

## **BOARD**

**14 April 2021**

**Present:**                      **Elected Members      Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Cooney  
Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Kitchen Ryan and Wills  
Chief Executive          Steven Pleasant  
Borough Solicitor      Sandra Stewart  
Deputy Section          Tom Wilkinson  
151 Officer**

**Also in Attendance:**      **Dr Asad Ali, Ilys Cookson, Jeanelle de Gruchy Richard Hancock, Alison  
Lloyd-Walsh, James Mallion, Catherine Moseley, Elaine Richardson Ian  
Saxon, Jayne Traverse, Sarah Threlfall Sandra Whitehead.**

**Apologies for Absence      Councillor Bray and Dr Ashwin Ramachandra**

### **248      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **249      MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

#### **AGREED:**

**That the minutes of the meetings of Board held on 10 and 17 March 2021 be approved as a correct record.**

### **250      MONTH 11 FINANCE REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member of Finance and Economic Growth / Lead Clinical GP / Director of Finance, which detailed the eleventh financial monitoring report for the 2020/21 financial year reflecting actual expenditure to 28 February 2021 and forecasts to 31 March 2021.

As at Month 11, the Strategic Commission was forecasting a net overspend of £0.204m 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 could improve further by the end of the financial year.

Whilst the overall forecast position was looking broadly positive when 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 years.

#### **AGREED**

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

### **251      2021/22 SAVINGS MONITORING UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member of Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Finance, which provided an update on the savings monitoring exercise for delivery. Members were advised that if savings of £8.930m were delivered in 2021/22 and a further £4.921m of savings delivered in 2022/23, the Council still faced a forecast budget gap of more than £14m in 2022/23. It was therefore important that the Council embarked on early forward planning for 2022/23 and beyond. In order to meet the challenges of the 2022/23 financial year it was vital that all the proposed savings for 2021/22 were delivered.

It was reported that 13 schemes remain rated as 'RED' with significant risks to delivery. One scheme rated red last month had moved to Amber and one scheme rated Amber moved to red. The value of savings rated red had increased from £0.651m to £0.693m. 20 schemes were rated 'Amber' with some risks to delivery. This was ten fewer schemes than last month as 11 schemes had moved to green and 1 scheme moved from red to amber. The value of savings rated amber had reduced from £3.786m to £2.697m

It was further reported that 43 schemes were rated 'Green' on track for delivery as planned, an increase of ten schemes from last month. The value of schemes rated green had increased from £4.493m to £5.541m. Savings for 2022/23 remained at risk with £5.181m still rated 'RED' and £4.149m rated 'Amber'. This included £4.068m of digital transformation savings rated 'red' where significant further work and capacity was required to enable delivery.

## **AGREED**

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

## **252 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.

## **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the content of the report and the improvement actions identified in the self-assessment against the Code requirements, be endorsed.**

## **253 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.

### **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve:**

- (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.**

## **254 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.

#### **AGREED**

**That the Executive Cabinet be recommend 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.**

## **255      LEVELLING UP BIDS**

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

Members were advised that As part of the March 2021 budget, the Government had announced £4.8 billion of 'Levelling Up Funding' ('The Fund') over four years (up to 2024-25), committed to a holistic, place based approach to funding projects and programmes across the country.

The Fund would provide investment in projects that require up to £20m of funding. However, there was scope for the Fund to invest (between £20m and £50m) in larger high value transport projects, by exception.

The first round of the Fund will be open for bids until Friday 18 June 2021 and these would need to be submitted to MHCLG by this date. Decisions on projects supported by the Fund were expected by autumn 2021.

Funding was requested to cover external/professional/Due diligence (DD) costs associated with preparing two green book submissions. The costs were associated with that of putting together detailed comprehensive bids and that of further due diligence costs that would be required in parallel to the submission itself and for purposes of the bid and other requirements as needed such as independent assessment of costs, valuations, and detailed cash-flow and financial profiling, investment structure advice and other aspects around delivery and compliance.

### **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:**

- (i) Agree that bids for Ashton Town Centre and Stalybridge Town Centre are prepared for submission and referred back for consideration prior to bid submission date of 18 June 2021.**
- (ii) Agree on 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.**
- (iii) Approve a budget of up to £0.100m 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.**
- (iv) Agree to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and associated Terms of Reference 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.**

## **256      ST PETERSFIELD FUTURE – COMMISSIONING OF DEVELOPMENT REPORTS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth / Assistant Director of Investment, Development and Housing. The report provided the next steps in the programme for the redevelopment of St Petersfield in Ashton Under Lyne.

Members were reminded of the St Petersfield Masterplan which identified 7 key office development plots and subsequent changes as a result of the Corona Virus outbreak. Where people had adapted by working from home rather than commuting to the office

As a result of these changes, it was recommended that the Council appoint 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. Further, with the economy currently in an unpredictable state it would be appropriate to consider the delivery options for each development parcel considering short and long-term possibilities.

Members of the Board were advised that to complement and advance work undertaken to date on St Petersfield the Council has 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.

It was estimated that a revenue sum of £0.020m was required in order to carry out interim maintenance of the public realm to the St Petersfield area. This work was necessary, as currently, there were no arrangements in place to undertake these public realm works. This interim maintenance was to ensure the area was secure, managed, maintained and monitored.

It was requested that £0.200m of Council funding be carried forward to 2021/22 within Council reserves as there had been no expenditure incurred in 2020/21. This would allow the delivery of the scheme as intended when the budget was allowed as part of the 2020/21.

#### **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree to:**

- (i) Appoint consultants to undertake a study reviewing the deliverability of office development in the area considering both short- and long-term delivery.**
- (ii) Following the review above, appoint a consultant to undertake a Delivery Options Report for each Parcel.**
- (iii) Procure a multidisciplinary team to prepare a Development Prospectus to cover the St Petersfield masterplan area and deliver other tasks associated with the Evergreen Fund.**
- (iv) Approve the budget sum of £0.127m to finance recommendations 1 to 3 which is to be funded via a total available budget of £ 0.327m as set out in table 1 section 8.1. 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) Approve 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. This sum is within the total available budget of £ 0.327m.**
- (vi) Approve interim revenue funding (£0.020m) 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**

#### **257 REVIEW OF SCHOOLS PFI CONTRACTS, REFINANCING AND ACADEMISATION PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member of Finance and Economic Growth / Assistant Director of Finance. The report sought to ensure that all necessary due diligence was completed prior to agreeing to any refinancing, contract variations and academy conversions to ensure value for money for Tameside residents and pupils.

It was reported that there were a number of risks that are associated with the conversion of PFI schools to academy status, as the contractual relationship for delivery remained between the Council and the PFI provider, with a pass through of costs to the academy. This additional layer means that the Council could be put at significant risk for poor service delivery and non-payment by the school.

It was stated that there was the opportunity to combine the three issues by aligning a review of the services and elements of the current contract with the refinancing, this will reduce the costs of dealing with lenders and remodelling work, as costs can be defrayed into the refinancing work. This is also timely following guidance from the Treasury on this type of review.

The contractual review would seek to consider how to reshape the arrangements in a way that would minimise risk to the Council, and provide assurance to the Council, and Schools if the decision was to proceed to converting those schools to academy status.

This work can run concurrently with the proposed refinancing as the level of borrowing would remain the same regardless of the service specification outputs of the contract. The proposed PFI refinancing was expected to save a total of £2.6m for the contract over the remaining life to August 2037, with £1.8m of the benefit falling to the Council and Schools.

Due to the technical nature of this review and the complexity of the contracts, it was recommended that the Council engage in a procurement exercise to source external commercial and financial expertise to support the due diligence process in relation to the refinancing, contract review and academisation process.

Further to the due diligence exercise, the Council would consider the PFI refinancing proposals as put forward by Amber Infrastructure Ltd as Managed Service Provider and Shareholder of Inspired Spaces (Tameside) Ltd project company 2.

The cost of the review should be funded from any savings realised from the review process therefore would not cause any further pressures on the Council's financial position and would be met from the PFI reserves.

#### **AGREED**

**That the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth be recommended to agree that:**

- (i) The Council consider the PFI refinancing proposals as put forward by Amber Infrastructure Ltd as Managed Service Provider and Shareholder of Inspired Spaces (Tameside) Ltd project company 2.**
- (ii) The Council engage in procuring external commercial and financial expertise in supporting the due diligence process in relation to the refinancing, contract review and academisation process to enable decisions to be made at a later date.**
- (iii) The cost of the review, due diligence and legal fees should be funded from any savings realised from the review process therefore not causing any further pressures on the Council's financial position and will be met from the PFI reserves.**

#### **258 SEN HOME TO SCHOOL AND VULNERABLE ADULTS TRANSPORT, ADOPTION NEWPURCHASING SYSTEM (DPS) FRAMEWORK CONTRACT (3.00PM)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Population Health. The report sought authorisation to allow the new DPS Framework to be used and to enter into contract arrangements with the successful bidders for mini competitions to provide SEN and Vulnerable Adults transport on the Council's behalf.

The Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods explained that the Council's current framework contract for the supply of all its external transport provision for Education (SEN), Social Care and Health and Adult Services, expired October 2020. The contract was operating under a 12-month extension period, which would expire October 2021.

In partnership with the Council's procurement partners STAR and Trafford, Rochdale and Stockport Councils, the service took part in a joint tendering exercise to implement a new joint Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) Framework Contract for the provision of SEN Home to School and Adult

Services Transport. This new framework would allow the Council to legally procure its SEN and Adult Services transport needs for the 6 year period 2020 to 2026. This DPS would operate on a 4+1+1 basis that was an initial 4 years followed by two 1 year extensions.

This would be achieved through mini competitions for routes/contracts run through the DPS framework, with a view to obtaining savings. It was estimated that the Council will expend approximately £25.898m on providing statutory SEN and Adult Services transport over the 6 year period. This value was provided as a guide and was not a fixed contractual commitment over this period.

It was estimated that the Council would expend approximately £25.898m on providing statutory SEN and Adult Services transport over the 6 year period. This value was provided as a guide and was not a fixed contractual commitment over this period.

**AGREED:**

**That the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Population Health be recommend to determine that authorisation is granted to enter into the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) Framework Contract as provided for by STAR, for the provision of SEN Home to School and Adult Services Transport.**

**259 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.

**AGREED:**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the following:**

- (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) A virement between the unallocated basic need budget and this project for a further £62,448.

## **260 ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT MONEY AWARDED FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION FUND**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Growth / Assistant Director of Strategic Property. The report detailed the award, grant conditions of the public sector decarbonisation fund and the building which would utilise the funding.

Members were advised that the Council were required to formally agree to monies being awarded via grant schemes to be utilised for the identified purpose of the award. An agreement in principle to accept the award was agreed at Executive Cabinet on the 16 December 2020.

The grant bid and scheme had been coordinated by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the grant award had been made from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) via SALIX Finance acting as the auditing body. The grant award had been made directly to GMCA on behalf of 13 organisations. The Council was required to enter into a contract with GMCA to draw down the grant funding to Tameside.

The funding would be utilised to install measures in the buildings across Tameside's asset portfolio. The delivery of design works and installation of measures would be undertaken via the Council's arrangement with the LEP, Robertson and the associated supply chain utilising the Tameside Additional Services Contract (TAS).

### **AGREED:**

**That the Executive Member for Finance and Growth be recommended to determine that:**

- (i) The Council agree to accept the funding valuing £2,238,604 from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (PSDS) award to be utilised for the identified purpose of the award.
- (ii) That the Council agree to entering into a contract with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for the purposes of disbursement of funding in relation to the PSDS award.
- (iii) That the confirmed grant funding value and related decarbonisation scheme is included within the Council's approved capital programme.
- (iv) That the Council agrees that the delivery of design works and installation of measures will be undertaken via the Council's procurement and contractual arrangements with the LEP, Robertson and the associated supply chain utilising the Tameside Additional Services Contract (TAS).
- (v) That the Council notes that the Grant award notification is 8 weeks later than programmed but the end date for spend remains the 30 September 2021.

## **261 UPDATE ON PROVISION OF GENERALIST 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. 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 outlined 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.

#### **AGREED:**

**That the Strategic Commissioning Board and Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree:**

- (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.**

## **262 URGENT AND EMERGENCY CARE BY APPOINTMENT**

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Adult Social Care and Health / CCG Co-Chair / Urgent Care Lead / Director of Commissioning, providing an update on the development of Urgent and Emergency Care by Appointment in Tameside and Glossop.

It was stated that Five Year Forward View in 2014 recognised that urgent and emergency services needed to integrate more. The Next Steps on the Five Year Forward view in 2017 then described the achievements delivered so far and those expected for 2017/18 and 2018/19. These changes were the basis for a seamless transfer of care for individuals from their point of entry to their treatment.

The Next Steps also set out the expectations that every hospital must have comprehensive front-door clinical streaming by October 2017 and that systems would implement standardised new Urgent Treatment Centres (UTC). These two elements working together would ensure ED/A&E departments were free to care for the sickest patients, and other people would receive care in a more appropriate place with advance booking in UTCs.

The Covid-19 pandemic brought about a change in the way that people accessed healthcare with fewer people self-presenting at EDs and more people utilising NHS 111. Whilst there were some concerns that people who needed help may not be seeking it, there were also benefits as more people

could be supported without the need to attend ED or an UTC and those that did need to attend could be managed more safely with reduced congestion in waiting rooms.

Members were informed that, in January 2020, prior to the current COVID 19 Crisis, the GM UEC Improvement & Transformation Board approved a high-level Urgent Care by Appointment model as a refreshed priority for UEC integration. The aim was that by April 2022 the model would reduce across GM: Ambulance attendances by 100 per day and ED walk in attendances by 300 per day.

It was reported that Tameside and Glossop recognised the opportunity to reduce attendances at ED and admissions in 2015 and developed several services as part of the Care Together programme that would not only reduce illness but also manage urgent care out of hospital, in particular Digital Health and the Integrated Urgent Care Team (IUCT). The Tameside and Glossop Locality plan, 'A Place-Based Approach to Better Prosperity, Health and Wellbeing' set out the vision for people who needed urgent care. With a key expectation by 2022 that the most appropriate person within primary care would assess people with an urgent care need on the same day. With either, a treatment plan agreed to manage the immediate need within that service or a safe transfer made to the care of another neighbourhood-based service.

Following a public consultation a more integrated Urgent Care Service was commissioned in 2018 that comprised the Primary Care Access Service (PCAS) and the UTC and that together delivered improved access to Primary Care based Urgent Care enabling people to book appointments for same day care as well as retaining the ability to 'walk in'.

These services along with existing ED front door streaming, Ambulatory Care (Same Day Emergency Care) and the developing Acute Frailty Services positioned Tameside and Glossop strongly when the Covid-19 pandemic focused attention on how systems manage Urgent and Emergency Care.

The report concluded that Tameside and Glossop had been able to respond to the national and GM expectation around UEC by Appointment by building on the services already in place. Whilst too early to be assured that there was a positive impact on ED there was evidence that people were able to be supported without the need to attend any service and it was possible to direct people to services that better met their needs. It was expected that over time the services and pathways would develop further to increase the opportunities to ensure people received prompt and effective Urgent and Emergency Care as close to home as possible.

#### **AGREED:**

**That the report be noted.**

### **263 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.

#### **AGREED:**

**That the Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to give approval 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.**

## **264 TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF A SEXUAL & 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.

### **AGREED**

**That the Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to give approval to the following:**

- (i) 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) Award the contract following the completion of a compliant tender exercise , subject to compliance with the Council's Procurement Standing Orders;**
- (iii) Enter into an Inter-authority Agreement, as advised by STAR procurement, with Stockport MBC; and**
- (iv) 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.**

## **265 FORWARD PLAN**

### **AGREED**

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

**CHAIR**