

## BOARD

7 July 2021

**Present:**            **Elected Members**            **Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Bray, Cooney Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Kitchen, Ryan and Wills**  
                         **Borough Solicitor**            **Sandra Stewart**  
                         **Director of Finance**            **Kathy Roe**  
                         **Section 151 Officer**

**Also in Attendance:**    **Caroline Barlow, Stephanie Butterworth, Jeanelle de Gruchy, Ian Duncan, Richard Hancock, James Mallion, Catherine Moseley, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Ian Saxon, Jayne Traverse, and Debbie Watson**

### 42        **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 43        **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Board meeting on the 9 June 2021 were approved as a correct record.

### 44        **PLACES FOR EVERYONE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Employment / Director of Growth / Interim Assistant Director of Planning. The report sought approval to publish the Places for Everyone (PfE) Publication Plan 2021 and recommended that Full Council approve the submission of PfE to the Secretary of State following the period of public consultation. The report also sought delegation to make minor or non-material amendments to the plan and background documents prior to publication for consultation and recommended the publication of an updated Local Development Scheme (LDS).

Members were reminded that in 2014 the Council resolved to work collaboratively with those in Greater Manchester to prepare jointly a strategic planning document for the city region, the GMSF. It was stated that while recent decisions meant this was now a joint plan of nine boroughs, Places for Everyone 2021 was considered to have substantially the same effect as GMSF 2020, as previously presented to Members for consideration. It was proposed, therefore, to proceed to publish the plan at the next consultation stage, which represented a move towards the culmination of the plan making process, prior to submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

The plan, alongside thematic policy content, identified three strategic sites in Tameside for growth and twelve sites for further protection as additions to the designated Green Belt. Alongside this, it also sought to provide the borough with an up to date housing target, the strategic context for the borough's Local Plan and updated development management policies to be used in the determination of planning applications.

#### **AGREED**

**That Council be recommended to:**

- (i) Approve Submission of the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021 to the Secretary of State for independent examination following the period for representations.**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:**

- (ii) Approve Publication of the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021, including strategic site allocations and green belt boundary amendments, and reference to the potential use of compulsory purchase powers to assist with site assembly, and the supporting**

background documents, pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for a period for representations of 8 weeks, commencing no earlier than 9 August 2021.

- (iii) Authorise the Director of Growth, in consultation with the Executive Member (Housing, Planning and Employment), to approve relevant Statement of Common Ground(s) required on this and other planning matters, pursuant to the National Planning Policy Framework 2019; and
- (iv) Approve the updated timetable for the production of the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021, as presented to and agreed by the Joint committee, and Tameside Local Plan by publishing and bringing into effect in accordance with the date of this decision the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) as at Appendix 1.

#### **45 WELCOME BACK FUNDING ALLOCATION**

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 sought approval to sign the Grand Funding Agreement, manage the programme of work and procure in line with criteria and procurement rules, state aid and the council's standing orders items up to but not exceeding the allocation of £200,741.

The Director of Growth advised Members that the Welcome Back Fund (WBF) allocation was designed to follow on and back up the work already carried out under RHSF and help Build Back Better from the pandemic. The funding built on the Reopening High Street Safely Fund (RHSSF) allocated to councils on 1 June 2020. It formed part of wider support government was providing to communities and businesses with the aim of protecting jobs, supporting the most vulnerable businesses and people in the community.

The WBF would enable the Council to put in place additional measures to create and promote a safe environment for local trade and tourism, particularly in high streets as their economies reopened and began to welcome back visitors. The impact of Covid-19 on the local economy had been significant and the fund could therefore be used for the Council to develop action plans for responding to these impacts.

A Grant Activity Plan (GAP) would be required which would enable the CLGU to sense check the work for eligibility and gave CLGU an idea of the type of activities, from the draft action plans, that would be undertaken. The main aim was to ensure eligibility of the expenditure submitted in subsequent grant claims. The GAP would be used to form the amended Grant Funding Agreement.

#### **AGREED**

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

- (i) **The Draft Grant Action Plan at Appendix 1.**
- (ii) **Any necessary funding variances on the activity detailed in the Draft Grant Action Plan (Appendix 1), within the funding envelope of £0.201m (together with any remaining balance of the £0.210m Reopening the High Street Safely Funding), to ensure all the funding is spent by 31 March 2022.**
- (iii) **In principle entering into the grant funding agreement subject to the necessary due diligence being undertaken in advance.**
- (iv) **Entering into the necessary contracts to deliver the works detailed in the Draft Grant Action Plan (Appendix 1).**
- (v) **That it is agreed expenditure on some projects will initially be funded from 2021/22 Operations & Neighbourhoods revenue budget and retrospectively claimed via the grant once the Grant Funding Agreement is signed.**
- (vi) **That delivery against the grant funding obligations/milestones is reflected in the monthly financial reporting arrangements.**

#### **46 FORMER HATTERSLEY DISTRICT CENTRE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth. The report proposed the disposal of Council owned land in Hattersley to Onwards Homes Ltd to facilitate a wider development scheme.

The Director of Growth explained that the report proposed the disposal of Council owned land in Hattersley to Onward Homes Ltd for the purpose of a wider development scheme. Onward Homes owned adjoining land which would be included in the development. The disposal would enable Onward to develop the site via £28m of external funding.

It was stated that the overall scheme would be unviable without the inclusion of the Council land. Supporting the proposals would generate much needed inward investment to this area of the community.

It was further explained that the purchase price would be £1 (one pound); with a separate overage provision of £350,000 benefitting the Council, in the event of future disposals of properties identified within the overall development.

#### **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to dispose of its freehold interest in the land areas shaded green and blue on the attached drawing 18-012/02 (Appendix 1) for £1, subject to an Overage provision in favour of the Council of £350,000.**

#### **47 PROPOSALS FOR THE USE OF THE RING-FENCED GRANT TO HELP THOSE WITH OBESITY TO LOSE WEIGHT**

Consideration was given to report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Population Health / Clinical Lead for Long Term Conditions / Assistant Director of Population Health. The report outlined the proposals to spend the £209,741 provided to Tameside council as part of the Government's Adult Weight Management Tier 2 services grant fund 2021/22. The report also provided information on a recent bid to expand weight management services for children and families.

It was reported that the investment was one-off funding in the financial year 2021/22. Following advice received from STAR procurement, it was proposed that the Be Well tier 2 service expansion be delivered via a contract variation with Pennine Care NHS Trust. Further, it was proposed that Active Tameside should be awarded a grant to expand the tier 2 Live Active provision, this was allowed within the terms of the grant.

It was explained that Be Well Tameside provided the current self-referral tier 2 weight management service. The grant funding would be used to increase the 1:1 support they provided for people in the community.

The Assistant Director of Population Health reported that based on the grant criteria, Tameside Council had submitted an application of £153,468 to support healthy weight in children and families via extended brief intervention and Tier 2 weight management services.

#### **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet and Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to approve the proposals outlined in the report.**

#### **48 SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE CONTRACT NOVATION TO CGL SERVICES LTD**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Population Health / Clinical Lead / Consultant in Public Health / Director of Population Health. The report provided

background information on the borough's substance misuse service, provided by Change Grow Live (CGL), and the proposal to novate the existing contract from CGL to CGL Service Ltd, part of the same organisation.

It was stated that the proposal was to novate the contract held with Change Grow Live (CGL) to its wholly owned, non-charitable, trading subsidiary, Change Grow Live Services Ltd (CGL Services). This would mean that CGL Services was then able to charge VAT on all supplies and charges. This would include the contract they held with the council, resulting in approx. £613k annual VAT charged, but this would be fully recoverable by the council, and therefore cost neutral to Tameside MBC. CGL Services would need to pay HMRC VAT they charged but would also be able to reclaim VAT charged by their suppliers, resulting in a financial benefit of approx. £50k pa. This would allow CGL to divert all the reclaimed funds into the service contract and focus spend on areas that improved service delivery and met demands, rather than paying unnecessary VAT.

It was explained that this process would ensure the best use of the public funds allocated to CGL for frontline service delivery. In considering this approach to meet the financial challenges facing CGL, and ensuring the most effective use of public funds, we had sought advice from VAT experts (LAVAT), finance team and Legal team throughout this process.

It was further explained that the amount of VAT to be reclaimed would be variable, however based upon the service invoice amount and ongoing use of supplies, the financial benefit was estimated at around £50,000 per annum. These savings would only be realisable within the duration of the existing contract.

#### **AGREED**

**That the Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to approve that the contract for Drug and Alcohol treatment 'My Recovery Tameside' from CGL to CGL services Limited be novated.**

## **49 HOUSING DELIVERY TEST ACTION PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Employment / Director of Growth / Interim Assistant Director of Planning. The report sought approval for the publication of the 2021 Housing Delivery Test Action Plan.

The purpose of this Housing Delivery Test (HDT) Action Plan was to build upon the previous iteration, identify proactive mechanisms and ways to support the boosting of housing delivery in the borough to help meet the identified requirement. As housing delivery had fallen short of the 95% threshold the need to prepare the action plan had arisen.

It was reported that the requirement of the Housing Delivery Test measurement over the period (2017/18 - 2019/20) was 1,801 net additional homes, as published by government. Over the same period, 1,607 net additional homes were delivered, or 89% of the HDT requirement. This was a continual positive increase in delivery from previous HDT measurement results where delivery met 66% and 75% of the identified requirement.

It was stated that for the purposes of decision taking, an 89% test outcome no longer required the application of a 20% buffer when calculating the Borough's five year land supply position. And although housing delivery was not substantially below the requirement over the previous three years the presumption in favour of sustainable development would continue to apply, as a five year supply of deliverable housing sites could not currently be demonstrated.

The HDT Action Plan continued to support a number of other Council priorities, this included the preparation of an updated Housing Strategy and Inclusive Growth Strategy. Furthermore, the HDT Action Plan provided evidence, alongside the Brownfield Land Register, to support bids to bring

forward such sites and progress their delivery. A full set of potential actions to support housing delivery were detailed in part 3 of the HDT Action Plan over the short, medium and long term.

#### **AGREED**

**That the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Employment / Director of Growth be recommended to approve the publication of the 2021 Housing Delivery Test Action Plan.**

### **50 ALDER HIGH SCHOOL: REAR STEPS AND COVERED WALKWAY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Assistant Director of Strategic Property. The report sought approval for Contract Variation Notices for the works at Alder High Schools

Members were advised that the works at Alder High School formed part of the Council's Basic Need Funding programme. The aim of the programme was to ensure that the Council was able to meet its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and provide schools with sufficient facilities to increase pupil intake and meet the education needs of the Authority. Phase 1 of the works were carried out in 2018-19. Phase 2 of the scheme involved the addition of a four-classroom teaching block of modular construction which was carried out in 2019-20. Further, a new external dining pod along with some external canopies to create more space for pupils to eat outside were provided during 2020-21.

It was reported that at the start of 2020-21 financial year £1,058,000 of the approved budget remained. £189,535 was spent during 2020-21 on the pod and canopies leaving a revised available budget of £868,465 for the remaining works. It was explained that there remained three associated items with these previous schemes yet to be completed. These were

- (a) The addition of a covered walkway,
- (b) The upgrading of the external steps at the rear of the school; and
- (c) The creation of a new secure entrance at the front of the school.

The Head of Access Services reported that the creation of a new secure entrance would be considered as a separate report as the tenders had not been received in time to be included in the report.

The alterations proposed would generate additional revenue costs for soft facilities management costs and some lifecycle costs. These costs would be funded by revenue through the PFI affordability model which schools made annual contributions to.

#### **AGREED**

**That the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage and Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth be recommended to approve the following:**

- (i) **the Assistant Director Strategic Property, to sign off Contract Variation Notices in the sum of £253,926 referred to in Table 1, paragraph 4.1 of the report in order to deliver a covered walkway and works to the rear steps and entrance at Alder High School under the variation procedure set out in the PFI Project Agreement on the basis set out in the report.**
- (ii) **the Assistant Director Strategic Property to sign off Contract Variation Notices in the sum of £2,124 referred to in Table 2, paragraph 4.2 in respect of annual lifecycle and facility management charges. The facility management and lifecycle costs will be funded by revenue through the PFI affordability model.**
- (iii) **Any spend against the remaining budget would be monitored through the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel.**

## 51 COVID LOCAL SUPPORT GRANT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Assistant Director for Policy, Performance and Communications. The report detailed the approach for the Covid Local Support Grant Allocated to Tameside Council of £841,990.21.

It was reported that the extended COVID Local Support Grant (CLSG) scheme would see funding to County Councils and Unitary Authorities (including Metropolitan Council's and London Boroughs), to support those most in need across England with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other associated costs. As such the additional funding from government would enable the council to provide support to families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals up to the period ending 30 September 2021.

It was explained that it was for each individual local authority to determine eligibility in their area and target support within the scope of the following overarching conditions laid out by the Department for Work and Pensions.

The report proposed that the funding be allocated on the same basis as the previous scheme. To allocate funding to the provision of vouchers for major supermarkets to pay for food for key cohorts this included all children attending schools in Tameside who were eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), all sixth form and college students eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) or bursaries, all children aged 2, 3 and 4 years of age and entitled to free child care, and all care leavers.

Members were advised that the extended funding from the government was not sufficient to replicate the £15 per week of the previous scheme. As such this scheme would receive top up funding from Covid money provided to the Authority to support those impacted by Covid (Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) and Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Funding (CEV)) to provide vouchers to the value of £90 for the summer period to 30 September 2021 for all children in the eligible cohorts.

### **AGREED**

**That the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage be recommended to approve the following:**

- (i) The COVID Local Support Grant (CLSG) be spent on supporting vulnerable families and individuals primarily through the use of 'Free School Meal vouchers' for supermarkets for the summer holiday period.**
- (ii) A voucher scheme for children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) is established. This scheme will enable children eligible for free school meals to receive a one off £90 food voucher for the summer period. To enable this the Council will use Contain Outbreak Management and Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Funding to 'top up' the scheme with an additional £30 per head.**
- (iii) That this voucher scheme is extended out to care leavers (to a value of £90).**
- (iv) That this voucher scheme is extended to under 5s in low income families and entitled to free child care (to a value of £90).**
- (v) That this scheme is further extended to low income sixth form and college students (to a value to £90). Administration of grants to students via the colleges will be formalised by letter to the colleges containing any appropriate conditions in relation to the administration of the grants on behalf of the council and in line with the previous scheme.**
- (vi) Any families who are not eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) but are in need of support to contact the Early Help Access Point (EHAP) for help, support and advice.**
- (vii) To work with the following supermarkets to distribute vouchers: Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrison's and Asda.**

## 52 FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan of items for Board was considered.

**CHAIR**