

BOARD

1 December 2021

Present:

Elected Members	Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Bray, Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Ryan and Wills
Chief Executive	Steven Pleasant
Borough Solicitor	Sandra Stewart
Section 151 Officer	Kathy Roe

Also in Attendance: **Dr Asad Ali, Caroline Barlow, Tracy Brennand, Simon Brunet, Ian Saxon, Emma Varnam and Debbie Watson**

Apologies for Absence **Councillor Kitchen**

147 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

148 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

149 CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, community Safety and Environment / Director of Place / Assistant Director of Strategic Property. The report detailed the Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026 and provided a framework to determine actions in response to climate emergency.

Members were advised that the strategy was the product of cooperation between departments within Tameside Council. Through public engagement and other forums, guidance from local people had been sought and work had taken place regionally with colleagues in partner organisations to develop a workable document and a framework for an effective action plan.

It was explained that the five focal points of the Strategy were, Greenspace & Biodiversity, Homes Workspaces & Council Buildings, Influencing Others, Reducing Consumption & Producing Sustainably and Travel & Transport.

The Strategy determined issues and groups solutions into the thematic areas described above shown as dynamic, draft action plans in the appendix.

The Environment & Climate Emergency Working Group was positioned to maintain and oversee the resultant action plans, with assistance from affiliated task-groups to oversee each of the five thematic areas.

Members requested that the report highlight work that had already taken place across Tameside and that the report detail the position across Greater Manchester.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Approve and adopt the draft Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026 as attached at appendix 1 of this report.**
- (ii) Approve the draft Action Plans at appendices 2 - 6 of this report, noting that new**

initiatives which have budget implications will be the subject of separate reports to Executive Cabinet at the appropriate time.

- (iii) As with Health & Safety, the issue of climate change must be understood and owned by everybody, resulting in a complete and collective approach to solving the problem.**

150 HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND - FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, culture and Heritage / Director of Transformation. The report detailed the one time fund released by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for local authorities to support residents with their costs of living through from October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Members of the Board were advised that Tameside MBC was awarded approximately £2.2m in this funding package. After funding the provision of free school meal vouchers to cover school holidays, it was expected that approximately £800 thousand would remain to support residents through the winter. It was proposed that the DWP-provided funding be allocated across four distinct streams.

- Free School Meal provision to cover school breaks in the funding period, including an increase in voucher value over Christmas to £20 and expanding to cover provision of vouchers over Easter.
- A support programme open to all residents managed through an application process tied into a wide-scope welfare support scheme for emergency one-off payments/vouchers for food, energy, or other essentials.
- Targeted support for those who we're already working with. This would be primarily to provide support with food and energy costs, with a small amount potentially reserved for housing costs in exceptional circumstances where no other mechanisms exist.
- Support to third sector organisations in the form of vouchers or direct payments.

AGREED

That an executive decision be made to:

- (i) Approve the proposal to increase the individual voucher allocation from £15 to £20 per eligible person per week over the Christmas period and that the scheme is extended to cover the Easter Holiday Period at the normal weekly value of £15 per eligible person.**
- (ii) Agree that £1.4 million be allocated from the Household Support Fund to cover the costs of this Free School Meals programme.**

151 APPROVAL & IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED WASTE STRATEGY AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Director of Place. The report provided details on the operational outcomes of the 3 weekly waste collections of the blue and black bins in the trial areas of Ridge Hill, Stalybridge, Central Hyde and Haughton Green, Denton. The report also provided a summary of the responses received from the survey that had taken place around the 3 weekly trial and the Waste Strategy and Enforcement Policy.

It was reported that it was clear from the trial of the 3 weekly collections, that operationally the collection system could work and had not had any negative impacts to the collection system.

It was explained that a full consultation process had taken place and whilst 70% of the comments made in the policy consultation were wholly negative; in the pilot area consultation, only one third of the comments made were wholly negative. So there was less negative feedback from households in the pilot area, who have lived experience of the changes, than from those who had fed back on the proposals but who had not been involved in the trial.

The report detailed the approach of changing the collection frequency of the bin to provide the

efficient use of resources was being used across other GM authorities. Collection frequencies had been changed in other GM authorities and this has shown to work in those areas.

Members were advised that alternative options for further savings and efficiencies had been considered and disregarded in favour of the model that was trialled during August 2021 and October 2021 as they featured more disadvantages and operational challenges than advantages. Mitigation remain in place for exceptional circumstances and large families. Exemptions for charging for the wheeled bins had been considered and included in the Waste Strategy and Enforcement Policy; this included the concerns around stolen bins.

It was stated that a detailed approach to communications covering both a strategic and operational approach has been considered and will accompany any future potential changes.

The Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods explained that the changes were being proposed to help protect limited funds for vital services. Continuing pressures caused by the coronavirus pandemic, increased demand for services and government cuts of almost £200 million over the last 10 years, meant the council was faced with having to make savings of another £23 million this financial year to balance the budget for 2021-22. Doing nothing to make efficiencies was not an option.

Members of the Board discussed the level of engagement as detailed at 2.13 in the report. The Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods explained that many calls were received at the call centre officers assisted members of the public in completing the surveys and within the libraries. Officers were also sent out in the areas trialled. Through the community issues raised within the survey mitigations had been proposed as set out in report at 10.5.

Discussion ensued on the potential savings from proposals set out in the report. The Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods explained it was found that a reduction of 4 crews would not be operationally viable and work was ongoing following the pilot period to establish the maximum saving possible. The total savings for the 2021/2022 year would be adjusted based on the agreed start date of the proposals.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the updated Waste Strategy and Enforcement Policy (attached at Appendix 5) including;

- (i) Changes in frequency of Blue and Black bin collection from 2 weekly to 3 weekly**
- (ii) The extension of charging for new and replacement brown, blue and black wheeled bins.**
- (iii) Exceptional circumstances (bin capacity) and exemptions (charging) policies to assist those in specific need or circumstances.**

152 IMPLEMENTATION OF A 2021 MODEL PAY POLICY FOR BOTH SCHOOL BASED AND CENTRALLY BASED TEACHING STAFF

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Assistant Director for People and Workforce Development.

The Assistant Director for People and Workforce Development summarised the statutory changes to the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Documents (STPCD) 2021. It was stated that there was a consolidated award of £250 to all teachers whose full-time equivalent basic earnings (excluding allowances) were less than £24,000. Further, there was an advisory 6-point pay range reintroduced on the Unqualified Teacher (UNQ) Pay Range 2021.

It was explained that the changes to the STPCD included a reduction of 1 day, 195 days to 194 days and a reduction in hours from 1265 hours to 1258.5 hours that teachers (FTE) must be available to work as a result of the additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June 2022. In addition, the

updated STPCD 2021 incorporated statutory induction changes for Early Career Teachers (ECT). It was further explained that ECTs were not negatively affected by the extension of the induction period from one to two years and outlining that this change did not prevent a school from awarding pay progression to ECTs at the end of the first year.

It was reported that the changes also introduced flexibilities around TLR3 payments for tutoring which was part of the education catch up programme to address learning disruption as a result of the pandemic.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree that:

- (i) The Council implements the Model Pay Policy 2021 as detailed in Appendix 1 for all centrally based teaching staff employed within the Education Service.**
- (ii) The Council recommends the Model Pay Policy 2021 as detailed in Appendix 1 for adoption by all Governing Bodies of community, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided schools within the Borough, and that it applies to all teaching staff employed within these schools.**
- (iii) The Council implements the national recommended changes with effect from 1 September 2021, which are:**
 - A consolidated award of £250 is awarded to all teachers whose full-time equivalent basic earnings (excluding allowances) are less than £24,000**
 - Advisory pay points are reintroduced on the Unqualified Teacher (UNQ) Pay Range 2021, which include the £250 consolidated award on the bottom three pay points, UNQ1-UNQ3 pay points**
 - A reduction of 1 day from 195 to 194 that teachers (FTE) must be available to work as a result of the additional Bank Holiday on Friday 3 June 2022 to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee**
 - Incorporate the statutory induction changes for Early Career Teachers (ECTs)**
 - Introduce flexibilities around TLR3 payments for tutoring which is part of the education catch up programme to address learning disruption as a result of the pandemic**

153 GRAZING SITES – FUTURE MARKETING PROPOSALS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Place / Assistant Director for Strategic Property. The report detailed the future marketing proposals for grazing sites and outlined a proposal to close the existing waiting list and to explore the opportunity to advertise any new opportunities to the open market.

The Director of Place stated that the Council owns 22 grazing/agricultural sites across the Borough with the majority let via Farm Business Tenancies. Most sites had long-standing tenants with sites infrequently becoming available for re-letting. These sites realised an annual lease income of £0.007m per year. Following a review of the Council's grazing land portfolio, 3 vacant sites had been identified and are available to market.

It was proposed that the Council close the grazing waiting list and advertise future opportunities via the Council's website. At the point in which a site becomes vacant, the Council would also consider the potential to dispose of its interest in the land, seeking a capital receipt to maximise income to the Council. Any disposal of land would be in accordance with the Council's adopted Disposal of Council Owned Land and Property Policy.

It is further proposed that all parties currently on the waiting list be contacted and advised of the closure of the waiting list and informed of the proposed new process for the letting or disposal of vacant sites.

In the event that a site becomes available or a new site identified for letting or disposal, the Estates

Team would consult local Elected Members prior to advertising the opportunity.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the closure of the current grazing waiting list and agree to the marketing of gazing sites when they become available.

154 FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan of items for Board was considered.

CHAIR