

EXECUTIVE CABINET
25 August 2021

Commenced: 2.05pm

Terminated: 2.30pm

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

In Attendance:	Steven Pleasant	Chief Executive & Accountable Officer
	Sandra Stewart	Director of Governance & Pensions
	Kathy Roe	Director of Finance
	Richard Hancock	Director of Children's Services
	Ian Saxon	Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
	Jeanelle De Gruchy	Director of Population Health
	Jayne Traverse	Director of Growth
	Debbie Watson	Assistant Director of Population Health
	Caroline Barlow	Assistant Director of Finance
	Jordanna Rawlinson	Head of Communications

Apologies for absence: Councillors Feeley and Gwynne
Councillor Ryan – who participated in the meeting virtually

43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Members.

44. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet meeting held on 28 July 2021 be approved as a correct record.

45. MINUTES OF STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 28 July 2021 be noted.

46. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings of Executive Board held on: 14 July 2021 and 4 August 2021, be noted.

47. CONSOLIDATED 2021/22 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 30 JUNE 2021

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Lead Clinical GP / Director of Finance. The report was the second financial monitoring report for the 2021/22 financial year, reflecting actual expenditure to the 30 June 2021 and current forecasts to the 31 March 2022.

Members were advised that at period 3, Council Budgets were facing significant pressures which

were not directly related to the Covid pandemic, with significant forecast overspends in Adults and Children's Social Care being the main contributors to a net forecast overspend of £6.850m. This position was, after taking account of forecast underspends in some areas, and additional Covid related income, in excess of forecast Covid costs. There was an underlying forecast 'Non-COVID' deficit of £8.238m.

It was reported that Children's Social Care and Adults were the greatest areas of concern with forecast overspends of £5.678m (Children's) and £2.234m (Adults). Furthermore, the CCG was reporting an overspend of £519k, which related to reimbursable Covid expenses for which a future allocated increase should be received.

Details were also provided of irrecoverable debts for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021 in an appendix to the report and an additional recommendation was sought for approval to write-off the irrecoverable debts as detailed.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 and detail for Council budgets as set out in Appendix 2 of the report be noted;**
- (ii) That the reserve transfers as set out on pages 27-28 of Appendix 2, be approved; and**
- (iii) That the write off of irrecoverable debts for the period 1 April to 30 June 2021 as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be approved.**

48. DOMESTIC ABUSE ACT FUNDING PROPOSAL

The Executive Member, Adult Social Care and Health / Director of Population Health / Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods submitted a report setting out the commissioning intentions around domestic abuse services in Tameside in light of new funding available this year.

It was explained that TMBC had been awarded a further £547,627 in grant funding to meet new duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This funding must be spent during 2021/22 on 'support within safe accommodation' for victims of domestic abuse and their children and expenditure related with complying with the new duties.

There was no advance notification of the amount the council was due to receive before this financial year and the funding was released under the stipulation that the money would be spent following the statutory domestic abuse needs assessment. Therefore, the funding was not included in the 21/22 budget. The funding was recurrent and the grant determination for future years would follow the annual Spending Review.

As a result, TMBC had £1,274,445 available to spend on domestic abuse in this financial year (2021/22). Of this, £656,818 was already committed to providing the core commissioned offer, support in safe accommodation and outreach services.

It was proposed that the remaining £617,627 was spent meeting gaps highlighted in the statutory needs assessment. Primarily:

- Better availability of support within Safe Accommodation
- Workforce development, training and practice improvement
- Developing a local perpetrator response
- Piloting innovative approaches with Children and Young People that use violence
- Outreach services in the community and health settings for victim-survivors of Domestic Abuse
- System wide data improvement project to ensure we can discharge our duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

There would be a further spending proposal once the grant amount for 2022/23 was determined

pending the Spending Review in Autumn 2021.

RESOLVED

That domestic abuse spending in 2021/22 be approved as follows:

Jointly commissioned Bridges contract	£	506,818
Domestic Abuse Act grant funding (safe accommodation only)	£	547,627
GMCA funding for Domestic Abuse roles	£	70,000
Covid-19 funds	£	30,000
Population Health and Children's Services CHIDVA funds	£	120,000
Total 2021/22 funding for Domestic Abuse	£	1,274,445
<i>Funding committed 2021/22 to date</i>		
Bridges contract - outreach	£	335,090
Bridges contract - safe accommodation duty	£	291,728
Covid-19 additional IDVA	£	30,000
Total 2021/22 committed for Domestic Abuse	£	656,818
Total 2021/22 funds still available	£	617,627
<i>Proposed further spend 2021/22</i>		
Support in safe accommodation	£	255,899
Domestic Abuse transformation activity	£	291,728
GMCA funded IDVA posts	£	70,000
Total 2021/22 proposed further spend for Domestic Abuse	£	617,627
Total spend on Domestic Abuse 2021/22	£	1,274,445

49. CIVIC EVENTS 2021

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, which set out a vision for key events and activities in 2021.

The civic events programme spanned a full 12 months of a calendar year and featured the key events: Whit Friday Brass Band Contest, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Services and Parades and the corporate lantern parade and town Christmas switch on events.

It was stated that with an increased focus on the Council's finances and the desire to continue to deliver events which were vibrant, safe and affordable the Events Panel had been created to oversee key civic events from Whit Friday Brass Band Contest, Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Services to the Borough's flagship Christmas celebration and its Town Switch On events. The Panel proposed that the civic event dates put forward in the report be noted and adopted.

Further, the Panel wished for the proposed plans to deliver Remembrance Services and Parades in line with 2019 to be adopted whilst it was noted that should the pandemic cause last minute alterations these could need to be considered. The report also included the proposed plans for the corporate 2021 Christmas celebrations. Whilst this had traditionally taken place in Ashton, the Panel proposed that the event continued to tour in 2021 and take place in Hyde to honour the commitment made to Hyde in 2020 due to the ongoing landscaping of Ashton Market Square.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the proposals relating to Town Christmas events 2021, as detailed in the report, be agreed;

- (ii) That the proposal relating to Tameside’s Christmas Celebration event 2021, as detailed in the report, be agreed;**
- (iii) That the plans for Summer Theatre, as detailed in the report, be noted; and**
- (iv) That the considerations for Remembrance Sunday and the associated Services and Parades, as detailed in the report, be noted.**

50. THE COUNCIL’S SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES – FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PROPOSALS

The Executive Member, Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Assistant Director of Population Health submitted a report which updated Members on progress of the first phase of a review of the Council’s Sport and Leisure assets and the financial sustainability of the provider Active Tameside.

It was explained that the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant detrimental impact on Active Tameside. Throughout 2020/21 enforced closure due to the pandemic meant that centres were open for business for only 40 out of a possible 52 weeks of the year. This led to operational losses of £1million per month.

Prior to COVID-19, several centres operated at a loss that was subsidised by profit making sites. This was a means of tackling health inequalities amongst the most disadvantaged and under-represented communities. Offering equitable access across the borough ensured that local, affordable provision was in place, irrespective of commerciality of the site, or the means of local people to participate.

In a report presented to Executive Cabinet on 10 Feb 2021, approval was given to implement a public consultation from 12 Feb 2021 to 26 March 2021, to seek views on the initial proposals outlined in the report, in particular regarding the future use of Active Oxford Park, Adventure Longendale and Active Etherow, to inform the Council’s future commissioning approach. Supporting information and demographic and facility information regarding the sites which accompanied the consultation was appended to the report at Appendix 1. Executive Cabinet also recommended that a further review was carried out of all Sport and Leisure facilities in Tameside, including conditions surveys, aligned to the review of the Operational Estate and Portfolio of Council land and property holdings.

The report shared the findings and analysis of the consultation, recommendations for operation of the buildings for the remaining financial year, and an update on the progress of the Sport and Leisure Asset Review included in the Councils Operational Estate and Portfolio review of Council land and property holdings, which is due to report to Executive Cabinet in Autumn 2021.

The results of the public consultation and engagement supported community activity being delivered from the facilities in a sustainable way, with some suggestions on how that may be achieved, targeting those that needed the service most, whilst ensuring access for all.

It was further explained that a review of the operational estate commenced in late 2020 and would conclude with the “Worksmart” transformation strategy, which was anticipated in autumn 2021 with implementation soon after. This project incorporated three key principles of people, place and technology to create organisational transformation and inform a rationalisation of the property portfolio. The asset review, conditions surveys and results of the consultation would be considered as part of the process.

Currently, the commissioning and administration of the management agreement with Active Tameside and the delivery of the leisure assets investment programme rested with the Director of Population Health. Work to establish proposals for the future management and operation of the Council’s leisure assets, to come in to effect from April 2024, had begun and would be managed from this point forward by the Director of Growth. This shift in responsibility was required to

ensure that all property decisions were aligned to corporate priorities and would ensure the cost effective delivery of services by the Council and its partners.

The longer term future of the sites would be included in the review of the operational estate which commenced in late 2020 and would conclude with the “Work smart” transformation strategy, which was anticipated in autumn 2021 with implementation soon after. The Population Health Directorate would work with Growth directorate to ensure that delivery from these sites continued to support the health needs of local people.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the results and recommendations of the public consultation from 12 Feb 2021 to 26 March 2021, be considered;**
- (ii) That the proposal outlined in section 6 of the report describing sustainable utilisation of facilities at Active Oxford Park, Adventure Longdendale and Active Etherow for the current financial year, be agreed; and**
- (iii) That the progress made against the Sport and Leisure asset review be noted and it be agreed to receive further recommendations following the Council’s review of the operational estate commenced in late 2020 and will conclude with the “Worksmart” transformation strategy, which is anticipated in autumn 2021.**

51. GM MINIMUM LICENSING STANDARDS – STAGE 1 (DRIVERS, OPERATORS AND LOCAL AUTHORITY)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods giving information in respect of the proposed Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards (MLS) which would help deliver improved safety, customer focus, higher environmental standards and accessibility.

Members were advised that, in 2018, Greater Manchester’s ten local authorities agreed to collectively develop, approve and implement a common set of minimum licensing standards (MLS) for taxi and private hire services. At that time, the primary driver for this work was to ensure public safety and protection, but vehicle age and emission standards in the context of the Clean Air and the decarbonisation agendas were now also major considerations. In addition, by establishing standards around common livery and colour, MLS was an important mechanism that permitted the systematic improvements to taxi and private hire service across Greater Manchester and their visibility.

Ultimately, the collaborative approach that the MLS represented would help achieve the vision of a strong, professional and healthy taxi and private hire sector providing safe and high quality services to residents and visitors across the whole of Greater Manchester. This vision saw Taxis and Private Hire as a crucial part of the overall transport offer that could consistently deliver safe and high-quality services for the public. The proposed MLS, together with funding from the GM Clean Air Plan, would help deliver improved safety, customer focus, higher environmental standards and accessibility. The collaborative approach sought to establish a basic and common minimum in key areas, whilst allowing Districts to exceed these minimums where they considered this to be appropriate. As licensing was a local authority regulatory function, the Standards had been devised by the GM Licensing Managers Network who worked in partnership across Greater Manchester to drive innovation, partnership and change agendas.

The MLS were divided into four distinct sections as follows:

- Licensed Drivers; including criminal records checks, medical examinations, local knowledge test, English language requirements, driver training including driving proficiency and common licence conditions.
- Licensed vehicles; including vehicle emissions, vehicle ages, common vehicle colour and livery, vehicle testing, CCTV, Executive Hire and vehicle design common licence conditions

- Licensed private hire operators; including common licence conditions, DBS checks for operators and staff every year, fit and proper criteria for operator applications and common licence conditions.
- Local Authority Standards: including application deadlines and targets, GM Enforcement Policy, Licensing Fee Framework, annual councillor training requirements and Officer delegations.

Due to the breadth of proposals to be considered by Members, and the complexity of the vehicle standards (and their link to the Clean Air Plan), the report provided Members with detailed consultation feedback and officer recommendations on the Drivers, Operator and Local Authority Standard elements at Stage 1. A Stage 2 report outlining the proposed Vehicle Standard recommendations would be provided in the autumn.

It was noted that, as this and similar reports were going through District governance contemporaneously, the recommendations were also being outlined to Combined Authority for endorsement at their September meeting. It was proposed that all the standards that were recommended to be implemented, were done so by 30 November 2021 for a go live date of 1 December 2021.

RESOLVED

That the Greater Manchester MLS consultation feedback, as detailed in the report, be noted and it be RECOMMENDED to Council to approve the implementation of the Minimum Licensing Standards as outlined in paragraph 4 of the report, and in the appendices.

52. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR