

EXECUTIVE CABINET
28 April 2021

Commenced: 1.55pm

Terminated: 2.35pm

Present: Councillors Warrington (Chair), Bray, Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Kitchen, Ryan and Wills

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| In Attendance: | Dr Ashwin Ramachandra Dr Asad Ali Steven Pleasant Sandra Stewart Kathy Roe Steph Butterworth Richard Hancock Ian Saxon Jayne Traverse Jeanelle De Gruchy Tom Wilkinson Ian Duncan Sarah Threlfall Ilys Cookson James Mallion Catherine Moseley | Co-Chair, Tameside & Glossop CCG Co-Chair, Tameside & Glossop CCG Chief Executive & Accountable Officer Director of Governance & Pensions Director of Finance Director of Adults Services Director of Children's Services Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods Director of Growth Director of Population Health Assistant Director of Finance Interim Assistant Director of Finance Assistant Director, Policy, Performance and Communication Assistant Director, Exchequer Services Consultant, Public Health Head of Access Services |
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175. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Members.

176. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet meeting held on 24 March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

177. MINUTES OF STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 24 March 2021 be noted.

178. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings of Executive Board held on: 10 and 17 March 2021 be noted.

179. CARBON AND WASTE REDUCTION PANEL

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel held on 17 March 2021 be noted.

180. CONSOLIDATED 2020/21 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 28 FEBRUARY 2021

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / CCG Chair / Director of Finance, which updated Members on the financial position up to 28 February 2021 and forecasts to 31 March 2021.

It was reported that as at Month 11, the Strategic Commission was forecasting a net underspend of £0.204 by 31 March 2021. This was a small overall deterioration on the position reported at month 10 and reflected the reduced surplus on CCG budgets which was previously offsetting a larger overspend on Council Budgets. As further COVID funding continued to be made available to the Council in the final month of the year, this position may improve before the end of the financial year.

It was reported that whilst the overall forecast position remained broadly positive compared to the position earlier in the year, there remained significant variances in some service areas which were not attributed to COVID and which presented ongoing financial risks for future year

RESOLVED:

That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

181. UPDATE ON PROVISION OF SOCIAL WELFARE INFORMATION AND ADVICE AND SPECIALIST EMPLOYMENT ADVICE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Executive Member, Adult Social Care and Health / Clinical Lead, Starting Well / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, explaining that the Council had a contract with Citizens Advice Tameside for many years to deliver generalist social welfare advice and specialist employment advice.

It was explained that the contract was last reviewed in 2018 when a waiver to standing orders was granted to allow the direct award of a three-year contract to Citizens Advice Tameside. The current contract ended on 31 March 2021. A report was presented to Strategic Commissioning Board on 25 November 2020, which gave approval to tender the service for a 3 year period to commence 1 April 2021. It had taken longer than envisaged to get to a position of being tender ready and this was due in part to the current climate during the Covid-19 pandemic, but this had been further exacerbated by the nature of the contract and the fact that this was the first time the service has been tendered.

The report outlines the current position with the tender process and requests additional time by way of a 6 month direct contract award to Citizens Advice to allow a competitive tender process to take place for the remaining 2.5 year contract period. This would cover the period 1 October 2021 – 31 March 2024. The overall total contract spend would be for a 3 year period as previously agreed at SCB on 25 November 2020. Additionally, approval was sought to allow a 1 plus 1 year optional extension in the contract noting that further governance would need to be obtained before any such extension could be exercised.

Members were advised that permission had previously been afforded to the Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods by way of delegated authority to award the tender and enter into all necessary contract arrangements. Further approval was requested to award the same delegation powers to the Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods for the revised 2.5 year tender exercise for the provision of the contract.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the current situation with the tender process and the difficulties encountered in meeting the tender commencement date of 1 April 2021 be noted;**

- (ii) That approval be granted to directly award a 6 month contract to Citizens Advice to cover the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021 to allow a competitive tender process to take place;
- (iii) That approval be granted to tender the provision of generalist social welfare information and advice and specialist employment advice for a period of 2.5 years;
- (iv) That approval be granted to allow a 1 plus 1 year optional extension in the contract noting that further governance would need to be obtained before any such extension could be exercised; and
- (v) That authority be delegated to the Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods to award the tender and enter into all necessary contract arrangements.

182. SECTION 31 LOCAL AUTHORITY GRANT FOR ADDITIONAL DRUG TREATMENT, CRIME AND HARM REDUCTION ACTIVITY 2021/22

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member. Adult Social Care and Health / Clinical Lead / Director of Population Health, providing background information on the Section 31 Local Authority Grant for additional drug treatment and harm reduction activity and outlined the proposed approach to the commissioning and delivery of the Universal Component of this Grant in Tameside with a value of £406,000 for 2021/22.

It was explained that the GM Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2019-2022 set out a vision to make Greater Manchester a place where everyone could have the best start in life, live well and age well, safe from the harms caused by drugs and alcohol:

The strategy identified six priorities for making things better:

- Prevention and early intervention;
- Reducing drug and alcohol related harm;
- Building recovery in communities;
- Reducing drug and alcohol related crime and disorder;
- Managing availability and accessibility; and
- Establishing diverse, vibrant and safe night-time economies

Tameside was adopting the GM Strategy locally as it was known that substance misuse harm in Tameside was extensive and was an important factor that adversely affected the overall quality of life and perpetuated inequalities.

Due to the scale of the challenge posed by drug and alcohol use in Tameside, and following an independent peer review around substance misuse in late 2018, the Council had developed a local Strategic Substance Misuse Partnership with senior leaders from the local authority, CCG, ICFT, police and voluntary sector. This partnership oversees the local work programme with: specialist treatment services, hospital alcohol liaison service, therapeutic residential supported housing, motivational programmes in community and residential settings, proactive work with licensing colleagues to reduce harms of alcohol availability across the community, the Alcohol Exposed Pregnancies work programme, and dedicated work around the hidden harm to children.

Specialist treatment services in Tameside were commissioned as an all-age integrated substance misuse service. This was currently provided by Change Grow Live, My Recovery Tameside (CGL MRT) and this had been in place since August 2015.

Members were advised that the government had announced £80 million for drug treatment as part of a £148 million funding package for reducing crime. This was the biggest increase in drug treatment funding for 15 years. This was additional to the local authorities core allocation for substance misuse treatment services as part of the public health grant and was funding for 1 year specifically to enhance drug treatment, focused on reducing drug-related crime and stopping the rise of drug-related deaths.

This overall drug treatment crime and harm reduction activity funding package would consist of three separate components:

1. **Universal** – available to all LAs except for those selected to be Accelerator areas. These grants would account for the majority of the £80m.
2. **Accelerator** – available to a small number of local authority areas as an extension of Project ADDER (see further information below). These local authorities would receive larger grants. This would be alongside Home Office funding for targeted enforcement activity by the police and the targeting of recovery support resources and interventions, such as employment support and criminal justice system interventions, by other government departments. It was noted that the specific areas had been selected based on specific needs and Tameside was not one of the areas selected for this element of the programme
3. **Inpatient** – all areas would be able to benefit from grants awarded to regional or sub-regional consortia of LAs for commissioning inpatient detoxification beds. Tameside would benefit from a GM-wide allocation to increase inpatient detox capacity which was currently being developed.

It was reported that Tameside had been awarded a Section 31 Local Authority Grant totalling £406,000 for commissioning and delivery of the Universal Component of the Drug Treatment, Crime & Harm Reduction Grant for 2021/22. This was one-off funding for the 2021/22 financial year only. Brief details of the areas of work the funding would be utilised for were included in the report and a full cost breakdown was also provided in an appendix to the report.

Members sought assurances that appropriate advice from STAR was obtained to ensure that the procurement of the service was achieved compliantly.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to award the allocation of £406,000 for delivery of the drug treatment crime and harm reduction activity 2021/22 through the Section 31 Local Authority Grant provision, as outlined in the report. That approval be given to commission CGL My Recovery Tameside to deliver the drug treatment, crime and harm reduction package of interventions aligned to the Universal component of the Section 31 Local Authority Grant award.

183. TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF A SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Adult Social Care and health / Clinical Lead/ Director of Population Health, outlining the proposed approach to the re-commissioning of Sexual & Reproductive Health services in Tameside with an annual budget of £1,274,924.

It was reported that Tameside had seen increasing demands in recent years for sexual health advice, contraception, testing and treatment and at the same time continued to have relatively high rates of under-18 conceptions; abortions; and STI diagnoses.

Tameside MBC was responsible for commissioning open access sexual and reproductive health services to be available within the borough, which was a mandated function (Health & Social Care Act 2012). Ensuring the delivery of high quality, accessible services for residents was key to improving the wide-ranging health outcomes linked to sexual & reproductive health. Tameside continued to have a relatively low level of investment per head of population on sexual health services compared to similar areas.

The report put forward the evidence of the impact that sexual & reproductive health interventions had on population health outcomes. It also provided value for money and cost benchmarking analyses to make the case for ongoing investment in sexual & reproductive health services, which would return longer-term savings. Therefore, the report sought permission to go out to tender, and award for a longer-term contract to work up a developmental, neighbourhood-centred model of

delivery with the provider to achieve a step-change in supporting good sexual wellbeing across Tameside over the next 5-years and beyond.

The report sought authorisation to tender the service for a new contract to start on 1 April 2022. The total contract value over the five year period was £6,374,620. The Council would co-commission this service with Stockport MBC, who would act as the lead commissioner via a legally binding Inter-authority Agreement and work was underway with STAR procurement to re-tender the service. There was also an additional element of grant funding for the PrEP HIV prevention drug for which there was an allocation of £68,320 for in 2021/22.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given to tender the Sexual & Reproductive Health Service to commence 1 April 2022 for a five year period, plus the option of a five year extension, dependent on a formal review of the service in year 4 (2025/26) to ensure adequate performance and outcomes achieved and the necessary approval granted to proceed as demonstrates vfm. The contract term will include a termination period of six months;**
- (ii) That approval be given to award the contract following the completion of a compliant tender exercise, subject to compliance with the Council's Procurement Standing Orders;**
- (iii) That approval be given to enter into an Inter-authority Agreement, as advised by STAR procurement, with Stockport MBC; and**
- (iv) That approval be given to award a grant for provision of the PrEP HIV prevention treatment during 2021/22 and in future years when this grant will be allocated within the wider public health grant allocation.**

184. CIPFA FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CODE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Finance, which gave details of the new CIPFA Financial Management code and provided an assessment of the Council's current levels of compliance and any areas for further development and improvement.

It was reported that the first year of compliance for the FM Code was 2021/22 however CIPFA had recognised the extraordinary burden being placed on Local Authorities since the beginning of the COVID pandemic. In a statement issued on 11 February 2021 a proportionate approach was encouraged, meaning that in practice adherence to some parts of the Code would demonstrate a direction of travel rather than full compliance from 1 April 2021.

It was explained that the FM Code established an approach based on six principles of good financial management, supported by 17 standards for compliance, and was therefore not intended to be prescriptive. The six principles covered:

- 1. Organisational Leadership** Demonstrating a clear strategic direction based on a vision in which financial management is embedded into organisational culture.
- 2. Accountability** Based on medium term financial planning, driving the annual budget process, supported by effective risk management, quality supporting data and whole life costs.
- 3. Transparency** At the core of financial management, using consistent, meaningful and understandable data, reported frequently, with evidence of periodic officer action and elected member decision making.
- 4. Professional Standards** Promoted by the leadership team, with adherence evidenced.
- 5. Assurance** Recognised as an effective tool, mainstreamed into financial management, including political scrutiny and the results of both external audit, internal audit and inspection.
- 6. Long-Term Sustainability** At the heart of all local services' financial management processes, evidenced by the prudent use of public resources.

The FM Code translated the principles of good financial management into a series of standards. These standards addressed the aspects of the Council's operations and activities that must function effectively if financial management was to be undertaken robustly and financial sustainability was to be achieved.

Members were advised that an assessment of compliance with the standards in the FM code had been undertaken and was summarised in Appendix 1 to the report. This assessment concluded that the Council was compliant with minimum standards set out in the FM Code but identified some areas for further improvement over the course of the next 12 months.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted and the improvement actions identified in the self-assessment against the Code requirements, be endorsed.

185. SELF ISOLATION PAYMENTS – DISCRETIONARY POLICY AMENDMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth, detailing the additional funding made available from central government in respect of discretionary self-isolation payments, the expansion of the discretionary policy and the inclusion of parents or guardians of children who had to self-isolate with effect from 8 March 2021. It also detailed the latest mandatory grants payable to businesses to support them in re-opening safely.

It was explained that self-isolation payments commenced in September 2020 for people on low incomes who needed to self-isolate, and were unable to work from home. The scheme was due to end at 31 March 2021 and the government had since extended the self-isolation payment scheme until the end of June 2021.

As at 31 March 2021, 684 people had been paid under the mandatory scheme totalling £342k, and 178 in the discretionary scheme totalling £89k. The mandatory scheme was fully funded by central government, whereas the discretionary scheme was subject to local policy being developed within the funding provided by government. Additional monies had been granted by the government in respect of the discretionary scheme totalling £340,365.87.

The scope of the discretionary scheme may be extended, subject to approval, in line with other Greater Manchester discretionary policies, to remove the eligibility criteria regarding having property costs and a Council Tax liability and to include parents or guardians of children having to self-isolate from 08 March 2021, subject to eligibility criteria being met.

In respect of Restart Grants, it was reported that further monies were available from central government via Restart Grants aimed at supporting businesses in relevant business sectors of non-essential retail, hospitality, leisure, personal care and gym businesses to open safely amid the easing of COVID restrictions.

Payment of a one-off lump sum was dependent on rateable value and business sector. The cost of the Restart Grants would be met in full by government by way of a Section 31 grant and new burdens funding would be available. The scheme was to operate from 1 April 2021 and application closure date was 30 June 2021 with final payments having to be made by 31 July 2021.

Government guidance was prescriptive on the information required from businesses to satisfy eligibility checks, and weekly payments recording and post payment assurance was reported to BEIS. A robust process was in place, which was compliant with government guidance and approved by internal audit.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the amendment to the discretionary self-isolation eligibility criteria as detailed in Section 2.9 of the report, be approved;**

- (ii) That the inclusion in the scheme of parents or guardians of children who have to self-isolate be noted; and
- (iii) That the payment of Restart Grants to eligible businesses in accordance with government guidance, be noted.

186. HOMELESSNESS COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Housing, Planning and Employment / Assistant director, Operations and Neighbourhoods detailing Homelessness commissioning intentions for 2021/22. The report set out specific details on service developments that would allow the Council to meet its obligations to deliver a holistic and integrated response to preventing homelessness and increasing the resilience of vulnerable people.

It was explained that the Council's Homelessness Service utilised a range of services to support those who were homeless or at risk of homelessness in the Borough. The service had undergone considerable transformation over the last 2 years and used a broad range of different approaches in order to fulfil the aims of the Council's Preventing Homelessness Strategy.

In 2018, Tameside Council was successful in its bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for additional resources to provide new services to prevent and relieve rough sleeping. The funding enabled the Council to develop and review delivery in order to meet the continued demands on services.

The Covid-19 pandemic had also had an impact on both commissioners and providers and services had responded flexibly in making adjustments to deliver Covid-19 safe services. The rapid response to the pandemic had allowed the service to explore the learning and best practice from the crisis to adopt as part of the service review. Additionally, the pandemic also brought some unknowns – specifically the impact on homelessness once the moratorium on evictions had been lifted. The Authority could potentially be facing a significant increase in the number of people and families presenting as homeless from April 2021 onwards and it was important that appropriate contracts were in place to support those in the most need.

Members were advised that the Homelessness service had a range of contracts which enabled the delivery of services to support the homelessness agenda within the borough. The service review had identified those contracts that were due to end and therefore required a decision in terms of future delivery. The service was seeking authorisation to develop, procure and extend those contracts identified as follows:

- Contract for Short Term Accommodation and Support;
- Contract for Accommodation Based Service for People With Alcohol & Substance Misuse Problems/ Provision of a 5 Bed Complex Needs Service for Rough Sleepers/ Contract for Accommodation Based Service for Young People and Care Leavers; and
- Contract for the provision of a Tenancy Support and Compliance Service for Offenders subject to MAPPA and PPO/ Contract for the Provision of a Floating Support and Activities Service for People at Risk of Social Exclusion.

Details of the contracts and proposals going forward, were provided in the report.

In seeking to move towards the proposals as outlined, the commissioners would be seeking to carry out a consultation exercise with the findings and recommendations included in service delivery specifications going forward. Permission was also being sought to carry out a period of public consultation in respect of the changes, to ensure specifically, that the views of service users were taken into account. The proposed public consultation questions appended to the report.

RESOLVED

Subject to public consultation in respect of the proposed changes to service delivery, that the following interim arrangements be approved in principle:

- (i) Development of a short term accommodation model from current contractual arrangements to an enhanced housing benefit model;
- (ii) Tender for a framework to support call off arrangements for specialist accommodation services outside of the enhanced housing benefit model;
- (iii) Enter into a contract for the provision of a Tenancy Support and Compliance Service for Offenders subject to MAPPA and PPO where there is no provision in the contract to do so to 30 September 2023; and
- (iv) Enter into a contract with preferred provider following the tenders, subject to compliance with the Council's Procurement Standing Orders, to provide a floating support and activities service for people at risk of social exclusion where there is no provision in the contract to do so to 30 September 2022.

187. LEVELLING UP BIDS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth providing an update on the recently announced national Levelling Up Fund (the Fund).

It was explained that there was an expectation that all bidding authorities consult local Members of Parliament (MP's) and that an MP would back one bid which they saw as a priority. There was also an expectation that local authorities submitting multiple bids spread these fairly and equitably within the authority boundary and across their full range of constituencies targeting pockets of deprivation.

The report outlined a list of potential focus for bids across the three constituencies that had been discussed and agreed with the local MP's. It also considered the round of bidding and process.

Following initial discussions with the relevant MPs it had been agreed that for the constituency of Ashton-under-Lyne a bid to the Fund should be progressed focused on Ashton Town Centre, and for the constituency of Stalybridge & Hyde a bid to the Fund will be progressed for Stalybridge Town Centre. For the constituency Denton & Reddish it is understood that the focus of the bid would be Reddish, promoted by Stockport MBC.

The report further outlined the proposed process for the appointment of specialist external consultancy to support submission of competitive bids to the Fund by Tameside MBC.

RESOLVED

- (i) That bids for Ashton Town Centre and Stalybridge Town Centre be prepared for submission and referred back for consideration prior to bid submission date of 18 June 2021;
- (ii) That the procurement and appointment of specialist external support through STAR to assist in the preparation and submission of two bids for submission into the Levelling Up Fund, be agreed;
- (iii) That a budget of up to £0.100m be approved, to appoint the aforementioned external support and this budget is approved for all professional fees and costs associated with the preparation and submission of two bids to the Levelling Up Fund. It is proposed that this budget is financed via the residual balance of Covid grant funding received by the Council from the Government in 2020/21 that will be carried forward to 2021/22; and
- (iv) It be agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and associated Terms of Reference be entered into with the owners of the Arcades and Ladysmith Shopping Centres in Ashton Town Centre and establish a Working Group with them to progress proposals for a Levelling Up Fund bid.

188. ST PETERSFIELD FUTURE – COMMISSIONING OF DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

The Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth submitted a report, which provided information on the next steps in the programme for the redevelopment of St Petersfield in Ashton-under-Lyne.

It was explained that St Petersfield was the Boroughs flagship office location at the West End of Ashton Town Centre. It was a key gateway into the town centre and produced footfall to support the current retail offer in Ashton.

The St. Petersfield Masterplan (2018) identified 7 key office development plots, which if delivered would total almost 29,000 square metres of office space, with the capacity to create 1,900 jobs, generating an estimated £1.75m of business rates income at 2018 valuations, and with a GVA of £100m for the borough.

However, since the 2018 Masterplan, the country's economy and working arrangements had changed as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak. People had adapted by working from home rather than commuting to the office and have become more reliant on digital infrastructure. There was speculation as to whether the change in working arrangements would be temporary or would be longer term. Some businesses had already announced they would downsize their physical office space as developments in technology had allowed for efficient home working.

As a result of these changes, it was recommended that the Council appoints a Consultant to undertake a study reviewing the deliverability of Grade A office development at St Petersfield. This study should focus on potential demand for office space in the short and long term and identify a quantum that was deliverable within these timescales.

With the economy currently in an unpredictable state it was appropriate to consider the delivery options for each development parcel considering short- and long-term possibilities. Possible delivery options for the different parcels were outlined in the report. Procuring a Delivery Options Report was recommended to inform decision making as it would highlight the strengths, weaknesses and risk of potential options by an industry expert.

St. Petersfield had several visions for its future laid out since development of the area stalled with the financial crash of 2007/8. Reviews of the initial masterplan were undertaken in 2011 and 2013, with the use of more space in the area for residential proposed.

In 2018, responding to the initial success of the Ashton Old Baths (AOB) redevelopment, the developing demand in the Manchester office market for Grade A space, and the Council's emerging economic strategy, Tameside Council engaged Ryder's Architecture to review the 2013 St. Petersfield Masterplan. Their brief was to produce a vision for the area which would appeal to the city region's fast-growing Digital, Creative and Tech Sector, utilising the borough's newly installed dark fibre network as its underpinning.

Despite the success of AOB, and a hub of digital businesses to the north of Hyde town centre, Tameside is currently underperforming in terms of representation of this sector. Less than 2,000 digital and creative employees were currently based in the borough.

Members were advised that, to complement and advance work undertaken to date on St Petersfield the Council had secured Evergreen Grant Funding of £0.127m to part fund a development prospectus and feasibility works to bring the St Petersfield development to the market. The Grant would be match funded by an additional £0.127m via the Growth Directorate revenue budget (table 1, Section 8 of the report refers) and would be used to fund the tasks detailed in the report. The delivery of the tasks would, in part, bring more certainty to St Petersfield and lead to a more holistic delivery of the development area. Indicative costs for completing the proposed work were provided in the report.

Further details were also given in respect of an estimated revenue sum of £0.020m required in order to carry out interim maintenance of the public realm to the St Petersfield area.

Summary details of the available funding for St Petersfield, including commitments against the funding allocation, were also provided.

RESOLVED

- (i) That consultants be appointed to undertake a study reviewing the deliverability of office development in the area considering both short- and long-term delivery;**
- (ii) That, following the review above, a consultant be appointed to undertake a Delivery Options Report for each Parcel;**
- (iii) That a multidisciplinary team be procured to prepare a Development Prospectus to cover the St Petersfield masterplan area and deliver other tasks associated with the Evergreen Fund;**
- (iv) That the budget sum of £0.127m be approved to finance recommendations 1 to 3 above, which is to be funded via a total available budget of £ 0.327m as set out in table 1 section 8.1 of the report. The £0.127m is to be financed in equal proportions via the Growth Directorate revenue budget and Evergreen grant funding (£0.0635m via each funding source);**
- (v) That the carry forward of £0.200m of Council funding allocated to the Growth Directorate revenue budget in 2020/21 to 2021/22 via Council reserves for the development of St Petersfield as stated in section 8.1, table 1 of the report, be approved. This sum is within the total available budget of £ 0.327m; and**
- (vi) That interim revenue funding (£0.020m) be approved via the aforementioned £0.200m budget in 2021/22 to finance the works stated in section 7 to the public realm in the St Petersfield area whilst a detailed report is prepared considering future management and maintenance arrangements.**

189. AUDENSHAW SCHOOL CONVERSION WORKS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth, explaining that Audenshaw High School increased its published admission number through the statutory consultation process with effect from September 2021, from an intake of 210 to 240 per year and also agreed to take 240 pupils from September 2020. The growth in demand for high school places, was as a result of increased birth rates in the local area and across Tameside.

It was reported that the school was able to accommodate the additional pupils admitted in September 2020 using surplus accommodation, following of the closure of its sixth form provision in June 2018. The sixth form block was therefore refurbished in August 2020, as part of Phase 1 of the expansion works. However, as the block was designed for smaller sixth form groups, three rooms remained undersized and could not accommodate standard sized class groups. Structural internal modelling was required to provide ten standard sized classrooms for general teaching. In addition, there was a requirement to remodel three spaces in the science block to create two additional science laboratories and a new food technology room to enable the increase in pupils to access sufficient facilities for the increased numbers.

The project represented good value for money by remodelling and repurposing existing rooms in the school rather than constructing brand new accommodation. The Executive Cabinet approved a budget of £1,311,000 for the project at its meeting on 29 July 2020.

This report sought permission to enter into a Design and Build Contract with inspired spaces Tameside Limited (LEP) to deliver the project and also enter in a joint Deed of Appointment with the LEP and Currie and Brown who would be the Independent Certifier, for the project.

An executive summary of the independent value for money report required before entering into any contract with the LEP was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED

That the following be approved:

- (i) A Design and Build contract is entered into with the LEP, to deliver the Audenshaw High School Expansion project in the sum of £1,067,161 to remodel the former sixth form block to create ten standard, general teaching rooms and also remodel existing rooms in the science block to create two brand new science laboratories and a new food technology room on the basis of the following:**
 - **The price is inclusive of any cost increases which may be due to Covid 19;**
 - **Design works procured through the Tameside Additional Services contract (TAS) are included in warranties provided by the LEP under the Design and Build Contract, to ensure that the Council is adequately protected ; and**
 - **Liability of the LEP is capped at ten times the value of the works**
- (ii) To enter into Deed of Appointment with the LEP to procure the services of Currie and Brown to fulfil the role of Independent Certifier for the contract in the additional sum of £8,550.**
- (iii) To approve a virement between the unallocated basic need budget and this project for a further £62,448.**

190. URGENT ITEMS

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

191. CHAIR'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair announced that this was the last Executive Cabinet meeting of Tom Wilkinson, Assistant Director of Finance, who was leaving the Authority at the end of the month. On behalf of Members, the Chair thanked Mr Wilkinson for all his hard work and commitment and wished him well for his future endeavours.

CHAIR