BOARD

3 February 2021

Present:	**Elected Members**	**Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Bray, Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Kitchen Ryan and Wills**
	Chief Executive	**Steven Pleasant**
	Borough Solicitor	**Sandra Stewart**
	Section 151 Officer	**Kathy Roe**
Also in Attendance:	**David Berry, Steph Butterworth, Jeanelle De Gruchy, Sarah Exall, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Tim Rainey, Ian Saxon, Paul Smith, Sarah Threlfall, Jayne Traverse, Emma Varnam, Debbie Watson, Tom Wilkinson and Jess Williams**	

209 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

210 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Board meeting on the on the 20 January 2021 were approved as a correct record.

211 INVEST TO SAVE TAMESIDE ONE INSURANCE PROPOSITION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Assistant Director for Strategic Property, which outlined an invest to save proposal in relation to the installation of fire detection equipment into the ceiling voids at the Tameside One building, that had arisen due to changes in the fire insurance market following Grenfell fire and other similar incidents.

It was explained that since construction and the subsequent occupation of the building, the Council's insurers had identified an asset protection/ risk need to enhance the automated fire detection system through the installation of an automatic detection system within ceiling voids with a depth of 800mm and above. Further, through the Councils experience during 2020 renewal negotiations and discussions with appointed insurance brokers, Gallaghers, there was awareness that the insurance market was hardening.

It was further explained that the Councils property insurers, Travelers Insurance had confirmed that they would be forced to impose a 25% Co-insurance Clause (or £250,000 whichever was the greater amount) if fire detection was not fitted to the voids at Tameside One. Failure to comply with the Council's property insurer's recommendation to install the equipment was highly likely to bring additional annual insurance premiums.

It was stated that as of September 2020 the quoted costs for the installation of the equipment was £1,089,363. This quote included associated work such as the moving of furniture and contingency in respect of any specialist work that may be required in spaces of the College that provided a specialist function.

AGREED
That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve:
(i) The installation of equipment and associated contract and project management costs of £1,249,363 via the Council's insurance fund reserve balance.
(ii) That the works are added to the Council's capital programme to the value of £1.25m to be funded from the Insurance Reserve, and managed and monitored by the Council's

capital team with progress reports made to the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel.

(iii) That the Council makes annual provision for the replenishment of the insurance risk reserve from its existing risk management and insurance budgets over the remaining life of the property at a cost of £45k per annum.

(iv) That the Council ensures that the service charges to third party occupiers reflects the full costs of insuring the leased areas of the premises.

212 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT AND LOCAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT SCHEME UPDATES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Director of Growth, which sought to amend the scheme to utilise 100% of the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) funding by amending the scheme so that it would be more generous and exploring options for the use of ARG.

Members were reminded that the ARG and Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) (Open) had launched on the 10 December 2020 and were considered by Cabinet on the 16 December 2020. It was stated that as at the 25 January 2021, 4,146 grants had been paid to the value of £5,516,664 across all COVID19 business schemes to 1,468 Tameside businesses and 454 grants to the value of £1,073,245 had been provided on the discretionary ARG (5.09% of allocation) and LRSG Open (39.11% of allocation) schemes.

Tameside's schemes had been designed in alignment with Government guidance and also Greater Manchester design principles as agreed by Leaders. It was reported that the Tameside ARG scheme had spent 5.09% to date. It was proposed that the ARG scheme be made more generous to commercial based businesses and increased targeted marketing to eligible sectors. This was expected to increase spend from £346K to £4.8m. Further it was proposed that a commitment be made to explore other options for the use of ARG and retain a proportion of the ARG be held in reserve for use in any future changes to the scheme.

It was expected that the proposals A, B and C would enable Tameside to have a robust plan to utilise 100% of ARG funding, spending 71% by 1 April 2021 with 29% in reserve.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the proposals set out in section 3 of the report and the Additional Restrictions Grant scheme be updated immediately. That the new award levels set out in Proposal A in the report be applied immediately subject to the Executive Decision approval,

213 BUDGET CONVERSATION 2021/22 - FINDINGS REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Joint Chair of NHS Tameside & Glossop CCG / Director of Governance and Pensions / Assistant Director for Policy, Performance & Communications, which set out the findings from the conversation on the 2021/22 budget for Tameside & Glossop Strategic Commission (Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council and NHS Tameside & Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group).

It was stated that the conversation was used to educate and inform the public on the Strategic Commission's budget and its financial challenges whilst also allowing feedback and ideas on how services could be improved and savings made. The conversation focussed primarily on two questions:

- What do you think should be the spending priorities for the Tameside & Glossop Strategic Commission in 2021/22 and future years?

- Do you have ideas or suggestions for how we might deliver services more efficiently, save money or raise revenue?

The Budget Conversation was open to all as everyone had the right to contribute their views on what they felt the councils priorities should be now and in future years. The public were provided with an opportunity to leave comments and feedback through the Big Conversation – available on both the Council and CCG websites.

The key headlines from the Budget conversation 2021/22 were highlighted. It was reported that Information on the Budget Conversation was directly e-mailed to over 31,000 individual contacts. Information was shared directly with over 100 groups / networks. 129 Budget Conversation social media posts reached our followers 91,129 times. There were a total of 524 engagements.

AGREED
That the Strategic Commissioning Board and Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the content of the report and take the findings from the conversation into consideration when setting the budget for 2021/22 and future years.

214 MONTH 9 FINANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Lead Clinical GP / Director of Finance, which covered the Month 9 2020/21 financial position, reflecting actual expenditure to 31 December 2020 and forecasts to 31 March 2021.

It was reported that at Month 9, the Strategic Commission was forecasting a net overspend of £3.328m by 31 March 2021.

The Council was forecasting a year end overspend of £3.8m, which was a slight deterioration on the position reported at month 8. This was explored in more detail in **Appendix 1** to the report. Significant pressures remained across Directorates, most significantly in Children's Social Care where expenditure was forecast to exceed budget by £4.134m, with further cost pressures in Adults and Education, and income loss pressures in the Growth Directorate. These were due to underlying financial pressures that the Council would have faced regardless of the COVID pandemic.

On the assumption that the anticipated COVID top up was received in full, a surplus of £512k was projected at year end on CCG budgets.

AGREED
That the Strategic Commissioning Board and Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1.

215 2021/22 BUDGET

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Director of Finance setting out the detailed revenue budget proposals for 2020/2021 and the Medium Term Financial Plan for the 5 year period 2021/22 to 2025/26, including the proposed council tax increase for 2021/22.

It was explained that the Council set a balanced budget for 2020/21, but the budget process was challenging, with budget pressures of more than £23m having to be funded. Whilst the Council dealt with these challenges it did not propose any meaningful transformational efficiencies from departments and as a result relied on a number of corporate financing initiatives to balance the budget including budgeting for the full estimated dividend from Manchester Airport Group, an increase in the vacancy factor and targets around increasing fees and charges income.

The budget also relied on drawing down £12.4m of reserves to target investment into priority areas and allow services the time to turn around areas of pressures. The pressures were broadly, Children's Services placement costs, Children's Services prevention work (which was to be later mainstreamed and funded from reduced placement costs), shortfalls on car parking and markets income. Each of these services required on-going development work to have the impact of allowing demand to be taken out of the system and additional income generated. The additional investment was targeted at the IT and Growth Directorate Services, to invest in IT equipment, software and capacity and to develop strategically important sites for housing and business development, including key Town Centre masterplans.

Although the CCG was on track to meet the 2020/21 amended, post COVID QIPP target of £7.994m, the majority (£6.767m i.e. 85% of target) was expected to be met as a result of non-recurrent means, adding considerable additional pressure to the 2021/22 financial year.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant adverse impact on Council Finances, both in 2020/21 and on future financial forecasts, due to a combination of additional costs and lost income. Significant additional funding had been provided in 2020/21 and for 2021/22 however this did not cover all income losses, particularly those income reductions forecast in future years due to the ongoing economic impact of the pandemic.

Balancing the 2021/22 budget had only been possible through the use of a significant amount of additional one-off funding which was not expected to be available in 2022/23, and as a result the Council still faced a significant budget gap in future years. The delivery of a significant programme of savings in 2021/22 would be challenging, and would require a sustained focus on delivery of plans. The scale of savings, combined with significant financial pressures which may emerge from further demographic changes in Children's Social Care and Adults services, meant that delivery of the 2021/22 budget presented a significant financial challenge. The proposals did not, however, drawdown further on Council reserves, which represented a reduction in the reliance on reserves to balance the budget as in previous years. This helped to protect the Council's overall reserves position during 2021/22.

It was reported that 2019/20 was the fourth and final year of a four year funding settlement for the Council, which provided the Council with some certainty over funding levels despite resulting in year on year funding reductions. A review of the Local Government funding methodology commenced in 2019 but did not conclude, and following a one year budget and a one year Local Government Finance Settlement for 2020/21, a full spending review was expected later in 2020.

COVID-19 had inevitably had a significant impact on Government spending, planning and budget plans, resulting in a further one year provisional settlement for 2021/22. The resourcing figures included in the budget were based on the provisional finance settlement which will be confirmed in February 2021. Traditionally there was little movement between the provisional and final settlements, and any differences would be adjusted through the contingency budget or reserves.

The proposals set out in the report assumed that the Council would approve a 2% general increase in Council Tax and a 3% Adult Social Care precept. However, despite this increase in the amount charged to residents, the Council's total income from Council Tax in 2021/22 was forecast to be over £4 million **less** than the income from Council Tax in 2020/21 (before any increase in Council Tax rates charged).

Government had signalled a desire for a full spending review in 2021 and a multi-year settlement from 2022/23, however no commitments had been made. Whilst the provisional settlement for 2021/22 enabled the Council to plan for the next 12 months, the absence of a multi-year medium term settlement meant that planning for future years was very difficult.

Beyond 2021/22, assumptions had been made based on intelligence gathered and commentary from sector experts. The funding for local government was expected to remain broadly flat, with the continued reduction in central government support being compensated by increasing local taxes, specifically business rates and council tax. It was currently assumed that grant funding made available in 2020/21 would as a minimum, continue at current levels into future years, but that the additional funding announced in the provision 2021/22 settlement would not be available beyond this year.

After taking account of budget pressures, additional income and savings identified for delivery in 2021/22, the total net budget requirement for the Council in 2021/22 was £194.494m. Before any increase in Council tax levels, the resource available in 2021/22 was £189.778m, leaving a gap of £4.716m. The gap of £4.716m could be closed through an increase in Council Tax of 4.99%. This was made up of a 3% increase for the Adult Social Care Precept and a 1.99% general increase in Council Tax (which had previously been assumed in the MTFP). For a typical band A property in Tameside a 4.99% increase in Council Tax would equate to an increase of £50.83 per year, or 98 pence per week.

A three year capital programme had been approved in October 2017 and since then a number of changes had been approved by Executive Cabinet to add additional schemes to the programme. Future investment plans were subject to available resources and the realisation of available capital receipts, however the current plans would see investment in excess of £200million over the four year period 2017 to 2021.

The Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22, Appendix 19 to the report, set 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 had 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 Communities and Local Government (DCLG). This pay policy applied for the year 2021/22 unless replaced or varied by Full Council.

In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy Members were informed that as at 31 December 2020 the Council had £100m of investments which need to be safeguarded, £141m of long term debt, which has been accrued over the years to help to fund the Council's capital investment programmes, and £10m of short term borrowing. The Council was also the lead authority responsible for the administration of the debt of the former Greater Manchester County Council on behalf of all ten Greater Manchester Metropolitan Authorities. As at 31 March 2020, this represented a further £40m of debt. The significant size of these amounts requires careful management to ensure that the Council met 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. The Treasury Management Strategy also set out the estimated borrowing requirement for both Tameside MBC and the Greater Manchester Metropolitan Debt Administration Fund (GMMDAF), together with the strategy to be employed in managing the debt position.

AGREED
That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve that the following recommendations, as outlined in the submitted report be RECOMMENDED to Council for approval, subject to any final minor changes to the final figures:

(i) That the significant financial challenges and risks set out in this report, be noted;
(ii) That the budgeted net expenditure for the financial year 2021/22 of £194.494m as set out in section 3 and Appendix 1, be approved, noting the significant pressures outlined in Appendix 2;
(iii) That the proposed savings to be delivered by management outlined in section 3 and Appendix 3, noting the additional detail provided in Appendices 7 to 16, be approved;
(iv) That an uplift to fees and charges as set out in Appendix 22, be approved;
(v) That the proposed resourcing of the budget as set out in Appendix 4, be approved;
(vi) That a 4.99% increase to Council Tax for Tameside MBC for 2021/22, consisting of a 1.99% general increase and 3% Adult Social Care precept, be approved;
(vii) It be noted that the budget projections set out in section 6 assume a 1.99% per annum increase in general Council Tax through to 2025/26. The budget projections also assume that there is no further reduction to current levels of Government funding;

(viii) That the Director of Finance's assessment of the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of reserves as set out in Appendix 5, be accepted. Following this determine that the estimates are robust for the purpose of setting the budget and that the proposed minimum General Fund Balance is adequate;
(ix) That the proposed minimum General Fund Balance of £27.4m set out in Appendix 6, be approved;
(x) That the Reserves Strategy and note the projected reserves position as set out in Appendix 6, be approved;
(xi) That the position on the Capital Programme (Section 8 and Appendix 18) previously approved by Executive Cabinet, and the forecast future investment requirements, be noted;
(xii) That the Pay Policy Statement for 2021/22 as set out in section 9 and Appendix 19, be approved;
(xiii) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22, which includes the proposed borrowing strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (Appendix 20), be approved;
(xiv) That the Capital Strategy 2021/22 (Appendix 21), be approved; and
(xv) That delegated authority be given to the Directors (in consultation with the Section 151 officer) to agree any uplifts required to other contractual rates from 1 April 2021 which Directorates will manage within their approved budgets for 2021/22.

216 CLOSED BUSINESS LOCKDOWN PAYMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Assistant Director (Exchequer Services), which detailed the latest mandatory grant for businesses that were closed as a result of the national lockdown from 5 January 2021.

It was explained that unlike previous grants which were payable to eligible businesses depending on whether they were trading and open or closed, the COVID restriction in place at that time, the sector the business operated in and the rateable value of the business premises, this grant was a one-off lump sum payment.

The new lump sum grants would be paid in addition to the 'Local Restrictions Support Grant (Closed) Addendum 5 January onwards' which was payable to closed businesses under national lockdown restrictions. However, the latter was time bound and payable for a 42-day period from 5 January up to lockdown review date of 15 February 2021

The following funding thresholds applied to the Closed Businesses Lockdown Payment:

a) Business rateable value of exactly £15,000 or under on the date of the commencement of the widespread national restrictions would receive a payment of £4,000.
b) Business rateable value over £15,000 and less than £51,000 on the date of the commencement of the widespread national restrictions will receive a payment of £6,000.
c) Business rateable value of exactly £51,000 or above on the commencement date of the widespread national restrictions, will receive £9,000.

A total of 879 business premises were identified to receive a lump sum CBLP grant these were paid on 18 January 2021.

AGREED
That Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the report.

217 GREATER MANCHESTER CLEAN AIR PLAN: CONSULTATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) / Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, which set out the progress that had been made on the development of Greater Manchester's Clean Air Plan.

The report highlighted key areas within the report to Members of the Board. It was reported that the 10 GM Authorities continued to ask the Government to direct Highways England to tackle NO2 exceedances on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in the same way GM Authorities were having to take action on the local road network. In particular Tameside MBC had highlighted to Ministers that the inconsistency in approach was leaving many residents unprotected, particularly, around the A628/A57, a strategically important trans-Pennine route that passed through the villages of Hollingworth and Mottram as a single carriageway.

It was reported that on 25 August 2020, Tameside MBC had been notified that Government Ministers had agreed to consider extending Greater Manchester's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) charges to the sections of the A628/A57 which formed part of the Strategic Road Network, within the proposed CAZ boundary. The extension of any charges to the A628/A57 would be subject to a full assessment of the potential impacts, to be led by Highways England. Tameside Officers were involved in the work to ensure that it came to a collective conclusion about the outcomes of the assessment, which was expected to be completed by early 2021. An update on progress could be found at **Appendix 1.**

It was explained that whilst the COVID-19 pandemic had caused changes that radically altered transport patterns and behaviour, the relaxation of 'lockdown 1' (March – May 20) travel restrictions since June led to increasing vehicle flows. By the introduction of 'lockdown 2' (November 20), traffic flows were at around 85% of typical pre-COVID-19 levels. Because the GM Clean Air Plan was required to take action to take NO2 levels over a number of years into the future in order to demonstrate compliance with legal limits, the nearer term influence of COVID-19 on air quality was not expected to lead to sufficiently long term reductions in pollution such that the modelled exceedances of the legal NO2 limits would be met without implementing a Clean Air Zone.

It was highlighted that the distribution of the Bus Retrofit funding commenced in December 2020. The fund offered operators of locally registered bus services with up to £16k of funding per vehicle towards the retrofit of non-compliant buses.

The report detailed that there were several key charging authority functions that could only be discharged by the charging authorities, the approach that GM would take would be to establish:

- a Joint Committee of charging authorities to enable decisions to be taken that were required to be taken jointly by the Constituent Authorities' as charging authorities in relation to the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone; and
- a Joint Committee of the charging authorities and the GMCA to enable the joint discharge of the GMCA's and Constituent Authorities' functions under sections 82 to 84 of the Environment Act 1995 (Air Quality) and in relation to the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan (excluding such decisions that must be taken by the charging authorities jointly under Part 3 of, and Schedule 12 to, the Transport Act 2000 and regulations made thereunder).

These formal governance arrangements would need to be in place before the GM Authorities made a decision to award the contracts necessary, as set out in **Appendix 2.**

AGREED
The Executive Cabinet be recommended to:
(a) Note the progress of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan;
(b) Note the next steps for the development of the Clean Air Plan and Minimum Licensing Standards, listed at Section 12;
(c) Note the distribution of Bus Retrofit funding commenced in December 2020;
(d) Note that Government ministers have agreed to consider extending Greater Manchester's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) charges to the sections of the A628/A57 which form

part of the Strategic Road Network, within the proposed CAZ boundary, subject to the outcomes of an assessment, which is expected to be completed by early 2021;

(e) Note that the GM Clean Air Plan is required to take action tackle nitrogen dioxide exceedances until compliance with the legal limits has been demonstrated and that the nearer term influence of COVID-19 on air quality is not expected to lead to sufficiently long term reductions in pollution such that the exceedances of the legal limits of nitrogen dioxide will not occur without implementing a Clean Air Zone;

(f) Note that the GM CAP final plan will be brought forward for decision makers as soon as is reasonably practicable and no later than summer 2021;

(g) Note that the outputs of the MLS will be reported alongside the GM CAP as soon as is reasonably practicable and no later than summer 2021;

(h) AGREE to enter into a collaboration agreement with the other 9 GM local authorities and GMCA/TfGM to clarify amongst other matters the rights, responsibilities and obligations of the authorities in relation to those contracts set out in Appendix 2 that are required to maintain delivery momentum in line with JAQU funding agreements.

(i) AGREE a delegation to Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) to agree the final form of the collaboration agreement;

(j) AGREE a delegation to Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) to award the contracts set out in Appendix 2 (subject to government funding) that are required to implement a charging Clean Air Zone in Spring 2022 to ensure the achievement of Nitrogen Dioxide compliance in the shortest possible time and by 2024 at the latest as required by the Ministerial Direction; and

That Council be recommended to:

(a) Agree to the establishment of joint committees and to delegate to those committees the Authority's functions as set out in this report at paragraph 9.5 and the terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 6.

(b) Appoint Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) to sit on both committees for purposes as set out in this report at paragraph 9.5 with specific terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 6.

(c) Appoint Assistant Executive Member (Green Tameside) as substitute for both committees for purposes as set out in this report at paragraph 9.5 with specific terms of reference, as set out in Appendix 6.

218 ACCELERATED DEPLOYMENT OF MICROSOFT OFFICE 365

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Assistant Executive Member (Digital Lead) / Assistant Director of Digital Services, which set out the unprecedented changes to how the workforce operated and the proposal for the accelerated deployment of Microsoft Office 365.

Members were reminded that in September 2019 a report detailing options for replacing the ageing MS 2010 products whose extended support was ending in 2020 was presented to Executive Cabinet. The report provided details and costs for moving directly to the new Microsoft cloud based Office 365 solution or alternatively purchasing Office 2016 licences as an interim step before buying Office 365 subscriptions and beginning to move to the new software in Summer 2023.

It was explained that the advancement of agile working and increased take-up and reliance on technology for communicating and collaborating, not only within the Council but wider with partners, had necessitated a rethink on the timescales and pace for deploying Office 365 and associated products such as Microsoft Teams.

Prior to the COVID Lockdown in March 2020 fewer than 100 people regularly used Skype for Business to hosts online meetings or for their desktop telephone calls. This changed overnight when the majority of the workforce moved to home working.
To date Skype for Business had proven to be reliable and has successfully supported much of the organisations internally and external communication and collaboration requirements. However using different platforms has limited the way joint NHS/Council Teams could communicate and share

information, which in turn had caused operational difficulties. Furthermore being Skype users, as opposed the using Microsoft Teams, like many of the other GM authorities, had made joining external meetings with partners confusing, problematic and overly complicated.

Preparatory works required ahead of the migration to Office 365 were already underway but would now be accelerated and prioritised. Additional resources would be needed to undertake this work, (and the wider 18 month migration process), in order that the service would be in a position to begin the move to Office 365 in June 2021

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree to:

(i) Approve subject to the appropriate procurement being agreed and undertaken in conjunction with STAR it is noted that the timetable for bringing forward the implementation of Microsoft Office 365 is being brought forward 2 years to 2021.

(ii) Approve subject to procurement, the Microsoft Teams functionality will be deployed to all Council users as the first stage in the transition/migration to the full Office 365 solution.

(iii) Approve an 18-month programme beginning in February 2021 will then manage the systematic migration of users and their data to the new environment. This work will be undertaken alongside the existing ICT work plan and will require appropriate resourcing which will be detailed in the IT Service Review.

(iv) Approve additional revenue budget of £600k per annum for the licensing costs of Office 365.

(v) Note that additional staffing capacity will be required to enable the implementation team to focus on roll out of Office 365 (section 6). This will be the subject of a further report on a wider IT service review.

219 OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS FINANCIAL STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) / Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage) / Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, which provided Members with budget savings proposals from across Operations and Neighbourhoods directorate for their consideration.

It was explained that the Operations and Neighbourhoods directorate had created a Budget Improvements Team to evaluate and provide considered proposals to achieve the necessary efficiencies and service re-designs for the consideration of Members. To date, there were 38 projects across Operations and Neighbourhoods that were being evaluated. The report detailed and proposed the projects that, due to their nature, could be progressed readily if approved.

The remaining projects were undergoing further evaluation, due to their increased complexities, and it was proposed that these reports would be submitted for consideration at Board at later dates.

AGREE

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree:

(i) Not to host the Tour Series cycling events as detailed in sections 2.1-2.9.

(ii) To approve the temporary budget removal of staffing for the Museum of the Manchester regiment until the museum is developed.

(iii) To approve the withdrawal of the Post Office Book Access points, following a 3-month notice period with the option of replacement with the home library service for customers where necessary and gifting books to the post offices if desired, as detailed in sections 2.19-2.29.

(iv) To approve the budget reduction of the Dog Wardens service to reflect service demand.

(v) To approve the transfer of the disposal of all street sweepings through the Waste Levy as detailed in sections 4.1-4.4.

(vi) To approve the reduction of the core vehicle hire budget in Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance teams as detailed in sections 4.5-4.8.

(vii) To approve the budget removal of seasonal grounds maintenance agency staff during the growing season (March to October).

(viii) To approve the reduction in budget for Markets events and to seek sponsorship to support future events, as detailed in sections 4.17-4.20.

(ix) To approve the budget removal identified in Transport Services as detailed in sections 5.1-5.2.

(x) To note the increased income targets in the Engineers Service as detailed in sections 6.1-6.3.

220 CHARGING FOR WHEELED BINS AND INTRODUCING A PILOT SCHEME TO REVIEW IMPACT OF WIDER ROLL OUT OF ADJUSTING FREQUENCIES OF THE BLACK AND BLUE BINS (3.10PM)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) / Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, which proposed charging for all wheelie bins the Council supplies, with an exemptions policy in place. It also outlined an option to roll out a pilot changing the collection frequencies of the clack and clue bins.

On 24 August 2016 an Executive Decision was taken to charge residents for the replacement of general waste bins. The general waste (green) bin included the waste that could not be recycled or recovered. It was proposed that this be taken further by charging for all replacement bins, specifically the brown, black and blue bins recycling bins that were used for the domestic waste collection. In Tameside, the brown bin was for food and garden waste. There was an existing issue of bins being abandoned across Tameside, which was unsightly and hazardous if not addressed. Members considered the range of approaches across the Greater Manchester Authorities and the current charging regimes at **Appendix 1.**

It was further proposed that that a reduction of the frequency of collection would be made to the black co-mingled bins and the blue paper and cardboard bins; making the collection frequency of each of the black and blue bins a three weekly collection. The current collection frequencies of the black bin (plastics, bottles) and the blue bin (paper and cardboard) was two weekly. Members were presented with a comparison of the collection frequencies across GM. It was explained that by moving to a three weekly collection on the black and blue bins the resources required to complete a full cycle of collections servicing all domestic properties could be reduced by three crews.

This would be a reduction of three refuse collection vehicles and nine operational staff. This equated to an estimated annual saving of £0.37m per annum from 2022/23, with an estimated part year saving of £ 0.12m in 2021/22 if implemented from 1 December 2021. The reduction in operational staff would enable the service to make a reduction of agency staff. The reduction of vehicle numbers would enable the service to sell on the vehicles and avoid the running costs and maintenance of those vehicles.

It was proposed that a 12 week pilot scheme was used to measure the impact and effectiveness of the proposed changes. By conducting a pilot, Waste Services could assess the full effect and viability of changing the collection rates of black and blue bins on 4 occasions.

AGREED
That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree:

i) That subject to consultation the proposed charges for wheelie bins are introduced and an exceptions model is developed.

ii) Support is given to roll out a pilot changing the frequency of collections of the black and blue refuse bins, with a view to evaluation and further roll out across the Borough.

221 THE COUNCIL'S SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES - FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PROPOSALS DURING THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC (3.30PM)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods Community Safety and Environment) / Assistant Director of Population Health / Assistant Director of Finance, which provided an update on the plans for financial sustainability of the Council's Sport and Leisure facilities provided by Active Tameside.

It was highlighted that the report had been amended to reflect that the Trust had been asked to prepare a financial business plan to the end of the contract period in March 2024. This factored in a recovery period to the end of 2021/22, with trade returning towards pre Covid levels by 2023/24.

The Assistant Director of Population Health reminded Members that the purpose of undertaking the initial review was to understand the potential for immediate efficiency savings in relation to key facilities within the Council's leisure portfolio to support the provider to remain solvent. The report sought permission to consult initially on proposals to withdraw Active Tameside services from those facilities which had been operating at a loss in recent years, and to ensure the future of these buildings were informed by the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP). A desktop review had been undertaken of available data in relation to facility usage, financial performance and programmed activity, along with potential savings, risks and mitigations and could be found in **Appendix 1** to the report.

It was proposed that the Council carry out a public consultation on the withdrawal of Active Tameside services from Adventure Longdendale, Active Oxford Park and Active Etherow from Friday 12 February to Friday 26 March 2021 via the Big Conversation pages on the Council website. The proposed consultation framework was attached at **Appendix 2.**

AGREED
That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

(i) Approve the implementation of a public consultation from 12 Feb 2021 to 26 March 2021, to seek views on the initial proposals outlined in the report and to inform the Council's future commissioning approach.

(ii) Approve that a further review is carried out of all Sport and Leisure facilities in Tameside, including conditions surveys, aligned to the review of the Operational Estate and Portfolio of council land and property holdings.

(iii) Agree to review the results of the consultation and recommendations from the asset management review, with final options presented to Executive Cabinet for decision in July 2021.

222 LOCALLY COMMISSIONED SERVICES - REVIEW AND RECOMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Adult Social Care and Health) / Clinical Lead for Primary Care / Director of Commissioning which reminded that the general practice Locally Commissioned Services (LCS) in Tameside and Glossop were significantly reviewed and redesigned from 2019/20 framing services within a series of five 'bundles', each with a set of outcomes for an area of care. The model was expanded from 2020/21 with a further three bundles introduced. Six of the eight bundles were commissioned at practice level, with the remaining two commissioned from Primary Care Networks (PCNs).

It was stated that the further refresh for 2021/22 reflected the learning from the first contracting period plus the impact of and learning from the Covid pandemic. The latter would be supported by the Primary Care Living with Covid and Build Back Better groups.

It was explained that this refresh recommended commissioning the total framework at PCN level; this aligned with the development of PCN teams and the strategic aim to address unwarranted variation in offer to patients, to reduce health inequalities and improve the proactive identification of patients.

The refresh was proposed with clear principles and outcomes focus for delivery across neighbourhood partners and member practices.

The report sought support from the Strategic Commissioning Board for the re-contracting of LCS arrangements from 1 October 2021 this would be with the refreshed specification in place. It was proposed the contracting from October 2021 be a contract to 31 March 2023 to ensure the transfer of these contracting arrangements into the commissioning organisation reconfiguration from April 2022.

AGREED
That Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to support the commissioning intentions outlined in this report, including the priorities of the LCS framework and the approach to strategic investment which included the:
(i) continuation of this investment, recognising the priorities addressed through the LCS framework.
(ii) contract extension of existing arrangements to 30 September 2021.
(iii) re-contracting of the LCS framework from PCNs, with the specification refresh, from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2023.

223 PERMISSION TO EXTEND THE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Adult Social Care and Population Health) / Co-Chair Tameside & Glossop CCG / Director of Population Health / Consultant in Public Health, which set out the proposal for the extension of the Health Improvement Contract to allow for a review of the service specification.

On 22 January 2020 authorisation was granted by the Strategic Commissioning Board to re-tender Health Improvement services with a total budget of £1,092,000. It was stated that in 2020 due to the disruption caused by covid-19, it was not considered feasible to re-commission the service as planned either for the commissioner or for potential providers. The Covid-19 crisis would have had a severely damaging effect on both the market and the process, risking both a shortage of providers bidding for the contract, and a failure of the tender and TUPE processes to be fair, open and transparent. Permission was therefore granted by SCB in June 2020 to extend the contract by 12 months, to go out to tender as planned for a contract starting on 1st October 2021. It was reported that in keeping with this decision, a tender process had been planned and was due to commence in March 2021, to procure two services as two separate contract.

Members were reminded that in November 2020, the Council's spending review identified Health Improvement Services, along with a number of other front line services, for a 20% saving against the budget allocated for the Smoking Cessation and Healthy Weight components of Health Improvement services.

The savings required amounted to a reduction in the budget of £185,800 leaving £906,200 available to commission the new services. This would require the Population Health department and Commissioners to carry out a full service re-design to ensure that the best use was made of the revised budget.

It was explained that in order to carry out a full re-design of the service and a comprehensive consultation exercise, an extension to the contract would be required. In line with best practice guidance, a 12 week consultation period was recommended, in addition to the time needed to develop the questions, analyse the results, and make necessary changes to the service specifications.

AGREED
That the Single Commissioning Board be recommended to agree:
(i) That approval is given to extend or to directly award the contract for an additional period of six months to 31 March 2022 to allow for a re-design of the service and a full Public Consultation following a 20% budget reduction.

(ii) To note that the cost pressure will be covered from within the Population Health Budget, with the full 20% saving realised from April 2022.

(iii) That the plan to undertake a full public consultation on the proposed changes to the Health Improvement Services is noted and approved.

224 RE-COMMISSIONING OF ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY AND AUTISM SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health / Clinical Lead / Director of Commissioning, which set out the proposal for the recommissioning of the Adult Learning Disability and Autism Services.

It was reported that the Integrated Care Foundation Trust had issued a termination notice to the CCG regarding the provision of adult learning disability and autism services from 1 October 2021. This decision was made on the basis of recommendations from an independent review commissioned from Pathway Associates CIC in 2019

It was stated that since receiving the notice the CCG commissioning lead had worked with STAR to undertake an appraisal of the different procurement options. The recommended option was to vary the services into the CCG Pennine Care contract for 18/24 months. The STAR report could be found in **Appendix 1.**

With regards to risks, it was explained that varying the services into the Pennine Care contract included risks as the CCG would be varying a contract of material size and scope with a key strategic role without undertaking a formal public procurement.

AGREED
That the Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to take account of the risk of challenge and agree that the mitigating factors and rationale are such that the proposal to vary the services into the Pennine Care contract should be actioned.

225 FORWARD PLAN

AGREED
That the forward plan of items for Board be noted.

CHAIR