporting that will demonstrate our progress. We do not want these to be empty words on a page but a commitment to the residents of Tameside that their elected representatives have listened to the concerns they report to us and will leave no stone unturned to improve their lives, be they young, old or anything in between.

In particular, I want to highlight a few key areas that our Corporate Plan focuses on.

Thanks to our commitment to Inclusive Growth, we have greenlit a range of exciting and ambitious public development projects across Tameside that will provide a springboard for further opportunities to generate employment, investment and improved public spaces. We will be paying special attention to our town centres, investing in them to be the revitalised hearts of our communities.

But these efforts to reinvigorate local communities will be in vain if we do not then keep them clean and safe. Therefore, we are also prioritising increased efforts on working with partners, such as community groups and Greater Manchester Police, to address anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping and other activities that can blight people's lives. We also recognise the need to act now on the climate change and biodiversity emergencies. We want Tameside Council to play a community leadership role on these critical issues and will strive to ensure that making the environmentally friendly choice is an option available to everyone, not just a luxury for the more affluent.

The move from local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to a Greater Manchester Integrated Care system opens up some really exciting options to work together to plan and deliver health and social care that puts the needs and quality of life of our residents at the front and centre.

Children's Services require further improvement and is a major priority for the council. A refreshed Improvement Plan is now in place and the service has the skills, capacity and leadership to make significant change. Adults are preparing for a new regulatory framework from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) while dealing with an ageing population. The latter means we have to do whatever we can to help people live at home – which means better outcomes for them and enables us to help more people.

Despite the shared challenges we face, we have an incredibly exciting opportunity ahead of us to build back better, fairer and greener. I truly believe that this can be Tameside's time, and I have every faith that this Corporate Plan and the dedication of council staff, partners and communities will turn that hope into a reality for us all.

Cllr Gerald P. Cooney
Executive Leader
Tameside Council

2. CONTEXT

The borough of Tameside consists of nine towns, with a mix of historic market towns, and urban and rural landscapes. We are home to a population of nearly a quarter of a million residents across 100,000 households. Our population is predominantly White British; however, Tameside has experienced growth in diversity and is home to many communities, with significant populations of those with Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indian heritage; and increasingly from African and Caribbean heritage. Similarly, there is a wide array of languages spoken within the borough, with household languages other than English including Urdu, Polish, Bengali and Portuguese.

Most residents enjoy a good standard of living, with over 95% of our primary schools being rated "Good" or better by Ofsted, a wide range of cultural and leisure activities, and a comparatively low level of crime compared to the GM average (26,151 recorded crimes in 2022, compared to a GM average of 33,835). However, there are areas of deprivation within the borough. Life expectancy in the most affluent areas is 8.7 years longer for men and 7.9 years longer for women than those in the most deprived. Net household income (after housing costs) varies from £17,100 in the most deprived areas and £29,100 in the most affluent.

Tameside has a rich industrial history, playing a vital role in the cotton and coal industries of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Today we are home to a range of industries, the main areas of employment being retail, human and health activities, and construction, with digital industries as a priority growth area. Employment in the borough is comparatively high compared to Greater Manchester, with 55.8% of the population in employment compared to the 54.6% GM average, however the quality of employment is low, with Tameside having the lowest portion of jobs in Great Manchester paying the Living Wage.

We have an ageing population; since the 2011 census there has been 0% population change in those aged 0-49, but a 16% increase in those aged 50+; our highest proportion of residents are between 50-54, compared to the England average of 30-34.

3. OUR VISION, PRIORITIES AND OBJECTIVES

VISION:

“A place where everyone can achieve their hopes and ambitions”.

PRIORITIES:

- Best start in life.
- Opportunity to learn and earn.
- Safe, green and supportive communities.
- Healthy and active lives.
- Financially sustainable public services (underpinning priority).

Best start in life:

Objectives:

- Enhance early years' health, support and childcare provisions and prioritise early identification of those needs
- Support parents and carers with parenting skills and resources.
- Promote child protection and safeguarding measures, and support cared for children.
- Reduce child poverty and improve child and family social support systems.
- Promote early intervention and support for children with additional needs.
- Strengthen partnerships with educational institutions and community organizations through collaboration and sharing information

Opportunity to learn and earn:

Objectives:

- Ensure all children have a high quality, enjoyable and inclusive education that enables them to achieve their full potential.
- Promote lifelong learning and upskilling programs for adults.
- Provide the infrastructure and support for local businesses to create job opportunities.
- Enhance digital skills and access to technology for all residents.
- Encourage entrepreneurship and support business growth and social enterprises.
- Promote fair wages and equitable employment practices.

Safe, green and supportive communities:

Objectives:

- Enhance community safety through crime prevention initiatives.
- Champion and deliver environmental sustainability including waste reduction, recycling and reuse.
- Increase the supply of high-quality, affordable homes and improve the housing circumstances of those most in need
- Invest in community infrastructure and facilities.
- Design sustainable town centres and other public spaces based around resident needs

Healthy and active lives

Objectives:

- Develop system-wide responses to reduce health inequalities and improve health outcomes for all residents.
- Support people to be as resilient and independent as possible.
- Enhance access to and quality of care for those who need it
- Provide early support for children and adults at risk of poor mental health and loneliness
- Encourage and support people towards more healthy behaviours.
- Enhance and promote preventative care.

All of the above is supported by three cross-cutting approaches:

- Reformed and modernised enabling services.
- Early intervention, prevention and resilience – individuals, families and communities.
- Evidence based decision making – voice, demographics, equalities and finance.

The Corporate Plan is also supported by a number of important thematic strategies. Examples of these are listed below with a full list of the latest versions on our website [here](#)

- Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTF)
- Inclusive Growth Strategy.
- Housing Strategy.
- Children and Young People’s Plan.
- Early Help Strategy.
- Foster Friendly Employer Policy.
- Equality Strategy.
- Poverty Strategy.
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy (incl. the Locality Plan).
- Adult Social Care Strategy.
- Carers Strategy.
- Local Plan (and Places for Everyone)
- Ashton Public Realm Strategy.
- Ashton Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) Framework.
- Hyde Masterplan.
- Godley Green Garden Village outline planning application.

4. PRIORITY PROJECTS

As part of the Corporate Plan, we have developed a number of priority projects. These projects are those that are seen as key to delivering on the ambitions set out above and explain what the council is trying to achieve. Some examples of the projects are listed below with the full list at **Appendix 1**.

- Children’s Social Care Improvement Plan
- SEND Improvement Plan (and Written Statement of Action)
- Adolescence Hub and SHIFT (child exploitation)
- Quality of practice in adults and preparing for CQC.
- Living Well at Home
- Workforce Strategy

We will provide regular updates on these projects via formal reports to meetings in public, press releases, the website, the Citizen, social media and bespoke updates as required.

5. EVIDENCE

To develop our vision and priorities we have used evidence from a variety of sources.

Statistics about our communities.	Information from the many conversations we have with residents & their communities.	Performance data about who uses services & how they work for residents & communities.
Census 2021 Needs Assessments National Datasets Performance information from our services Data from other agencies e.g. Police or Health	Surveys Resident's views of our services Focus Groups Partnership Engagement Network Conversations with Elected Members Service User Panels	Adult Care Children's Social Care Housing and Homelessness Welfare Rights Schools Libraries Waste Management Trading Standards Planning

6. KEEPING RESIDENTS INFORMED OF PROGRESS

We want to be transparent about how we are performing against the objectives set out in this plan. We will therefore publish and monitor a basket of performance indicators (measures of data that we track over time) to check that we are moving in the right direction, at the right speed and can compare our performance with others. A table of the performance measures that support the Corporate Plan can be found at [Appendix 2](#).

Updates performance against these indicators can be found on our website [here](#)

We will also provide more descriptive progress updates on the Priority Projects mentioned above and new ones as they develop. These can be found on our website [here](#)

Additionally, our Overview and Scrutiny Committees challenge the performance of Council services and local partnerships, including local health services and crime and disorder issues. Reports from Scrutiny can be found [here](#)

7. FEEDBACK

Another important part of meeting the priorities set out in this plan is for people and communities to have more say in the way the services they use are delivered by the Council. Having empowered and resilient communities, drives accountability within services and ensures that residents needs are met.

Over recent years we have taken significant steps as a Council to improve the way we consult and engage with citizens, and to ensure that consultations have a real impact on the way changes in this city are being delivered. In 2022, for example, we had 21 engagement projects on our Big Conversation platform, commissioned an independent organisation to survey more than 5000 resident's views of the Council's performance and ran three Partnership Engagement Network events, discussing a range of topics as well as a range of other events and panels specific to different areas of work.

Tameside Councillors are also keen to hear from residents, especially on local issues. As more people are struggling with the cost of living, being open and responsive to your needs is more important than ever.

Despite this, we want to hear from even more people and a broader range of people. Anyone interested in giving their views can visit:

Surveys asking for resident's opinion on proposals - [The Big Conversation in Tameside](#).

The opportunity to give views on topics through a combination of presentations and structured workshops and discussions - [Tameside Partnership Engagement Network \(PEN\)](#)

(1) <u>CORPORATE PLAN</u>	
(2) <u>KEY DELIVERY PROJECTS</u> E.g., Godley Green, Family Hubs, Hawthorns School, Ashton Mayoral Development Zone.	(3) <u>KEY STRATEGIES</u> E.g., Inclusive Growth, Early Help, Environment & Climate, Housing, Older People, Community Safety.
(4) <u>CORPORATE PLAN – ORGANISATIONAL HEALTH SCORECARD</u> Service measures linked to key delivery projects (2), external assurance frameworks and local priorities.	
(5) <u>BUSINESS PLANS</u> Strategic (2) and operational (8)	(6) <u>THEMATIC STRATEGIES</u>
(7) <u>SERVICE SCORECARDS</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Children & Families (incl. education); b) Adults & Older People; c) Place – Community (incl. poverty); d) Place – Operations (incl. environment); e) Place – Growth (incl. housing, employment, skills, investment, strategic transport); f) Population Health (linked to JSNA) g) Corporate (incl. finance, governance, exchequer, workforce, IT) 	
(8) <u>SERVICE PLANS</u> (incl. service risks to feed into directorate and corporate risk register)	
(9) <u>MY PERFORMANCE (staff appraisal and development)</u>	
<i>Underpinned by evidence & learning from:</i>	
(10) <u>INSIGHT & INTELLIGENCE</u> Needs Assessments – JSNA & thematic needs assessments - e.g., DA, Poverty, CYP, Older People, and pharmacy. Thematic / bespoke analysis and tools – e.g., Census, Strategic Tools, poverty monitor, DA dashboard. Voice – e.g., PEN, Big Conversation, complaints, LISTENing, experts by experience (e.g., MVP, CiCC, Autism).	
(11) <u>CHALLENGE & BENCHMARKING</u> Inspection and oversight – Best Value duty, Oflog, Ofsted, CQC etc. Peer Review – LGA, ADCS, ADAS etc. External learning – LGSCO, GM, CIPFA, CSE, APSE etc. Assurance – Risk Management, Internal and External Audit, Audit Panel, Overview and Scrutiny Panels.	

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DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP

19 FEBRUARY 2024

Commenced: 4.00pm

Terminated: 4.45pm

Present: Councillors Cooney (In the Chair), Fairfoull, Kitchen, North and Warrington.

Apologies for Councillor Costello, McNally and Ward
Absence

11. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 20 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

12. MAY 2024 ELECTIONS

Members considered a report of the Chief Executive, which advised that on 2 May 2024 Borough Council and GMCA Mayoral elections will be held. The Notice of Election for both Elections would be published on 26 March 2024. Meaning that the nomination period would commence on 27 March 2024. The statutory timetable for the elections was appended to the report.

It was explained that arrangements for 2 May elections were being undertaken on the basis that there would not be a General Election on that date. However, it was noted that it remained a possibility that there would be a General Election on 2 May 2024 up to 26 March 2024 when the Notice of Election would have to be published. Should a General Election be held on 2 May 2024 this would need to be reflected in planning.

Members were informed that the ballot papers and paperwork for the Borough Elections would be Green and for the GM Mayoral Election yellow. This was because of the possibility that a General Election could still be held on 2 May 2024 and the ballot papers for the General Election would need to be on white.

Delivery of nomination papers for the elections can begin from the day after the publication of the Notice of Election. Therefore the nomination period would be from 9.00am on Wednesday, 27 March until 4:00 pm on Friday 5 April 2024. The legal requirement for assentors on Borough Council nominations was now two on a permanent basis. Therefore, the nomination form would only ask for a proposer and seconder.

For the previous two elections political parties had been encouraged to collect nomination packs for groups of candidates rather than all individual candidates collecting their own, it was suggested that this approach should continue for the 2024 elections. To help ensure that paperwork was collected and returned in an orderly way and that Democratic Services would be in a position to properly support candidates and their agents appointments should be made for collection and return of nomination papers.

Appended to the report were details of the maximum expenditure for each ward. The figures were based on current expenditure and may change slightly as the final maximum expenditure would be based on the electorate as at 26 March 2024.

For all elections in May 2024 it would be necessary to show photographic id in order to vote at a polling station. If a voter turned up at a polling station with no accepted photo identification, they would not be issued with a ballot paper and would need to return with an accepted form of photo

identification. There was no discretion in this matter and it would be enforced at polling stations in accordance with the law. The validity of the voter ID would be determined by the Presiding Officer.

Members were reminded that the Elections Act 2022 made a range of changes which impacted on electoral administrators, campaigners and voters. The first tranche of changes, which included the introduction of voter ID requirements and new measures with the intention of making it easier for disabled people to vote, were already in force. The next tranche of changes would come into force in advance of the May 2024 polls and included the following provisions:

Absent voting

In summary the changes relating to absent votes were:

- Electors will have the option to apply for a postal vote and some types of proxy vote using a new online portal;
- New identity verification requirements had been introduced for all absent vote applications, whether they are made online or by the paper route, with the exception of emergency proxies; All applications for postal votes or proxy votes need to provide National Insurance number, date of birth, signature and address to register. People who did not have/could not retrieve the NI number or cannot provide a signature, could still apply, but they may need to provide further information. If so they will be contacted by the ERO.
 - All applications will be subject to a DWP check similar to the process for applications to register to vote.
 - For applicants whose identity cannot be verified by the DWP check, there would be a need to follow an exceptions process and, failing that, an attestation process.
- Postal vote arrangements will be limited to a maximum of three years, at which point the elector will need to make a new application, this has changed from five years.
- The total number of electors for whom a person may act as a proxy will be limited to four, of which no more than two can be domestic electors (i.e. an elector that is neither an overseas elector nor a service voter)
- All electors who had a permanent proxy vote were required to reapply for their proxy vote before 31 January 2024.

Overseas electors

The removal of the 15-year limit on expatriates' right to vote in UK Parliamentary elections. All British citizens overseas who were previously registered or resident in the UK will be enfranchised. The registration period will be extended to a maximum of three years and renewals will be set to a fixed point of 1 November, in line with the updated absent voting provisions for overseas electors. Overseas electors will have the option to re-apply for a postal or refresh their proxy vote, which will then be 'tied' to the new three-year period of registration (unless a shorter period for the absent vote is specified by the elector and it therefore expires before).

Postal vote handling and secrecy

There will be new restrictions on the handling of postal votes, including:

- a ban on political campaigners handling postal votes, except where the postal vote is their own, that of a close family member or for someone that they provide regular care;
- limits on the number of postal votes that a person can hand in at polling stations and council offices, the maximum number is five plus own for each poll;
- any person who hands in postal votes at polling stations or council offices will be required to complete a form.

Undue influence and intimidation

The offence of undue influence will be simplified, and the types of illegal behaviour used to unfairly influence someone's vote will be defined. A new disqualification order has been introduced, providing that anyone who has been convicted of an existing criminal offence of an intimidatory nature would be disqualified from standing for election, being elected to, or holding a relevant elected office for a period of five years.

Commonly used names

This provision will be applied to all election types in England from May 2024. This would provide greater flexibility in the names a candidate could put on their nomination paper. This will allow, for example, someone who is commonly known by their middle name, to use only this name on their nominations paper rather than having to use both their first name and middle name as was currently the case.

It was explained that it had been necessary to review the polling station arrangements in Dukinfield ward as it was no longer possible to have a polling station at Old Hall Chapel site at Dewsnap Lane. Having discussed the matter with ward councillors the options were:

- Change polling station from mobile at Old Hall Chapel to Itrain facility on Birch Vale Road and all electors in DUK2 vote at that polling station;
- Change polling station from mobile at Old Hall Chapel to a mobile at Richmond Park.

This year it would not be possible to use Stalybridge Fire Station as the polling station for STNTH1 polling district. Following discussions with ward councillors the following options have been identified:

- The Pavilion in Stamford Park;
- The Scout hut on Stamford Drive.

It was stated that the deadline for withdrawal of nominations is 4:00 pm Friday 5 April 2024, in theory postal votes can be issued any time after this. Given the lead in time with printers postal votes would be dispatched on Wednesday 17 April and should arrive on Thursday/Friday 18/19 April, which was the same schedule as we used in 2023.

With regard to postal vote verification and opening Members were asked to consider if they wished to retain the approach adopted in 2021 and repeated since where in order to minimise the number of people in the room at the same time the number of wards opened at the one time was restricted to five and the number of candidate representatives for each ward was restricted to one, with one member of staff opening the postal votes for each ward. In adopting this approach previously there have been six postal vote opening days.

Members were informed that the verification and count would be held at Dukinfield Town Hall. Both sets of ballot papers would be verified from 10pm on 2 May. Verification would be followed immediately by the counting of Borough Council ballot papers. The CARO has instructed that the Combined Authority ballot papers cannot be counted until Saturday 4 May with a start time of no earlier than 9am and no later than 11am, submission of count by 2pm at the latest.

The arrangements would become more complicated should there be a General Election on 2 May as the counting of General Election votes must begin immediately after verification. This would mean the timetable would need to be:

2 May – 10.00pm	verify all ballot papers, immediately followed by counting of GE ballot papers;
3 May – pm	count Borough Council Ballot Papers
4 May – between 9am and 2pm	count GMCA Mayor ballot papers

RESOLVED:

- That the statutory timetable for 2 May 2024 Borough Council elections attached at appendix 1 to the report be noted;**
- That it be noted that to have a General Election on 2 May 2024 the Notice of Election must be published by 26 March 2024;**
- That it be noted that the ballot papers for the Borough Council elections will be green and for the GMCA Mayoral election the ballot papers will be yellow;**
- That it be noted that nominations can be submitted from 9am on Wednesday 27 March 2024 until 4pm on Friday 5 April 2024;**
- That the arrangements for completing and submitting nomination papers be noted;**
- That the maximum expenses based on current electorate be noted;**

- (vii) That the continuing requirement for Voter ID be noted;
- (viii) That the polling stations to be used at the election attached at appendix 3 be noted;
- (ix) That a mobile unit at Richmond Park estate be agreed as the polling station for DUK2 polling district
- (x) That the Scout Hut on Stamford Drive be agreed as the polling station for STNTH1;
- (xi) That it be noted that poll cards and postal vote packs will be combined Borough Council and GMCA Mayoral;
- (xii) That Members note the intention to dispatch postal votes on Wednesday 19 April 2024;
- (xiii) That Members endorse the proposed arrangements for checking and opening postal votes;
- (xiv) Members note the implementation of Tranche 2 of the Elections Act 2022 provisions as set out in section 5 of the report.
- (xv) Members note the arrangements for the verification and count;

13. NOMINATION OF CIVIC MAYOR AND DEPUTY

Members considered a report of the Executive Leader and Chief Executive which explained that each year the Council must appoint from amongst its Members a Chair, in the case of Tameside this person is known as the Civic Mayor. The Council must also appoint a Vice-Chair, known as the Deputy Mayor in Tameside. At present the ruling group nominates the Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor each year for the approval of Council.

This matter was last considered by a Mayoralty Working Group that reported to Council on 6 December 2011. At the time Members considered a variety of approaches that could be taken to the selection of the Civic Mayor and Deputy and the approaches taken by other local authorities. The options considered at the time remain valid and each are used by different local authorities depending on their local circumstances.

The report set out options for consideration as follows:

Ruling Group Nominate Civic Mayor

This is the approach currently followed in Tameside. Whichever Group has the majority of Council seats has the freedom to nominate the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. There is no obligation to follow seniority in terms of length of service or to nominate on a politically proportionate basis, the ruling group determines its own rules about who to nominate. In agreeing to continue this approach Council agreed in 2011 that there should be minimum criteria that any nomination for Civic Mayor/Deputy Mayor must meet.

Nomination Based on Length of Service

Under this approach the Councillor with the most years' service is approached to ask if they wish to be Civic Mayor, if they do not accept the next longest serving member is approached and so on. In practice it emerges some time in advance of a decision being required whether or not the next Member in line is willing/able to take on the role of Civic Mayor and when they are likely to be in a position to be Mayor. If a Member declines the Mayoralty they do not usually lose their place in the queue as they may become available in future years, however, there are examples where they would lose a number of years of seniority for not accepting when it is their 'turn', for example the Councillor may lose a percentage of their years of seniority or a set number of years. Once a Member has been the Civic Mayor they would lose their seniority on the list (only for choosing the Mayor, they don't lose seniority for any other purposes).

A method would need to be adopted to choose between Councillors with the same length of service. A method used in a number of Councils is to use date of birth with the older of the Councillors being offered the Mayoralty first.

Nomination Based on Political Proportionality

Under this system there is a rota based on the size of political groups on the Council, with the Group

whose turn it is adopting its own approach to choosing one of its members. A common approach to determining the political balance is a points based approach with a point allocated for each seat a group has and a number of points deducted each time a group has the Mayoralty (usually the total number of seats i.e. 57 in Tameside). If there was no change in political balance Labour would nominate the Civic Mayor 9 out of 10 years with the first Conservative nomination being five years after the introduction of this approach.

Nomination Based on Combination of Political Proportionality and Length of Service

The first stage is to determine which political group should nominate based on political proportionality followed by the length of service criteria described, but restricted to within the political group whose turn it is.

When Council last considered the approach to selecting the Civic Mayor and Deputy Mayor the following criteria was agreed as the framework within which the nominations would be considered:

- (a) A minimum length of service of four years (equivalent to one term in office);
- (b) Served as Deputy Mayor at some time prior to becoming Civic Mayor;
- (c) Must not be seeking election in the elections immediately prior to taking up office of Civic Mayor; and
- (d) That the nomination has not previously been Civic Mayor.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council agree:

- (i) **The introduction of nominations based on length of service from May 2025 with a refusal resulting in a loss of 5 years' worth of service before further consideration;**
- (ii) **That the nominations based on length of service be introduced for the appointment of Deputy Mayor for the 2025/26 Municipal Year;**
- (iii) **That the framework, within which nominations are considered remain in place for the forthcoming Mayor and Deputy.**

14. ELECTORAL COMMISSION BULLETINS



Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive that provided Members with recent copies of the Electoral Commission news bulletin, which set out current issues affecting the democratic framework for local government.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

CHAIR

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Report To:	COUNCIL
Date:	5 March 2024
Executive Member / Reporting Officer:	Cllr Gerald Cooney, Executive Leader Sandra Stewart Chief Executive
Subject:	CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024/25 AND 2025/26
Report Summary:	<p>Attached is a draft of the Calendar of Meetings for 2024/2025 and 2025/26 Municipal Years.</p> <p>The calendar has been produced for a two year period to give Members more advance notification of meetings and each year the two year rolling programme will be updated at Annual Council.</p> <p>The final Calendar of Meetings for 2024/25 and 2025/26 will be submitted to the Annual Meeting of Council. Any suggested changes to the Calendar should be submitted to Robert Landon prior to the publication of the agenda and reports for Annual Council.</p>
Recommendations:	That Members note the draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 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	<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>

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DRAFT CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2024/25 AND 2025/2026 MUNICIPAL YEARS

MEETINGS	DATE/TIME						
Council	Tuesday 5.00pm	21 May 2024	16 July 2024	8 Oct 2024	3 Dec 2024		25 Feb 2025
		20 May 2025	15 July 2025	7 Oct 2025	2 Dec 2025		24 Feb 2026
Board	Thursday 10.00am	6 June 2024	11 July 2024	8 Aug 2024	12 Sept 2024	10 Oct 2024	14 Nov 2024
		Weds 11 Dec 2024	9 Jan 2025	6 Feb 2025	13 Mar 2025	10 April 2025	12 June 2025
		10 July 2025	14 Aug 2025	11 Sept 2025	9 Oct 2025	13 Nov 2025	Weds 10 Dec 2025
		8 Jan 2026	5 Feb 2026	12 March 2026	9 April 2026		
Executive Cabinet	Wednesday 1.00pm	19 June 2024 (12.30pm)	31 July 2024	21 Aug 2024	25 Sept 2024	30 Oct 2024	27 Nov 2024
Page 279		18 Dec 2024	29 Jan 2025	19 Feb 2025 Jt mtg with O/view Panel	26 March 2025	23 April 2025	25 June 2025
		30 July 2025	27 Aug 2025	24 Sept 2025	29 Oct 2025	26 Nov 2025	17 Dec 2025
		28 Jan 2026	18 Feb 2026 Jt mtg with O/view Panel	25 March 2026	22 April 2026		
Asset Management Panel	Wednesday 2pm	19 June 2024	31 July 2024	21 Aug 2024	25 Sept 2024	30 Oct 2024	27 Nov 2024
		18 Dec 2024	29 Jan 2025	26 Feb 2025	26 March 2025	23 April 2025	25 June 2025
		28 Jan 2026	25 Feb 2026	25 March 2026	22 April 2026		
Overview Panel	Tuesday 4.00pm	25 June 2024	17 Sept 2024	10 Dec 2024	Weds 19 Feb 2025		

					(Jt mtg with Exec Cab)		
		24 June 2025	23 Sept 2025	9 Dec 2025	Weds 18 Feb 2026 (Jt mtg with Exec Cab)		
Audit Panel	Tuesday 2.00pm	25 June 2024	17 Sept 2024	10 Dec 2024	11 March 2025		
		24 June 2025	23 Sept 2025	9 Dec 2025	10 March 2026		
Planning Committee	Wednesday 10.00am	29 May 2024	26 June 2024	24 July 2024	11 Sept 2024	16 Oct 2024	13 Nov 2024
		11 Dec 2024	15 Jan 2025	12 Feb 2025	12 March 2025	16 April 2025	28 May 2025
		25 June 2025	23 July 2025	10 Sept 2025	15 Oct 2025	12 Nov 2025	10 Dec 2025
		14 Jan 2026	11 Feb 2026	18 March 2026	15 April 2026		
Page 280 Liquor Licensing Panel	Monday 10.00am	10 June 2024	15 July 2024	9 Sept 2024	11 Nov 2024	20 Jan 2025	10 March 2025
		9 June 2025	14 July 2025	15 Sept 2025	10 Nov 2025	19 Jan 2026	9 March 2026
Licensing Panel	Tuesday 10.00am	11 June 2024	16 July 2024	10 Sept 2024	12 Nov 2024	21 Jan 2025	18 March 2025
		10 June 2025	15 July 2025	16 Sept 2025	11 Nov 2025	20 Jan 2026	17 March 2026
Scrutiny Panels:							
Place and External Relations	Tuesday at 6.00pm	11 June 2024	23 July 2024	17 Sept 2024	5 Nov 2024	14 Jan 2025	4 March 2025
		10 June 2025	22 July 2025	16 Sept 2025	4 Nov 2025	13 Jan 2026	3 March 2026
Children's Services	Wednesday at 6.00pm	12 June 2024	24 July 2024	18 Sept 2024	6 Nov 2024	15 Jan 2025	5 March 2025
		11 June 2025	23 July 2025	17 Sept 2025	5 Nov 2025	14 Jan 2026	4 March 2026

Health and Adult Social Care	Thursday at 6.00pm	13 June 2024	25 July 2024	19 Sept 2024	7 Nov 2024	16 Jan 2025	6 March 2025
		12 June 2025	24 July 2025	18 Sept 2025	6 Nov 2025	15 Jan 2026	5 March 2026
Other Panels and Working Groups:							
Standards Committee	Tuesday 4.00pm		10 Sept 2024	5 Nov 2024	1 April 2025		
			16 Sept 2025	4 Nov 2025	31 March 2026		
Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel	Thursday 2.00pm	18 July 2024	19 Sept 2024	21 Nov 2024	20 March 2025		
		17 July 2025	18 Sept 2025	20 Nov 2025	19 March 2026		
Democratic Processes Wrk Grp	Monday 4.00pm	1 July 2024	23 Sept 2024	9 Dec 2024	17 Feb 2025		
		7 July 2025	22 Sept 2025	8 Dec 2025	16 Feb 2026		
Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group	Wednesday 4.30pm	5 June 2024	11 Sept 2024	13 Nov 2024	12 March 2025		
		4 June 2025	10 Sept 2025	12 Nov 2025	11 March 2026		
Health and Wellbeing Board	Thursday at 10.00am	20 June 2024	26 Sept 2024	21 Nov 2024	23 Jan 2025	13 March 2025	
		19 June 2025	25 Sept 2025	20 Nov 2025	22 Jan 2026	19 March 2026	
Education Attainment Improvement Board	Tuesday at 3.30pm	11 June 2024	1 Oct 2024	21 Jan 2025	11 March 2025		
		17 June 2025	14 October 2025	20 Jan 2026	10 March 2026		
Corporate Parenting Board	Tuesday at 5pm	4 June 2024	6 August 2024	1 Oct 2024	26 Nov 2024	11 Feb 2025	8 April 2025

		3 June 2025	5 Aug 2025	30 Sept 2025	25 Nov 2025	10 Feb 2026	7 April 2026
Enforcement Panel	Weds at 10.00am	31 July 2024		30 Oct 2024		29 Jan 2025	19 March 2025
		30 July 2025		29 Oct 2025		4 Feb 2026	18 March 2026
Werneth Low Jt Man. Cttee	Weds at 10.30am	3 July 2024		16 Oct 2024		12 Feb 2025	

Strategic Neighbourhood Forums:							
SOUTH (Hyde/Longdendale)	Monday at 6.30pm	24 June 2024	14 Oct 2024	27 Jan 2025	24 March 2025		
		23 June 2025	13 Oct 2025	26 Jan 2026	23 March 2026		
NORTH (Ashton)	Tuesday at 6.30pm	25 June 2024	15 Oct 2024	28 Jan 2025	25 March 2025		
		24 June 2025	14 Oct 2025	27 Jan 2026	24 March 2026		
EAST (Dukinfield/Mossley/Stalybridge)	Wednesday at 6.30pm	19 June 2024	9 Oct 2024	22 Jan 2025	19 March 2025		
		18 June 2025	8 Oct 2025	21 Jan 2026	18 March 2026		
WEST (Audenshaw/Denton Droylsden)	Thursday at 6.30pm	20 June 2024	10 Oct 2024	23 Jan 2025	20 March 2025		
		19 June 2025	9 Oct 2025	22 Jan 2026	19 March 2026		

ECG *2024 only	Tuesday 2.30pm	9 Jan 2024	6 Feb 2024	12 March 2024	23 April 2024	21 May 2024	10 June 2024	2 July 2024	13 Aug 2024
		10 Sept 2024	8 Oct 2024	5 Nov 2024	10 Dec 2024				
Children's Services Imp Board *Up to July 2024	Tuesday	6 Feb 2024 2pm	5 Mar 2024 2pm	16 April 2024 3pm	28 May 2024 2pm	23 July 2024 2pm			
SEND LAP Board	Weds	17 April 24 2pm	19 June 24 2pm	24 July 24 1pm	11 Sept 24 11am	6 Nov 24 10.30am			

Employment Appeals – as and when required

GMR meetings – separate calendar

May Day 2024 – 6 May 2024

Spring Bank Holiday 2024 – 27 May 2024

Summer Bank Holiday 2024 – 26 August 2024

Easter 2025 – 18 April and 21 April 2025

May Day 2025 – 5 May 2025

Spring Bank Holiday 2025 – 26 May 2025

Summer Bank Holiday 2025 – 25 August 2025

Easter 2026 – 3 April and 6 April 2026

May Day 2026 – 4 May 2026

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GMPF MEETINGS 2024/25 & 2025/26
 (Meetings held at Guardsman Tony Downes House, Droylsden, unless virtual meetings)

Pension Fund and Working Groups calendar dates:

Pension Fund Panel (Conference Rooms 1 & 2)	Friday 10.00am	19 July 2024	20 Sept 2024	13 Dec 2024	7 March 2025
		11 July 2025	12 Sep 2025	12 Dec 2025	6 March 2026
Policy & Development (Virtual)	Thursday 11.00am	27 June 2024	29 Aug 2024	28 Nov 2024	20 Feb 2025
		26 June 2025	4 Sept 2025	27 Nov 2025	19 Feb 2026
Investment Monitoring & ESG (Virtual)	Friday 9.00am	26 July 2024	27 Sept 2024	24 Jan 2025	11 April 2025
		18 July 2025	19 Sept 2025	23 Jan 2026	10 April 2026
Administration & Employer Funding Viability (Virtual)	Friday 11.00am	26 July 2024	27 Sept 2024	24 Jan 2025	11 April 2025
		18 July 2025	19 Sept 2025	23 Jan 2026	10 April 2026
Local Pensions Board (Boardroom & hybrid)	Thursday 3.00pm	1 Aug 2024	26 Sept 2024	30 Jan 2025	10 April 2025
		24 July 2025	25 Sept 2025	22 Jan 2026	9 April 2026
Northern LGPS Joint Oversight Cttee Virtual	Thursday 11.00am	18 July 2024	3 Oct 2024	13 Feb 2025	17 April 2025
		3 July 2025	2 Oct 2025	12 Feb 2026	16 April 2026

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