

BOARD

14 July 2021

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

Also in Attendance: Tim Bowman, Stephanie Butterworth, Ilys Cookson, , Jeanelle de Gruchy,
Ian Duncan, Richard Hancock, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Ian Saxon, Jayne
Traverse, Debbie Watson, and Sandra Whitehead.

53 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Member	Subject Matter	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest
Councillor Gwynne	Agenda Item 4m: FOSTER CARER OFFER	Prejudicial	Special Guardianship

54 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Board meeting on the 10 July 2021 were approved as a correct record.

55 2021/22 INTEGRATED FINANCE REPORT MONTH 2

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Lead Clinical GP / Director of Finance. The report covered the Month 2 2021/22 financial position, reflecting actual expenditure to 31 May 2021.

It was reported that at Period 2, the Council was forecasting an overspend against budget of £5.8m. Children's Services were still the biggest area of financial concern, with expenditure forecast to exceed budget by £4.717m. The overspend was predominantly due to the number and cost of external placements. There was also a pressure of £198k in the Growth Directorate, resulting from a shortfall in customer and client receipts. A pressure of £891k had been reported for Operations and Neighbourhoods due to a combination of additional costs and non-recovery of income, including an income shortfall on car parks.

It was stated that CCG was reporting an overspend of £194k, this related to reimbursable Covid expenses for which a future allocation should be received. A financial envelope for the first 6 months of the year had been agreed at a Greater Manchester level, from which the CCG had been allocated £221.3m of resource. It was not yet clear what the financial regime would look like in the second half of the year. As such it was difficult to estimate what the full year allocation would ultimately become.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet and Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to:

- (i) Note the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1.
- (ii) Approve the indicative 2021-22 Integrated Commissioning Fund and agree the roll forward of the existing Section 75 Agreement and Financial Framework which has been to reflect the transition year of the CCG.

- (iii) **To note the recent notifications of Education Capital Grants and approve the inclusion of the amounts set out in paragraph 4.1 on the Capital Programme for the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23.**

56 SAVINGS DELIVERY 2021/22

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

Members were reminded 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 be delivered.

It was stated that progress on the delivery of proposed savings as part of the 2021/22 budget process was being monitored on a monthly basis, with a proportion of schemes reviewed in detail at different points during the year. Members were advised that Appendix 1 and 2 provided further detail on the current status of savings to be delivered during 2021.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet note the progress report and risk areas for delivery in 2021/22 and future years savings.

57 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Finance. The report sought approval of the updated Council's Financial Regulations and Procedures.

Members were advised that the revised format was intended to allow easy navigation of the regulations so that quick reference could be made and so that the reader could fully understand the importance and reason for the regulations in safeguarding the finances of the Council. This should be particularly helpful to new officers to the Council. The Financial Regulations and Procedures covered all areas of the financial management of the Council's affair. The updated Financial Regulations were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the updated Financial Regulations and Procedures and refer them to Full Council for formal adoption.

58 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2022-2023

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Assistant Director for Exchequer Services. The report detailed the procedural requirement in deciding if changes were required to the Council Tax Support scheme (CTS).

Members were reminded that additional monies were made available to all Local Authorities by MHCLG in April 2020 in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. The additional monies had to be used primarily on reducing CTS claimants Council Tax liability by £150 for the 2020/2021 financial year with remaining monies supporting Council Tax payers suffering hardship. In total £2m assisted 12,691 all working age CTS claimants and £344k supported non-CTS claimants with a Council Tax liability.

Further additional monies had been made available in the current financial year by MHCLG in respect of COVID and which could be used towards Council Tax Support for 2021/22. The total monies for Tameside were £2.025m. Unlike last year there was no clear stipulation on how this money had to be used however, guidance stated that the money was aimed directly at supporting councils to meet the anticipated additional costs of providing Local Council Tax support in 2021-22, resulting from increased unemployment”.

Members were advised that caseloads fluctuated throughout the year and on a daily basis and last year a total of 12,691 claimants of CTS at some point in the year benefitted from the reduction. The report detailed matters that had to be taken into consideration in terms of how the grant monies could be best used in the context of a potential shortfall on the Council Tax collection fund at the end of the year.

It was explained that there was a need to balance the needs of those already claiming CTS and managing to pay and those who were just above the CTS threshold and in financial difficulty. There was generally less overall cost to the Councils budget to support such claimants by the award a one off Section 13a Hardship Policy payment than to claim CTS longer term.

The report detailed 2 options to be considered:

- Option A considered using 75% of £2.025m to support residents and 25% into budget
- Option B considered using 50% of £2.025m and 50% in the budget

The Assistant Director of Exchequer Services presented the Board with the preferred options which struck a balance between benefitting existing and new Council Tax Support claimants and those just above the threshold and were experiencing significant financial hardship and unable to pay Council Tax.

- Option A Proposal 3, 75% of the £2.025m would be allocated for Council Tax Support claimants and the financially vulnerable. There would be £75 for each CTS claimant at an estimated cost of 951k. It was estimated that this proposal would leave £567k remaining for further new claims and hardship cases.
- Option B Proposal 2, 50% of the £2.025m for Council Tax Support claimants and the financially vulnerable. There would be £50 for each CTS claimant at an estimated cost of £634k. It was estimated that £3678k would remain for further new claims and hardship cases.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree that:

- (i) The Council Tax Support scheme for 2022/23 in principle remains the same scheme as that set effective from April 2019, subject to annual benefit uprating as detailed in the scheme and any further guidance which may be issued by MCHLG.**
- (ii) The Local Council Tax Support grant monies for 2021/22 should be used as set out at the preferred variation of Option B as detailed at section 3.13 of the report.**

59 PERFORMANCE SCORECARDS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Co-chairs of T&G CCG / Director of Governance and Pensions / Assistant Director for Policy Performance and Communications. The report detailed two corporate scorecards which, provided evidence to demonstrate progress towards the achievement of the Corporate Plan and improving the services provided to residents, businesses and key stakeholders within the locality.

It was stated that the Corporate Plan outcomes scorecard attached at Appendix 1, followed the structure of the Corporate Plan, and contained indicators focused on long term outcomes across the plan's priorities. The scorecard had been reviewed and a number of additional measures related to the Covid-19 pandemic had been included; the new measures acted as proxy indicators for some of those issues related to the pandemic which would take significantly longer to be

reflected in the other, longer term measures. Further, the corporate health scorecard attached at appendix 2, contained a range of measures for tracking the short to medium term health and activity of the organisation.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree that the two scorecards attached are reported on a regular basis to the Overview Panel, the two Scrutiny Panels and the Strategic Commissioning Board / Executive Cabinet.

60 ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / T&G and CCG Co-chairs / Assistant Director for Policy, Performance and Communications. The report provided an update on the delivery of engagement and consultation activity in 2020/21,.

It was stated that much of the Engagement work had been undertaken jointly, coordinated through the Tameside and Glossop Partnership Engagement Network (PEN) – by NHS Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group, Tameside Council and Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust. Each of the three agencies undertook work individually where necessary and appropriate for the purposes of specific projects. The Assistant Director for Policy and Communications highlighted the key headlines from June 2020 to date:

- Facilitated 32 thematic Tameside and/or Glossop engagement projects
- Received 4,186 engagement contacts (excluding attendance at virtual events)
- Supported 27 engagement projects at the regional and Greater Manchester level
- Promoted 33 national consultations where the topic was of relevance to and/or could have an impact on Tameside and/or Glossop
- Established the Community Champions Network to provide residents and workforces with the coronavirus information they need to lead the way in their community, with over 250 members now registered
- Established the Tameside & Glossop Inequalities Reference Group in response to how the coronavirus pandemic, and the wider governmental and societal response to this, has brought equalities (and indeed inequalities) into sharp focus
- Delivered two virtual Partnership Engagement Network (PEN) conferences attended by over 150 delegates in total
- Delivered four virtual Partnership Engagement Network sessions focusing on the impact of COVID-19 and how we can build back better. These were attended by over 50 participants.
- Held a virtual engagement session with young people to understand the impact of the pandemic on them and how they feel things can be done differently in the future.
- Undertook the third joint budget conversation exercise for Tameside Council and NHS Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group
- Achieved 'Green Star' top rating for public and patient engagement as part of the CCG Improvement and Assessment Framework (IAF). Tameside and Glossop CCG attained the highest score possible, one of only 40 out of 195 areas in the country to do so *

AGREED

That the Strategic Commissioning Board and Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the contents of the report and support future engagement and consultation activity with the communities of Tameside and Glossop.

61 GM CLEAN AIR FINAL PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods. The report set out the proposed Greater Manchester Final Clean Air Plan and policy following a review of all of the

information gathered through the GM CAP consultation and wider data, evidence and modelling work which is to be agreed by the ten Greater Manchester local authorities.

It was stated that the proposed final GM CAP policy, which was summarised in the report, was attached at Appendix 1. In relation to the Clean Air Zone (CAZ), it covered the operation and management of the GM CAZ. The anticipated implementation date of the charging CAZ was Monday 30 May 2022 when the charges would apply to non-compliant buses, HGVs, and Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles licensed outside of Greater Manchester. Non-compliant LGVs, minibuses and coaches, and GM-licensed Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles would be subject to the charges from 1 June 2023 when a temporary exemption expired.

It was explained that feedback from the consultation and consideration of the impact of COVID-19 on Greater Manchester had been used to better understand the requirements of those businesses, individuals and organisations who most needed the support to upgrade. It was therefore proposed to amend the support funds from those consulted upon. The final proposed policy increased the funding per vehicle for Private Hire Vehicles, coaches, HGVs and vans whilst remaining the same for other vehicle types. There were also more options for replacement and retrofit for hackney carriages, PHVs, minibuses and vans.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- 1. Note the progress of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan;**
- 2. Note the progress in the distribution of Bus Retrofit funding;**
- 3. Note Ministers' agreement to include the sections of the A628/A57 in Tameside which form part of the Strategic Road Network within the Greater Manchester's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) and their request for Tameside MBC, TfGM and Highways England to establish the most appropriate solution for the charging mechanism to be applied on this section of the Strategic Road Network (SRN);**
- 4. Approve the GM Clean Air Plan Policy, at Appendix 1 noting that the policy outlines the boundary, discounts, exemptions, daily charges of the Clean Air Zone as well as the financial support packages offered towards upgrading to a compliant vehicle, including the eligibility criteria to be applied.**
- 5. Agree the Equalities Impact Assessment, as set out at Appendix 2;**
- 6. Agree the AECOM Consultation Report, as set out at Appendix 3;**
- 7. Agree the proposed Response to the Consultation at Appendix 4 which has been prepared by TfGM on behalf of the ten GM local authorities;**
- 8. Agree the Impacts of COVID-19 Report, as set out at Appendix 5;**
- 9. Agree the Modelling report of the final CAP package, as set out at Appendix 6, and in particular that the modelling outputs of the final plan scheme show the achievement of compliance with the legal limits for Nitrogen Dioxide in the shortest possible time and by 2024 at the latest as required by the Ministerial Direction;**
- 10. Agree the economic implications of the CAP Report, as set out at Appendix 7;**
- 11. Note the update on the GM Minimum Licensing Standards, set out in section 3.1, and in particular that licensing conditions will not be used to support delivery of the GM Clean Air Plan;**
- 12. Approve a 6-week public consultation on the inclusion of motorhomes classified as MSP1 in the GM Clean Air Zone and on the inclusion of the A575 and A580 at Worsley commencing on 1 September 2021 and delegate authority to the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) to approve the consultation materials;**
- 13. Note that the GM Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee has the authority to make the Charging Scheme Order which establishes the GM Charging Scheme in line with the agreed GM Clean Air Plan Policy;**
- 14. Note that the GM Charging Authorities Committee has the authority to vary the Charging Scheme Order if this is established as the most appropriate charging mechanism to be applied on sections of the A628/A57 part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in Tameside;**

15. **Note that the Air Quality Administration Committee has the authority to agree the final form of the Operational Agreement for the Central Clean Air Service, and to authorise the making of the Agreement, on behalf of the ten GM local authorities;**
16. **Note that the Air Quality Administration Committee has the authority to:**
 - (a) **establish and distribute the funds set out in the agreed GM Clean Air Plan policy;**
 - (b) **approve the assessment mechanism agreed with JAQU to ensure that Clean Air Funds can be adapted if necessary;**
 - (c) **keep the use of the funds under review and to determine any changes in the amounts allocated to each and their use and**
 - (d) **Monitor and evaluate the joint local charging scheme.**
17. **Approve the reallocation of funding from the Try Before You Buy scheme to provide additional electric vehicle charging points dedicated for use by taxis;**
18. **Delegate to the GM Charging Authorities Committee the authority to determine the outcome of the consultation on both the inclusion of motorhomes classified as MSP1 within the scope of Clean Air Zone charges and on the inclusion in the GM Clean Air Zone of the A575 and A580 at Worsley following the conclusion of that consultation;**
19. **Agree the Clean Air Zone ANPR and signage locations, as set out at Appendix 10;**
20. **Agree a delegation to the Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods to approve the submission of the Interim Full Business Case if required and Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) the Full Business Case (FBC) to the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit to support the GM Clean Air Plan and any supplementary information to that Unit .**

62 REVIEW OF WASTE SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods. The report proposed a pilot scheme to evaluate the viability of adjusting the collections frequency of the paper and cardboard and co-mingled recycling bins from two weekly to three weekly. The report provided a detailed plan of the pilot scheme and corresponding consultation process and to seek approval for its commencement.

The Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods advised Members that the pilot areas had been chosen as they will provide invaluable information due to the varied housing stock, illustrative of the borough, and varied population demographics. Residents would be engaged in the process by way of a public consultation and by the services following a detailed Communications Plan.

It was explained that both the operational results from the pilot areas and the feedback from the consultation process would be evaluated to inform the suitability of a wider rollout of the scheme. A further report detailing these findings would be presented for the consideration of Members at a later date.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) **Approve the chosen areas for the pilot scheme as detailed in section 2. The collections frequency of the paper and cardboard (blue) and co-mingled (black) recycling bins in these areas will be adjusted from two weekly to three weekly collections for a duration of 12 weeks. The impact and viability of the trial will then be reviewed.**
- (ii) **Note that a future report evaluating the pilot scheme's suitability for a wider rollout across the borough will be presented to Members at a later date.**
- (iii) **Approve the commencement of a consultation process that will run in parallel with the 12 week trial pilot period; to review the wider Waste Services offer to residents, via the Waste Policy and Enforcement Strategy, which includes the charging for all wheeled bins and the potential collection frequency change for blue and black bins across the borough.**

63 PERMANENTLY EXCLUDED YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF NEET

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Director of Education. The report explained the exacerbated risk of a cohort of young people becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and set out the proposed support programme developed by Education, Growth and Policy.

The Director of Education advised Members that Young people in Alternative Provision (AP) to mainstream education were often at higher risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). The impact of COVID and lockdown periods on attendance had exacerbated this risk. As at May 2021 12.2% of Tameside young people aged 16-24 years were claiming out of work benefit, according to the Office of National Statistics, this shows an increase of 7.2% from April 2018 and highlighted the significant impact of the pandemic. This was above the Northwest average of 9.4% and national rate of 8.3%.

It was explained that a group of 46 young people both with a Social Worker and on roll in AP had been highlighted as presenting a significantly high risk due to poor/non attendance, 22 of these young people are Looked After Children. It was further explained that 25 of these young people were in Year 11 presenting a short time period to engage and move into education, apprenticeship or employment.

The Director of Education stated that Funding was needed to create the support programme for the 25 identified young people in Year 11 at risk of NEET. Members were advised that whilst not all would have employment as their preferred route this was costed at the maximum to ensure all were able to access this route should they wish to do so. Remaining funding could be utilised to support other young people including a focus on the Leaving Care cohort. Total funding requested was £285,880 to allow National Living Wage (NLW), based on previous YES placements for 16-24 year olds the average payment per 6 month period was £6,000 which could create an underspend of £58,500 or the opportunity to create additional job roles for other NEET or at risk of NEET young people

AGREED

- (i) That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve a Budget allocation of a maximum of £285,880 from the COVID budget to support this programme;**
- (ii) That Members note that this initial project would act as a proof of concept for future support to those young people who had been permanently excluded from mainstream education. Further reports would be prepared for Cabinet to measure the success to date and consider the longer-term proposals following the timetable shown.**

64 STALYBRIDGE CIVIC HALL ROOF REPLACEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director for Growth / Assistant Director for Strategic Property. This report provided an update on the status of the Stalybridge Civic Hall Roof project and sought approval for an additional budget of £1,138,721.

Members were advised that following inspection of the site by Robertson surveyors and specialist contractors, a number of additional items had been identified and added to the scope of works and were subsequently included in Robertson's indicative price. This included replacement of existing roof lights/ windows, replacement of the roof access and fall arrest systems which had deteriorated beyond safe reuse, and new cast iron guttering to two of the external slopes.

Inclusive of the revised scope, the indicative price now stood at £1,697,671, Appendix 1 detailed a breakdown of the indicative price. It was explained that following approval the Council would instruct the LEP to commence design and tendering work, confirm a programme and to submit a

request for Listed Building Consent. An Executive Decision Notice would then be prepared for approval to enter into a contract.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve an additional budget of £1,138,721 to be allocated to the Stalybridge Civic Hall roof replacement project (Stalybridge High Street Heritage Action Zone scheme) and added to the approved capital programme.

65 AMENDMENTS TO SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY CONTROLLED SCHOOLS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Director of Children's Services. The report detailed the determination following a referral to the School Adjudicator and the implications for the school admission arrangements for community and voluntary schools.

Members were reminded that the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools were determined on an annual basis and the Executive Cabinet last considered them at the January 2021 meeting for admission in September 2022. Subsequent to that meeting and following school budget planning, the Council was approached by Buckton Vale Primary School who were making plans to avoid a potential budget deficit that was being projected for future years due to falling numbers coming into the school.

It was explained that in order to address the issue of a potential future funding gap, the school requested that the published admission number be reduced to 30 from September 2022. This was supported to avoid the potential for significant budget deficit in future years.

Members were advised that as part of the process of considering the proposal, the School Adjudicator reviewed the council's guidance in relation to schools admissions and raised a number of issues, set out in this report for the council to address to ensure that its admission arrangements were as clear as possible as required under the School Admission Code.

The amendments proposed in this report were intended to address those issues to ensure that the process is as clear as it can be for those seeking admission for children. It also ensures that the council has confidence in its processes which were fair and robust against potential challenge.

It was reported that the Department for Education has notified admission authorities that there would be a new School Admissions Code from September 2021 subject to parliamentary approval. All admission authorities were required to amend their admission arrangements to comply with the new mandatory elements of the Code. The report set out the amendments that had been made to the in-year transfer section of the admission arrangements.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the admission arrangements for Tameside primary, junior and secondary community and voluntary controlled schools be amended as set out in Appendices 2, 3 and 4

66 SEND CAPACITY RECOVERY PROPOSAL

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Education Tameside and Stockport. The report provided an overview of the demands on Tameside's Statutory Assessment team and a request for additional capacity, to mitigate the risks this posed.

Members were advised that Tameside maintained 1780 Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The number of plans maintained had been rising steadily since 2017. The number of EHCPs in Tameside had more than doubled since 2017, when the Local Authority maintained 828 plans. Tameside was now in line with statistical neighbours. The Director of Education explained that it would be confidently concluded that the growth in EHCP's was appropriate and necessary. However, increased and continuing growth in this area could present a significant financial risk to the authority

It was explained that whilst a short term investment would not provide a sustainable long term solution, it would address the most pressing immediate issues of statutory compliance and increasing costs. A long term solution to these capacity challenges would be investigated as part of the transformation and collaboration work with Stockport MBC. This was proposed as it would afford time to ensure that opportunities for economies of scale are maximised and to assess the actual level of future demand, as recent intelligence shows us that requests for new assessments are slowing down. By 2023-4 it was projected that the number of assessment requests would have dropped significantly, allowing more capacity within the team to manage and respond to other demands.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet note the capacity challenges currently experienced by the SEND team are noted and agree the proposal to make a short term investment to support increased staffing at an estimated cost of the proposal is £280,091, to be funded by the Education Reserve.

At this juncture, Councillor Gwynne left the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, having declared a prejudicial interest as a Kinship Carer, and took no part in the discussion nor decision thereon.

67 FOSTER CARERS OFFER UPDATE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Assistant Director for Children's Services. The report provided a detailed review of the Foster Carer Offer that was a commissioned piece of work as part of the 7 Looked after Children sustainability projects.

The Director of Children's Services advised Members that in house foster care was widely recognised to provide the best option for the majority of children who required care from their Local Authority. It enabled children to remain local to their family, friends, home community and services such as schools and health and represented by far the best value for money, at significantly less than half the cost per placement when compared to independent (private) fostering providers.

It was explained that unfortunately over recent years the fostering service had not been given the attention that is required in order to grow its size or maintain or improve its performance and as a result the proportion of the cared for children who were placed with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs) had grown disproportionately and is now at close to 50%. The ambition of this investment proposal, which sat alongside an ambitious three year recruitment strategy, was to make it more attractive to become an in-house foster carer for Tameside Council, helping to ensure that children were able to be placed with local foster carers wherever possible by initially stabilising the fostering cohort and then to expand. To do nothing, would most likely lead to further reductions in capacity and an increased reliance on IFAs, children being more often placed out of Borough and the associated increased costs of both.

It was stated that it had to be recognised though that the Council were operating in an increasingly difficult context in terms of recruiting and retaining foster carers, as Local Authorities and IFAs competed for a largely finite resource of individuals who wished to foster against a nationally increasing number of children who required these placements. Whilst it was recognised the Council could not compete like for like with independent fostering agencies in terms of fees paid,

there could be better rates when compared to other Local Authorities and to compete with IFAs for those families who wanted to foster locally but for whom the difference in rates currently made it unaffordable. The ambition was to eventually realign the figures from a 50/50 split figures to the optimum provision of 85% in-house fostering placement capacity.

The Director of Children's Services reported that a financial uplift in level 2 skills payments of £30 per week per child would shift Tameside into the top half of GM median entry level skill payments to approved foster carers and to Increase Level 3 skill payments by 10% (£15 per week per child). This would also apply to the existing foster carers giving a much better chance of retaining those carers. The estimated costs of this uplift alongside a number of other improvements foster carers had told us would make Tameside a more attractive recruiter, the proposed investment for the revised fostering offer is £686,072. It was highlighted that in order to cover the increased costs of in house fostering allowances a transfer of 27 children from the Independent Fostering Agencies into in-house fostering care would cover the increased costs represented in this proposal, or 3 children from residential care into in-house fostering at the average cost.

Members were advised that there would also be a corresponding increase in payments to Special Guardianship Order (Special Guardianship) carers as a result of the Councils non-detriment policy, for foster carers who converted to Special Guardianship carer's. This was estimated to be £475,800. Therefore the total cost of this initiative was £1,161,872. The cost in the current year was recommended to be financed from the central contingency provision.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree:

- (i) That the proposals for the foster carer offer are approved for consultation as set out in the report.**
- (ii) That prior to any final decision being made as to the Foster Care Offer an implementation delivery plan will be presented to Cabinet together with the consultation feedback and an equality impact assessment.**
- (iii) The cost in the current year is financed from the central contingency provision.**

68 DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM IN T&G

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care & Population Health / Co Chair for T&G CCG / Director of Commissioning. The report articulated the work programme, which was underway to deliver the required changes in T&G in response the development of local NHS Integrated Care Systems.

The Director of Commissioning explained that the next stage of the transformation would be the response to the recent White Paper "Integration and Innovation – working together to improve H&SC for all" which set out legislative proposals for changes to the health and care system including a duty to collaborate across the NHS, social care and public health systems. The report detailed the initial response to the White Paper and outlined the work programme at this early stage, for the development of local NHS Integrate Care Systems.

The report sought approval for the draft terms of reference for the T&G Integrated Care Transition Board attached at Appendix 1. Members were advised that the ICTB was the system-wide accountable group to oversee the transition into the GMICS. This involved building on current locality arrangements to establish a new locality operating model as part of the establishment of a statutory GMICS. The ICTB would take place prior to the Strategic Commissioning Board and would be chaired by the Co-chair of T&G CCG.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet and the Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to note the content of the report and approve the Draft Terms of Reference in the appendix for the

T&G Integrated Care Transition Board. Recognise that this work programme is progressing at pace despite the lack of final legislation and this creates associated risk.

69 PREVENTION AND PROMOTION FUND FOR BETTER MENTAL HEALTH - GRANT FUNDING

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Health, Social Care and Population Health / Director of Population Health / Assistant Director of Population Health. The report outlined the proposals to spend the £317,623.00 provided to Tameside Council as part of the government's 'Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health 2021/22' grant. The proposals were one off schemes due to the non-recurrent nature of the grant from government.

It was reported that on 27 March 2021 the Department of Health and Social Care announced the COVID-19 Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Action Plan for 2021 to 2022 to mitigate and respond to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health. The government announced a Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health of £15 million to be distributed to the most deprived (IMD) upper tier local authorities in England to preventing mental ill health and promoting good mental health. The Prevention and Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health Grant was a one-off contribution for the 2021/22 financial year and was made under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

Members were advised that the report proposed spending £295,000 on five mental health initiatives, plus £20,000 in evaluation costs. The total cost was fully funded by an external grant of £317,623 from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), and there would be no overall budget impact to the Council. £75,000 of the costs would be internal to the Council, with the remainder disbursed to third-sector partners co-ordinated by the CCG.

AGREED

That the Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to approve the spending proposals outlined in the report.

70 TAMESIDE AND GLOSSOP CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING COMMUNITY OFFER – CONTRACT AWARD

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health / Director of Commissioning. The report summarised the progress to date and the outcomes of the process following the awarding of the contract for the Children and Young Peoples Emotional and Wellbeing Community Offer.

Members were reminded the refreshed Tameside and Glossop Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Transformation Plan was approved at the Strategic Commissioning Board in April 2020, with one of the priority being to develop a new co-produced Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Community Offer. The commissioning and procurement approach for the Children and Young People's Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Community Offer was taken through Strategic Commissioning Board (SCB) in September 2020 and an update in January 2021 to outline progress, including the co-designed model, principles and specification.

It was stated that Tameside and Glossop Single Commission had co-produced the new Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Community Offer with children, young people, families and stakeholders since Summer 2020. Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was the lead commissioner with Tameside Council being associate commissioner, as the budget for the Offer were pooled together. The contract awarded would be a 3 +2 year contract at £250,000 per annum. The Offer would be live from 1 December 2021.

AGREED

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

- (i) acknowledge the robust procurement process undertaken and extensive co-production to develop the Offer**
- (ii) approve to the contract award report at appendix 1.**
- (iii) acknowledge the delay in awarding the contract and approves extension of the existing community contracts/grants by 3 months to enable appropriate mobilisation.**

71 FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan of items for Board was considered.

CHAIR