

BOARD

10 March 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: **Dr Asad Ali, Tim Bowman, Steph Butterworth, Ilys Cookson, Sarah Exall, Jeanelle De Gruchy, Richard Hancock, Martyn Leigh, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Ian Saxon, Paul Smith, Jayne Traverse, Emma Varnam, Debbie Watson and Tom Wilkinson**

230 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

231 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Board meeting on the 3 March 2021 were approved as a correct record.

232 SAVINGS DELIVERY 2021/22

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Finance. The report provided Members with an update on the first savings monitoring exercise for delivery of the 2021/22 savings, and highlighted any risks or delays to delivery.

Members were advised that progress on the delivery of proposed savings as part of the 2021/22 budget process would be monitored on a monthly basis, with a proportion of schemes reviewed at different points during the year. Appendix 1 included the timetable for reporting required to ensure that these key projects were on track. All directorates completed an implementation template as part of their original proposals.

It was explained that the reporting schedule had been tailored to align with key implementation points of proposals that were assessed to be a red or amber risk to assure members that delivery was on track. As part of this reporting it was expected that Directorates complete the implementation section of the original savings templates and these detailed plans would be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team.

It was reported that three schemes originally rated as 'Green' had been reassessed to Amber as there were some unexpected delays to delivery. Of the 33 schemes scheduled for detailed review this month, 21 schemes were on track. Four schemes were partially on track with delays to some elements of the scheme. Three schemes were not on target with significant delays to delivery. Where schemes were not on target officers sought to identify alternative savings proposals to mitigate delay or non-delivery.

AGREED

That the report be noted.

233 CARED FOR CHILDREN FORMALISATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Director of Children's Services. The report detailed the proposal to change the language used regarding Cared for Children in line with the views of young people.

The Director of Children's Services explained that over the past two years young people had shared their views at the Children in Care Council (CICC) and during other consultation opportunities with regards to the language that was used by professionals. They did not like the language or acronyms relating to Cared for Children. Further, they did not want to be referred to as Looked after Children (LAC). They had co-produced the Coming into Care pack and the new pledge. This had used the language they wanted to see going forward.

It was explained that the Children in Care Council were aware that changing the language relating to Cared for Children could take some time. They understood that there were some national documents that would still have the terminology 'Looked after Child'. They hoped that this national approach would change over time but TMBC had an opportunity to change the language in line with the commitment to LISTENing in Tameside and the Voice of the Child Strategy which gave a commitment to co-production, inclusivity and Cared for Children's views carrying the same weight as that of adults.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the change in language relating to Cared for Children. This would enable an implementation plan to be progressed.

234 CARED FOR CHILDREN PLEDGE

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Director of Children's Services, which sought approval for the Cared for Children's Pledge.

Members were advised that the Corporate Parenting Board and Engagement group for young people had developed a Cared for Children's Pledge. This was considered and endorsed by the Corporate Parenting Board on 13 October 2020, which resolved that: that the content of the report be noted and that the 'New Pledge' be taken through the Council's formal governance process for adoption by the Council. The Cared for Children's Pledge at **Appendix 1** encapsulated the thinking of the Cared for Children.

It was explained that endorsing and actively promoting this Pledge would help and support engagement with Cared for Children and enhance the delivery of the Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree that the Cared for Children's Pledge is agreed and actively supported and promoted across the Authority and our partners.

235 BUSINESS RATES - EXTENSION TO RELIEFS AND DISCOUNTS 2021/22

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services. The report detailed the temporary business rate support announced by the Chancellor on the 3 March 2021 for eligible retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery businesses in England occupying a qualifying property.

It was reported that on the 3 March 2021 the government confirmed in the budget statement that the Expanded Retail Discount would continue to apply in 2021/22 at reduced levels for eligible business premises.

From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022, the Expanded Retail Discount would apply at 66% relief for eligible properties, with a cash cap of £2m for businesses that were required to close as at 5 January 2021, and up to £105,000 for business permitted to open at that date.

From 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2022 the Nursery Discount would apply at 66% relief for eligible properties, with a cash cap of £105,000.

It was stated that the discounts were fully funded by central government by a section 31 grant and New Burdens funding would be awarded at a future point. The discount was to be awarded under Section 47 of the LGFA and written notice would be given to all eligible businesses by 31 March 2021 that the discount would reduce from 100% as at 30 June 2021 to 66% discount from 01 July 2021 to 31 March 2022. Eligible businesses would be given the opportunity to opt out from receiving the discount.

It was reported that there were resource implications in applying the correct level of discount to eligible bills at the late stage in the year start billing process, however by not awarding the discount the local economy in these sectors would suffer further. There could be a risk to collection of business rates from 01 July 2021 onwards from eligible businesses as many have had no business rates to pay for at least a year, and it could not be predicted as to how trade may be affected post lockdown.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to note and approve the following:-

- (i) The temporary extension to eligible retail, hospitality, leisure and nursery discount up to 30 June 2021 at 100%, and then reduced discount of 66% from 01 July to 31 March 2022, in accordance with Section 47 of Local Government Finance Act 1988 be approved;**
- (ii) The cash cap on discount awarded to eligible accounts from 01 July to 31 March 2022 is noted.**

236 HOLIDAY ACTIVITY AND FOOD FUNDING GRANT

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Director of Children's Services, which set out the proposals for spending the HAF Grant, which had been allocated to the Local Authority from the DFE to fund local coordination of free holiday activities and healthy food for disadvantaged children during 2021.

Members were reminded that on 8 November 2020, the government announced that the Holiday Activity and Food programme, which had provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018 would be expanded across the whole of England in 2021.

It was reported that Tameside received a Grant determination letter on 11 February 2021 informing of the total maximum amount payable of £1,162,030. A delivery report was submitted 19 February 2021 to HAF programme, which outlined the proposal of delivery and how Tameside would build upon the delivery from Summer 2020.

The programme would cover one week at Easter, 4 weeks over summer and one week at Christmas holidays in 2021. All children in receipt of benefits related Free School Meals were eligible.

The Director of Children's Services explained that Local authorities had flexibility about how they could spend the grant and deliver this provision to best serve the needs of the children and families in their areas. In Tameside a multi-agency steering group had been established to oversee and support the implementation of the HAF programme.

It was stated that to enable a robust plan for summer and Christmas a HAF coordinator would be appointed through a secondment to Tameside. The HAF coordinator would work with schools and providers across Tameside to develop a plan to enable the full delivery of the programme to all eligible families.

It was explained that as Active Tameside were already commissioned by the Council to deliver holiday activity provision for a broad range of vulnerable children. Given the short timescales given by the DFE to deliver Easter provision and because of Active Tameside's existing track record in delivery, it was proposed that via an amendment to their existing arrangements, the Local Authority would allocate £116,880 from the HAF grant for Active Tameside to build upon the previous school

holiday provision, nutritional food and support offered throughout COVID for vulnerable families This would ensure we meet all targets for the programme at Easter.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree that:

- (i) The HAF grant be spent on supporting vulnerable families who are eligible for ‘free school meals’ in the holiday period.**
- (ii) A HAF coordinator be appointed to oversee the project and coordinate activity and planning for Summer and Christmas.**
- (iii) Active Tameside be commissioned to deliver the Easter holiday programme to be funded by the 2020/21 grant of £116,860;**
- (iv) The remaining allocation for 2021/2022 of £1,045,170 be spent on HAF project over the summer and Christmas period 2021 as outlined within the HAF grant conditions.**
- (v) The HAF coordinator role to lead on mapping and scoping out a financial spend and procurement delivery plan for 2021/2022 to be agreed by Executive Cabinet in June and delivered through the HAF partnership steering group**
- (vi) It be agreed to develop a preferred provider list for delivery of the programme Summer 2021 and Christmas 2021.**

237 RE-OPENING HIGH STREETS FUND

AGREED

That Item 4g Re-Opening High Streets Fund be deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

238 NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK AND NATIONAL MODEL DESIGN CODE (GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Housing Planning and Employment / Director of Growth, which detailed the Council's proposed response to the Governments' consultation on National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code.

Members were advised that the Government's consultation sought views on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. The text had been revised to implement policy changes in response to the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission "Living with Beauty" Report and was intended to promote quality of design of new development. The Building Better, Building Beautiful Commission was an independent body set up to advise government on how to promote and increase the use of high-quality design for new build homes and neighbourhoods. The "Living with Beauty" report set out the Commission's recommendations to government which proposed three overall aims: ask for beauty, refuse ugliness and promote stewardship and made 45 detailed policy propositions.

In addition, the consultation sought views on the draft National Model Design Code, which provided details guidance on the production of design codes, guides and policies to promote successful design. The government expected this to be used to inform the production of local design guides, codes and policies and wanted to ensure it was as effective as possible.

It was reported that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government was consulting on the draft text of the revised National Planning Policy Framework and sought views on the draft National Model Design Code. In responding to this consultation, the government would appreciate comments on any potential impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty. Through a series of focussed questions, it provided the opportunity for comments to be submitted by 27 March 2021, and the proposed responses from the Council were set out in the attached Appendix 1.

AGREED

That the Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree to the submission of the response at Appendix 1 as the Council's response to the Government's consultation "National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Code: consultation proposals".

239 DELIVERING THE NHS LONG TERM PLAN: MENTAL HEALTH BUSINESS CASE 2021/24

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health / Clinical Lead for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities / Clinical Lead for Starting Well / Director of Commissioning. The report set out funding expectations and the proposed developments to address the mental health recommendations in the NHS Long Term Plan.

Members were advised that the NHS Long Term Plan (2019) outlined the government's commitment to improving mental health services, both for adults and children and young people. In adult services, the plan signaled an extension of commitments in the *Five Year Forward View for Mental Health* (5YFVMH) to 2023/24. It aimed to create a more comprehensive service system, particularly for those who were seeking help in crisis, with a single point of access for adults and children and 24/7 support with appropriate responses across NHS 111, ambulance and A&E services.

The Long Term Plan would build on the recommendations from the Five Year Forward View. The Director of Commissioning highlighted programs that would be completed as part of the programs of work delivered at a locality and GM level: -

- Expanding the availability of specialist perinatal mental health services, from preconception to two years after birth, and extending support to their partners if they need it.
- A further expansion in the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme, particularly for people with long-term physical conditions.
- Testing a four-week waiting time target for community mental health teams.
- Developing "a new community-based offer [which] will include access to psychological therapies, improved physical health care, employment support, personalised and trauma-informed care, medicines management and support for self-harm and coexisting substance misuse".
- Building on the current expansion of crisis care, "ensuring the NHS will provide a single point of access and timely, universal mental health crisis care for everyone" (p70) including nationwide use of the NHS 111 line, 24/7 community support, alternatives to admissions (such as crisis houses and sanctuaries) and improved ambulance services.
- Designing a "new Mental Health Safety Improvement Programme" to prevent suicide in inpatient units and offer support for people bereaved by suicide.
- Expand further the availability of employment services using the evidence-based Individual Placement and Support (IPS) approach to help people who have "a personal goal to find and retain employment" by 2023/24
- Improve mental health support in the criminal justice system, including improved continuity of care for people entering or leaving prison, supporting Community Service Treatment Requirements for people who might otherwise get a prison sentence, and providing trauma-informed services for children in the youth justice system
- Provide holistic support to people leaving care and to veterans leaving the Armed Forces
- Scale up and improve mental health support for children, young people and young adults.
- Expansion of community-based crisis services for children and young people.
- One-fifth of schools and colleges to have a mental health support team in place by the end of 2023.
- Feasibility test for a national access and waiting time standard for specialist services.
- Addressing the issue of transitions between child and adult mental health services by creating "a comprehensive offer for 0-25 year olds"

It was explained that the NHS Long Term Plan promised considerable investment to meet the commitments via two routes – Transformation Funding via the STP and allocations within the CCG Baseline. The Tameside and Glossop Strategic Commission had long recognised the importance of mental health and had been committed to improve parity of esteem and redress the balance between physical and mental health. Significant new investment had been committed over the past four years.

However, although investment in MH services had increased, the spend per head of population was low compared to GM, North Region and Nationally. Further, despite the increased investment the overall % of the CCG budget invested in mental health had not increased, due to uplifts in the CCG allocation. In 2019/20 the CCG spend on MH accounted for 11.1% of the total CCG budget.

It was further explained that the CCG Allocation Growth was based on the CCGs 5 year allocations pre COVID. Allocations for 21/22 and beyond had yet to be finalised as CCGs wait further planning guidance which was not due until April 2021.

AGREED

That Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to approve the investment proposals as outlined in section 8 of the report.

240 FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME 2021/2022: STRATEGIC COMMISSION WORKFORCE VACCINATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health / Director of Population Health, which set out the aims, ambition and rationale for a flu vaccination programme for all staff in the Local Authority and CCG workforce.

The Consultant for Public Health reported that front line health and social care workers were at higher risk than most of the population of contracting seasonal influenza (“flu”), due to the number of people they were in contact with through their work and the nature of these contacts. In addition, there was a risk of them transmitting flu to the vulnerable people they care for. Health and social care employers therefore had a duty to offer flu vaccinations to their staff.

It was explained that more broadly, employers had a duty of care to their workforce and can offer them protection against a disease which brings with it a relatively high risk of serious illness and even death. Finally, influenza costs employers millions of working days lost across the UK, many of which could be avoided by the flu vaccine.

It was stated that it was proposed that for the 2021/22 flu season, 100% of all front-line staff employed by the strategic commission should be offered the vaccination, and that as many as possible take up the offer. Further, office-based staff should have the opportunity to take up the flu vaccine, to ensure that staff were protected against flu and to ensure business continuity.

AGREED

That Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to:

- (i) Approve the model proposed in section 7.**
- (ii) Commit to supporting and funding staff employed by the Strategic Commission to receive a vaccination.**
- (iii) Support the offer to schools to access vaccination through this model, as a chargeable service while vaccine is available**

241 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT PERIOD 10

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Finance. The summarised the forecast outturn at 31 March 2021 based on the financial activity to 31 January 2021.

The detail of this monitoring report is focused on the budget and forecast expenditure for fully approved projects in the 2020/21 financial year. It was reported that the approved budget for 2020/21 was £56.338m (after re-profiling approved at P7 monitoring) and current forecast for the financial year was £46.410m. There were additional schemes that had been identified as a priority for the Council, and, where available, capital resource had been earmarked against these schemes, which would be added to the Capital Programme and future detailed monitoring reports once satisfactory business cases had been approved by Executive Cabinet.

The current forecast was for service areas to have spent £46.410m on capital investment in 2020/21, which was £9.928m less than the current capital budget for the year. This variation was spread across a number of areas, and was made up of a number of over/underspends on a number of specific schemes (£0.318m) less the re-profiling of expenditure in some other areas (£9.610m).

Detailed capital update reports for each Directorate area are included on the agenda of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel (SPCMP). This report provides a summary of the financial position against the overall programme but further details on scheme delivery can be found in the Directorate reports to SPCMP.

AGREED

That Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel be recommended to note the Capital Programme 2020/21 forecast and recommend to Executive Cabinet the approval of the re-profiling of capital budgets as set out in Appendix 1.

242 CAPITAL PROGRAMME - OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods. The report provided information with regards to the 2020/21 Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme.

The Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods highlighted areas within the Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme. It was stated the Highway Maintenance Programmes had been prioritised with the range of delivery contractors. The carriageway and footway resurfacing programmes commenced in August 2020 and ran to mid-December 2020. Work that could not be completed by that date will recommence in early Spring 2021. There was a forecast £0.124m adverse variance on principle road highway works in 2020-21 due to increased costs. This would be resourced by the anticipated 2021-22 Highway Maintenance grant settlement.

The Works to Demesne Drive (No1 & No2 screens) and Halton Street, Hyde had been completed. During Storm Christoph in January 2021, these newly improved inlet structures were monitored and proved to be highly efficient and resilient protecting our communities during the prolonged storm. Further, the engineering works at Fairlea, Denton were complete with only the planting aspect of the landscaping works outstanding.

It was reported that the approved scheme of £260,000 continues to progress with further works planned for Hurst, Mossley and Hyde cemeteries. The total spend on the boundary walls by 31 March 2020 was £135,000 leaving a budget in 2020/21 of £125,000. A further £43,000 had been spent at Dukinfield Cemetery.

In regards to the repairs and restoration of cemetery boundary walls the approved scheme of £260,000 continued to progress with further works planned for Hurst, Mossley and Hyde cemeteries. A further £43,000 had been spent at Dukinfield Cemetery. Funding would now be channelled into the completion of the additional repairs to medium and low priority wall repairs that still remained on the sites at Mossley, Hurst Ashton, where it was expected a further £10,000 - £20,000 would be spent this year.

Works on the replacement of cremators and mercury abatement, filtration plant and heat recovery facilities were scheduled to commence in March 2020. The Covid 19 pandemic affected Bereavement Services across Greater Manchester, therefore, work on site commenced on 2 October 2020. Cremator No 1 had been taken out of service and the crematory was a construction site. A structural survey was carried out on the steeple in November which had highlighted some concerns which were being dealt with by the Strategic Property Directorate. The projected completion and handover date had slipped by a couple of weeks due to the unforeseen circumstances but the project was still on target for completion in September 2021. £683k was forecast to be spent by 31st March 2021 the remainder would be spent during the financial year 2021/2022.

Members were advised of the capital investment of £600,000 in children's playgrounds across Tameside. STAR had sent out an expression of interest and the tender would go live in February which would be the start of Phase 2 of the project. Phase 3, which were the infrastructure improvements, would commence in February 2021.

It was reported that as a result of Covid 19 the Ashton Town Centre Public Realm project was temporarily paused, in line with Government guidance, resulting in a delay in the delivery of the next phase of the public realm works. Work had started on the procurement of materials which would allow works to start on Wellington Road in front of Clarendon College. Due to the impact of COVID on staff resources and the availability and material delivery timescales this programme was delayed and was under constant review. Reviewed delivery timescales would be provided as soon as there was greater clarity on the availability of materials and availability of staff resources.

AGREED

That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel be recommended to NOTE the following:

- (i) Rescheduling to the Tameside Asset Management Plan (TAMP) and the Highways Maintenance Programme. The commencement of the works programme was revised due to Covid 19.**
- (ii) The progress with regards to Flooding: Flood Prevention and Consequential Repairs.**
- (iii) The progress with regard to the Slope Stability Programme and potential additional works required.**
- (iv) The progress with regards to the Cemetery Boundary Walls Programme.**
- (v) The rescheduling to Replacement of Cremators and Mercury Abatement, Filtration Plant and Heat Recovery Facilities Programme by the significant impact Covid 19 has had on the operation of the Crematorium and the suppliers of cremator equipment**
- (vi) The progress of capital schemes in section 2.12-2.24, and external grant schemes in section 3 and 4.**

And recommend to Executive Cabinet :

- (vii) The addition of £0.985m to the Council's 2021/22 Capital programme for the Active Travel Fund Tranche 2 as stated in sections 3.18 to 3.22.**
- (viii) The re-phasing of the Operations and Neighbourhoods directorate 2020/21 capital budgets as set out in Appendix 4.**

243 EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME MARCH 2021

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Executive Member for Finance and Growth / Assistant Director for Education / Assistant Director for Strategic Property. The report detailed the updated position of the Council's Education Capital Programme.

Members were advised that on 15 April 2020, the Government announced the 2021/22 allocation of Basic Need Funding. Following discussion with the DfE over aspects of the formula and its application to Tameside, an allocation of £12,231,816 was announced. In regards to the School Condition Grant Funding the 2019/20 Allocation was £1,153,000. The Assistant Director for

Education summarised the Basic Need Funded Schemes for 2020/21, Appendix 1 provided a financial update of current Basic Need funded projects.

In regards to the School Condition Grant Schemes it was reported that the budget available was insufficient to meet the demands placed upon it and the surveyors had been asked to identify priorities of the works required within each school and across the portfolio of schools. It was stated that Appendix 3 provided a financial update with details of current School Condition Allocation funded projects, which included proposed changes to the scheme funding.

AGREED

That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend the Executive Cabinet to approve:

- (i) Proposed changes to the Education Capital Programme, Basic Need Funding Schemes Appendix 1, Special Provision Fund and Healthy Pupils' Capital Fund as outlined in Appendix 2A and 2B and School Condition Allocation Funding Schemes Appendix 3;**
- (ii) The allocation of an additional £49,000 from Basic Need to cover the additional costs at Discovery Academy and Birch Lane as described in paragraph 4.25;**
- (iii) To re-profile the budget for the works to provide a secure entrance at Denton St Anne's into 2021/22 as described in paragraph 6.8;**
- (iv) The allocation of an additional £11,657 for additional emergency works at Russell Scott Primary School already incurred, (paragraph 6.15);**
- (v) Accept the Sport England Award of £75,000 by the deadline of 31 March 2021 subject to the conditions detailed in paragraphs 6.16 and 6.17;**
- (vi) The allocation of a further £50,000 of 2021/22 School Condition Grant funding towards the two schemes at Gee Cross Holy Trinity (paragraph 6.18);**
- (vii) The allocation of £11,058.04 from currently unallocated School Condition Grant funding in respect of safety works to glass balustrades at three primary schools (paragraph 6.19);**
- (viii) To set aside £300,000 of 2021/22 School Condition Grant for replacement boilers at Gorse Hall, Hurst Knoll CE and Audenshaw Primary Schools noting that if successful, some costs will be reimbursed from the decarbonisation scheme (paragraph 6.30);**
- (ix) The allocation of £29,000 in respect of surveys of CLASP and other system built schools' fire compartmentalisation (paragraph 6.31);**
- (x) The allocation of a high level estimate of £35,000 to remove a life-expired mobile unit at Arlies Primary School in summer 2021 (paragraph 6.33);**
- (xi) The allocation of £30,000 of 2021/22 School Condition Grant for further stock condition surveys (paragraph 6.34);**
- (xii) The allocation of £40,000 of 2021/22 School Condition Grant for asbestos management works (paragraph 6.35); AND**
- (xiii) The allocation of £5,000 of 2021/22 School Condition Grant for structural engineers' fees (paragraph 6.436).**

244 FORWARD PLAN

AGREED

That the forward plan of items for Board be noted.

CHAIR