

## BOARD

12 January 2022

**Present:**

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

**Also in Attendance:** **Dr Asad Ali, Caroline Barlow, Tim Bowman, Tracy Brennand, Ilys Cookson, Tony Decrop, Catherine Moseley, Ian Saxon, Trevor Tench, Sarah Threlfall, Emma Varnam and Debbie Watson.**

### 169 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 170 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Board meeting on the 8 December 2021 were approved a correct record.

### 171 MONTH 8 INTEGRATED FINANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Lead Clinical GP / Director of Finance. The report detailed actual expenditure to 30 November 2021 (Month 8) and forecast to 31 March 2022.

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It was reported that, overall, the Council was facing a total forecast overspend of £1.207m for the year ending 31 March 2022. A substantial majority of this forecast related to ongoing demand pressures in Children's Social Care.

The forecast outturn on Council Budgets had improved by 371k since Month 7, mainly due a reduction in external placement costs in Children's Social Care (£207k). There were some other favourable movements (£252k) relating to the release of contingency budget and additional one-off income relating to reimbursement of costs from a prior year, and a small reduction (£88k) in COVID related funding for administration costs recognised in 2021/22.

Last month reported that NHS plans for the second half of 2021/22 had not been formally approved at the time the report was written. Plans were approved by NHS England in mid-November and allocations had now been transacted. As a result of this, full year budgets were now in place across the NHS and for the first time this year, a full 12 month budget position was presented.

The reported position at Month 8 showed a forecast overspend of (£3,553k), with a YTD variance of (£536k). This related to the Hospital Discharge Programme, GP additional roles and responsibilities, and QIPP delivery, with further detail set out in the report and appendix.

Members were advised that there was work underway to produce a revised Section 75 Agreement between the CCG and the Council to reflect the CCG's changed boundaries from 1 April 2022 when

the Glossop locality was due to move into the boundaries of NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG. As directed by NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) the CCG had sought legal advice from the solicitors appointed by NHSE/I. The approach now recommended, which was different to that previously advised, was to now rescind the earlier recommendation to serve notice on the Section 75 Agreement and instead to extend the existing Agreement into 2022/23. The CCG and Council would then agree the future amendment of the 2022/23 Section 75 Agreement to reflect the boundary change by means of a contract variation. The Section 75 Agreement would be supported by an accompanying Financial Framework for 2022/23.

## **AGREED**

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

- (i) **note the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1**
- (ii) **rescind the earlier recommendation to serve notice on the Section 75 Agreement and to extend the existing Agreement into 2022/23 subject to any variations that may be required to reflect the Glossop position.**

## **172 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2022/23**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Assistant Director, Exchequer Services, which set out the proposal for the continuation of the council tax reduction scheme for 2022/23 and recommended the approval of a hardship fund to be administered by Exchequer Services under the Section 13A policy.

As at the end of quarter two of 2021/22, approximately 17,898 people had claimed Council Tax Support. Of this number, there are approximately 7,406 (41%) people of pensionable age who would be guaranteed protection under the CTS scheme. Therefore, approximately 10,492 (59%) claimants were of working age. Demand on the scheme was monitored on a quarterly basis and, the report gave details of the decline in demand since the scheme was first introduced in April 2013.

The caseload continued to fall during 2021/22 even though residents had more to pay in Council Tax due to the Council Tax rise in April 2021 and, despite the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; however this decline appeared to follow the pattern from previous years.

Members were advised that the Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) in their report of August 2019 to Local Authorities titled "Council Tax Reduction – Guidance for Practitioners" to help Local Authorities manage complex council tax reduction enquiries and complaints, made a number of recommendations to all Local Authorities. It was considered best practice to recognise the recommendations by the LGO and provide clarity within the scheme. Therefore to provide clarity in Tameside's Council Tax Support Scheme in relation to the treatment of these adjustments to entitlement, wording was inserted into the Scheme for 2020/21 at Schedule 8, paragraph (10). The wording would remain in the scheme for 2022/23.

It was reported that the Hardship Fund for 2021/22 was £50k and this would remain the same for 2022/23. Hardship funding was identified from existing budgets and was administered by Exchequer Services under the Section 13A Policy which was detailed at Appendix 2 to the report.

As at 09 November 2021, two applications for Hardship Relief had been successful in 2021/22 for the total sum of £1,484.00. The circumstances of the claims did not suggest that any one equalities group had been adversely affected.

In 2020/21 the Government, as part of its response to COVID-19, awarded the Council a Council Tax Hardship Grant of £2.158m which was mandated to be used to make a payment of £150 to all existing and new working age Council Tax Support (CTS) claims in 2020/21 (up to available funding). For 2021/22 the Council had been awarded a further grant of £2.025m. The application of

this grant was not mandated but provided with the guidance that the grant was to be used to meet the anticipated additional costs due to COVID of providing Local Council Tax support in 2021-22, resulting from increased unemployment.

On 28 July 2021, the Executive Cabinet determined that £1,012,500 of the grant monies be used to directly support Council Tax Support claimants and financially vulnerable households, details of which, were provided in the report. The government had not made any announcements to date regarding additional grant funding in respect of the year 2022/23.

A total of 53.51% of all Council Tax due this year for CTS claimants was collected as at 31 October 2021 totaling £1.8m. Of that £717k was collected from pensioners in receipt of CTS and £1.08m from working age claimants in receipt of CTS.

#### **AGREED**

**It is recommended that the Council:**

- (i) continues the scheme introduced in 2013/14, as amended in 2016/17, and adopts the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022/23 set out in Appendix 3; save for the annual benefit upratings which are not yet released by DWP.**
- (ii) approves a £50,000 hardship fund be in place in order to assist severe cases of hardship funded from existing budgets, to be administered by Exchequer Services under the Section 13A Policy.**

#### **173 COLLECTION, RECOVERY AND IRRECOVERABLE MONIES 2021**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Assistant Director, Exchequer Services, giving details of the collection and recovery processes for Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debts; compared levels of irrecoverable debts with other local authorities; identified debt which could not by law be recovered and considered a corporate debt recovery policy.

It was explained that the Debt Recovery Policy sets out the recovery methods which would be taken, according to debt type, to recover monies owed to the Council and, which was appended to this report at Appendix 2.

Members were advised that avoidance in paying debt was common and particularly in relation to the recovery of Council Tax and Business Rates arrears and which affects all local authorities nationally. Arrears continued to be collected for many years after the payment was due. This requires costly recovery action to be undertaken using Council resource, the Court process and enforcement action. Debts continue to be collected from 2000/2001.

#### **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the report and approve the Debt Recovery Policy at Appendix 2 of the report.**

#### **174 CORPORATE PLAN SCORECARDS UPDATE**

The Executive Leader / Tameside & Glossop CCG Co-Chairs / Director of Transformation submitted a report giving details of the corporate plan outcomes scorecard (attached to the report) providing evidence to demonstrate progress towards achievement of the Corporate Plan and improving the services provided to residents, businesses and key stakeholders within the locality.

It was explained that the Corporate Plan outcomes scorecard followed the structure of the Corporate Plan, and contained indicators focused on long term outcomes across the plan's priorities. There were a number of proxy indicators for issues related to the pandemic which would take significantly longer to be reflected in the regular long term measures.

The Director of Transformation highlighted indicators from within Appendix 1. It was reported that the number of Tameside residents receiving Universal Credit in October was down slightly on the same month in 2020, although the percentage of UC recipients in employment in September was higher than in September 2020. The number of households in receipt of council tax support had fallen below 18,000 for the first time since climbing during the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic.

Building across the borough had decreased since the last financial year. The net number of additional dwellings per 10,000 residents had fallen from 20.93 in 2019/2020 to 16.2 in 2020/2021. This remained significantly lower than the national average of 38.3 per 10,000 people. This had also affected the completion of affordable homes, with new affordable homes per 10,000 residents falling from 8.51 in 2019/2020 to just 2.51 in 2020/2021, significantly lower than the national average of 9.2 per 10,000 people.

Members were advised that there had also been a notable drop in performance on a number of wider health metrics. The latest data for the proportion of people walking or cycling 3+ times a week, from 2019/2020, was 15 percentage points lower than the previous year at just 27.4%, below the national average of 34.5%.

Members thanked the Director for the report and requested further information on reported incidents of domestic abuse to Children's Services and an understanding of school attendance figures, be included in the next scorecard update to Cabinet.

#### **AGREED**

**That the contents of the report and scorecards Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 be noted, and that the next quarterly update to Board and to Executive Cabinet be agreed.**

#### **175 NEW CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTRE DELIVERY MODEL**

The Executive Member, Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Director of Place, submitted a report, which advised that on 23 June 2021, Executive Cabinet approved public consultation on a proposed new delivery model for the face to face customer services function. The report set out the findings of the consultation and defined the proposed model of service delivery for the future.

The operation of the service prior to and during Covid-19 was outlined and it was explained that, prior to Covid 19 the demand in Customer Services, whilst showing some fluctuations, had reduced significantly over the years. The majority of demand presenting at the face to face Customer Service Centre was in respect of Housing and Council Tax matters.

Enquiries were categorised as Level 1 and Level 2 enquiries, with Level 1 enquiries were regarding in-depth Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support queries; they were dealt with solely by the dedicated customer services staff face to face and by staff within Exchequer Services by telephone. Level 2 enquiries were to book, pay, request a service and verification of housing benefit and council tax documents. Further analysis of the enquiries received at Ashton Customer Service Centre, prior to Covid 19 indicated that nearly 66% were Level 2 enquiries and only 34% were Level 1 enquiries. During staffed operating times all libraries could assist with Level 2 enquiries, meaning that customers who were travelling to Ashton could actually seek assistance at a venue closer to their home. Also, many Level 2 enquiries could be dealt with over the phone, via web chat or email.

Members were advised that the cost of each transaction for the face to face customer service function far outweighed the cost of other channels. The volume of visitors had remained fairly static over the 5 year period prior to the pandemic, however as the service had not been available for almost two years it was highly likely that were it to return as a drop in service, visitor numbers would be significantly reduced as residents had become accustomed to alternative contact channels. If this were the case the cost per visit would increase dramatically.

It was explained that the proposed service model for the future would be based on providing the most appropriate access channel, tailored in accordance to customers' requirements and would be very similar to the current offer but with the addition of face to face contact where necessary and only for those where other channels would not be suitable. The principles would be:

- retain Level 2 enquiries at all Tameside Libraries;
- promote, encourage and support a digital first model with the expectation that where possible, residents should self-serve utilising the Council website or other technology such as mobile applications (Apps) where available;
- where this was not possible a supported service offer over the telephone, web chat, email etc to assist customers with their enquiries;
- where more detailed assistance was required, for example completing a housing benefit application, a telephone call back service by appointment would be available;
- face to face appointments only for the most vulnerable to ensure that residents were able to access services and assistance without disadvantage. Appointments would be bookable by telephone; and
- not to re-open the expensive reactive drop in Customer Service centre based in Tameside One at Ashton in the previous format.

Any new service model must take into account all residents' needs and therefore some face to face element would be retained. It was proposed that this would be by appointment only rather than drop-in and would be following a triage process to understand the nature of the enquiry and the assistance required.

The report concluded that, overall, the proposed new model would transform the customer services offer, taking into account peoples changing attitudes to accessing services and it would enhance the previous model by the introduction of telephone appointments whilst still retaining face to face in a tailored, bespoke manner. By offering face to face on an appointment basis this would negate the requirement to queue up and wait to see a customer services officer at busy times which would further benefit customers.

It was proposed to keep the model under review and make any further adjustments as necessary to ensure quality of service, that it met customer demand and that vulnerable residents were able to access appointments, whilst at the same time being affordable and cost effective. A further report would be presented to Executive Cabinet after 12 months of operation with the results of the review. Members of the Board requested regular updates to Board.

## **AGREED**

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

- (i) The proposed new customer service model is implemented, subject to consultation with staff with an anticipated implementation date of 14 March 2022.**
- (ii) The delivery model is reviewed following implementation to ensure quality of service that vulnerable residents are able to access appointments and that it meets demand whilst at the same time being affordable and cost effective. A further report will be presented to Executive Cabinet after 12 months of the new model being operational.**

## **176 FOSTER CARER OFFER CONSULTATION REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Assistant Director for Children's Services providing an update on the outcome of the Foster carer offer public consultation.

It was explained that, following Executive Cabinet agreement to the proposed recommendations to improve the foster carer offer, it was agreed a Full Public consultation would take place with an updated Equality Impact Assessment. The consultation looked to seek feedback on the recommendations of the improved offer to Tameside Foster Carers.

The consultation ran for 8 weeks from 2 August 2021 and 28 September 2021 and the focus groups

took place on the 8 September, 14 September and 24 September 2021. A breakdown of the consultation responses were detailed within the report.

The report concluded that the response to the consultation was, on the whole, positive and that the majority of those who responded stated that they were in agreement to the proposed recommendations and could see the benefit of the new offer to them and new carers. All participants felt that the improved offer would enhance the support that foster care's received and enhance them in their role as foster carers. The feedback was that they felt that the offer would support them remaining as foster carers for Tameside.

It was acknowledged from the consultation that the financial uplift to skills level 2 and 3 was positive, some responses stated that this did still not go far enough to attract new foster carers and suggested that the Local Authority increase the uplift further to compete directly with the private sector. It was explained to participants that this was not a viable option and the Authority did not have the financial resources to achieve this. There were responses that stated there was no incentive for those carers who had already achieved level 4 status. The responses from those carers who were level 4 carers were considered, and although the Authority would have liked to uplift all skills levels, this was not able to be achieved currently. The carers who were skill level 4 received a competitive allowance in comparison to GM neighbours and some compete directly with IFA competitors. All allowances would be reviewed annually, as set out in the recommendations.

The foster carers who had participated in the consultation felt that the new improved offer was a 'good start' but there was still some further work to be completed. It was hoped that the implementation of the new offer would ensure that that existing foster carers felt valued and provided them with enhanced support and training opportunities to meet the needs of Tameside cared for children.

All of the responses from the survey and the focus groups had been considered. On the basis that the respondents had stated that they felt the new offer and its recommendation would benefit from the new offer, it was proposed that the recommendations agreed in the Cabinet report dated the 28 July 2021 (Appendix 4 refers) were those recommended to Cabinet as the final proposals following the consultation, with no changes at this time.

#### **AGREED**

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

- (i) That the proposals for the foster carer offer from the report agreed at Executive Cabinet on the 23 July 2021 are agreed.**
- (ii) The Equality Impact assessment is noted and the implementation delivery plan agreed.**
- (iii) The cost in the current year is financed from the central contingency and future years included in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).**

#### **177 DROYLSDEN LOCK KEEPERS AND FORMER LIBRARY SITE DISPOSAL**

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Place providing an update on the site known as Lock Keepers Site and the site of the Former Droylsden Library following the report to members on 9 June 2021.

#### **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:**

- (i) Note the Council's intention to withdraw from the development agreement with Watkins Jones as approved at Executive Cabinet in 09 June 2021;**
- (ii) Approve the principle of a direct disposal of both the site known as Lock Keepers Site, Droylsden Marina and the Former Droylsden Library Site in accordance with the Tameside Council Corporate Policy: Disposal of Council Owned Land approved by the Executive Cabinet on 30 September 2020;**
- (iii) Require Watkins Jones to contractually and covenant to meet all Brownfield Homes**

**Funding obligations and liabilities in order that the Council is not exposed as it will no longer have the direct control to discharge them;**

- (iv) Note that the Director of Place is managing the programme of works associated with disposal of both sites (including the negotiation of the main heads of terms), scheme and delivery of Brownfield Homes Funding, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth; and**
- (v) Further updates will be provided to Executive Cabinet and/or Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring as the scheme develops.**

## **178 COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY**

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Director of Place, summarising the responses to the public consultation in respect of the draft Community Safety Strategy 2021 – 2024 and requested approval that the strategy, as appended to the report, be adopted by the Community Safety Partnership.

The consultation responses to the draft strategy and the Equality Impact Assessment were appended to the report.

It was explained that, following the consultation some amendments were made to the draft strategy and these were detailed in the report.

The final version of the draft Community Safety Strategy was presented to the Community Safety Partnership on the 12 April 2021 and approved by all partners.

### **AGREED**

**That Council be recommended to approve that the Community Safety Strategy be adopted by the Tameside Community Safety Partnership.**

## **179 HAWTHORNS SCHOOL NEW BUILDING UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Director of Education (Tameside and Stockport). The report provided an update on progress towards the new building for Hawthorns School an outstanding school providing specialist education for primary aged children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Members were advised of the progress to date on the new Hawthorns building. It was stated that the outcome of the RIBA 1 stage was attached to the report at appendix 1. This set out the clear parameters for the new building on the Longdendale Playing Fields site. It was explained that the Headteacher of Hawthorns School had a clear vision for the school and work with the architects continued to develop the initial guide. The plans being developed by the architects for the site and building were cognisant of this as well as an awareness for a need for flexible space and multi-purpose rooms. There was an emphasis on maintaining the forest school and outdoor learning that is so important to the current curriculum at Hawthorns School.

It was further explained that the initial designs for the school incorporated many of the school's requests for classroom and non-classroom space to support the needs of the children. It was stated that Hawthorns School had been proactive in making contact with colleagues at Arundale Primary School to maximise opportunities for partnership working in the future particularly in regard to the outdoor curriculum.

In regards to the Football pitches, the Longdendale Playing Fields site had been identified to fulfil a number of different purposes. One of these was to provide additional playing pitches for the area. This followed the loss of accessibility in the local area to local football clubs. There was a wish to provide access to two football pitches on the site. Two full size pitches would mean that the school

site would have to be squeezed to fit this in and it would cause issues with accessibility. The initial school designs included a multi-use games area (MUGA) for their pupils.

Members were advised there was work still to do on maximising the space available, the community benefits and identifying and securing additional funding. Several options needed to be further explored.

The report considered by Executive Cabinet in June 2021 included discussion of the revenue implications of a new build for Hawthorns School and a recommendation of the report was to pursue the issue of revenue funding with the Department for Education as a matter of urgency.

It was explained that dialogue had taken place with the DfE in an attempt secure additional revenue funding that would automatically flow from a Free School application. The DfE have confirmed they were unwilling to provide revenue funding to support this proposal, as this was not a new academy or new free school, it was an expansion of an existing academy. The DfE did not provide additional funding for existing and expanding academies.

The June 2021 report advised Executive Cabinet not to give full approval to the commissioning of a new building until the revenue issue could be resolved, on receiving the DfE's decision on the matter there was clarity on the funding position and subsequent financial pressure that would arise subject to member's decision on the proposed expansion.

- Scenario 1 – Expansion of Hawthorns School 50 places x £17,000 = £850,000
- Scenario 2 – Placement in Independent Sector 50 places x £32,040 = £1,602,000

It was stated that the expansion of Hawthorns would enable the council to avoid more expensive placements estimated to be a cost avoidance of £752,000.

It was reported that the only option the DfE supports to build new special schools was via the Free Special School applications proposal process. This process was open only to Multi Academy Trusts and other non-Council organisations. This route not only provided capital funding for the build but also unlocked additional revenue funding into the High Needs Dedicated Schools Grant.

It was explained that there was currently no free school bidding process open. Wave 14 of the programme launched in January 2019 and 21 free schools were approved in February 2021. It was stated that it may be up to two years before the next wave of free school applications opens. The wave was also a competitive process so should Tameside submit an application. Potentially, the free school route could take up to four years before any building work begins.

The LEP had been commissioned to take the project to RIBA Stage 3. The LEP were experienced in delivering new schools and new school buildings in the borough and were very happy to take the project to delivery of the new school.

It was reported that New Bridge Academy Trust were keen to explore the possibility of delivering the build from within their Trust through a grant agreement. The Trust had a successful track record of delivering new schools and school buildings. In order to progress this and to have potential delivery options in place at the conclusion of RIBA Stage 3, New Bridge Academy Trust had been asked to set out a proposal to build the new Hawthorns School which would be funded through a grant agreement.

## **AGREED**

**That Board be recommended to note the progress to date on the new building for Hawthorns School and the clarification from the DfE on revenue implications for the additional places.**



## **180 DETERMINATION OF SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2023**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Director of Education, setting out the proposed admission arrangements for Tameside community, and voluntary controlled schools for admission in September 2023, as appended to the report.

It was explained that there had been no change to the arrangements from September 2022. There were proposed changes to the Published Admission Number at two community primary schools. The latest information on school place planning was presented, which concluded that there were currently sufficient places to meet expected demand.

It was further explained that the school place planning process must continue to be dynamic particularly in view of significant housing development that was predicted within the borough and the impact that would have on demand and travel to learn patterns. Consideration was also given to predicted rising levels of surplus capacity in some areas of the borough and the need to consider reducing admission numbers in future years.

There was consideration of a proposal to commence consultation on adding a resource base for children with additional needs at Corrie Primary and Nursery School, details of which were appended to the report.

### **AGREED**

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

- (i) the determination of admission arrangements for all Tameside community and voluntary controlled schools for 2023/24 without change from those that were determined for admission in 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report other than amendments to the Published Admission Number as set out in the report.**
- (ii) commencing consultation on the school organisation proposal to establish a ten place resource base at Corrie Primary and Nursery School for children with cognition and learning and/ or communication and interaction and / or social, emotional and mental health needs.**

## **181 HYDE TOWN CENTRE HIGH STREET TASK FORCE UPDATE**

The Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Place submitted a report, providing an update on the progress to date of the Hyde Town Centre High Street Taskforce (HSTF) programme following the previous report to Executive Cabinet in 23 June 2021.

It was explained that the HSTF programme was part of a wider strategy that the Council were progressing in Hyde, including preparation of a town centre masterplan. There was an opportunity to deliver real change in the town centre, to regenerate Hyde and make it a thriving town centre with a high quality offer that met the needs of the local population as well giving people a reason to visit Hyde.

Hyde Triangle was identified as an area for growth within the Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy and was one of the Greater Manchester Growth Locations. Hyde Triangle, which included Godley Green, Hattersley and Hyde Town Centre, would ensure that these major drivers for change supported the wider regeneration of the town centre.

It was further explained that Godley Green Garden Village was one of the largest and most innovative housing schemes in the country. In October 2019, Executive Cabinet approved the Council to enter into an agreement for £10 million of grant funding from Homes England to deliver up to 2,350 new homes. In December 2021 an outline planning application was validated for up to 2,150 new homes. In Hattersley a public private partnership was delivering new retail, housing, and quality public realm and skills programmes to tackle deprivation in the area. As a consequence of

this planned growth there would be an increased demand for retail, leisure and services supporting the regeneration of Hyde Town Centre and acting as a catalyst for further growth and investment.

Members were advised that, in 2019, Tameside was awarded £0.100m by One Public Estate (OPE) and the British Property Futures (BPF). The cornerstone of the OPE and the BPF Challenge was to take a fresh approach and develop novel solutions to problems to help overcome identified challenges in Hyde. As part of the OPE work, the Council held a public consultation in March 2020.

The consultation findings had formed part of the evidence base for the HSTF report and would be used to underpin the initial stages of the town centre masterplan work, which would commence in the New Year.

The Council was currently progressing work that would support the re-purposing of the former Library site on Union Street, with potential identified for a proposed scheme delivering an 88 unit 1 and 2 bed apartment complex with associated community facilities including a café/bistro that should be accessible to all and also provide day care provision. The work at the Union Street site and preparation of a town centre masterplan for Hyde would be supported by the £0.225m of funding secured by the Council from Evergreen III Funding, as reported to Executive Cabinet on 29 September 2021. The masterplan for the town centre that would agree a shared vision, identify strategic sites for development, and work with the local community to further understand what improvements they would like to see in Hyde.

Members were further advised that, on 14 June 2021, the appointed HSTF Expert for Hyde town centre carried out an 'Unlocking Your Place Potential' diagnostic. A virtual workshop was held with local ward members, local community representatives, Council staff and local businesses.

The purpose of the workshop was to diagnose the main barriers to transformation in Hyde town centre. A post-visit report (attached at Appendix 2) produced by the HSTF Expert, identified Hyde's key strengths and challenges and provided a prescription of recommendations with further support offered from the HSTF team that will enable the Council to accelerate this transformational process.

It was concluded that there was much evidence of a strong will and ambition by many stakeholders, groups and organisations to make Hyde a town centre to be proud of and to deliver on its potential as being a town centre for the future and a destination that people want to visit. A joined up approach was required to deliver change and the formation of a Hyde Town Centre Task Force would provide the platform to drive the work forward, to act as a critical friend in the preparation of the town centre masterplan and to ensure that the local community had a voice in how they would like to see Hyde in years to come.

It was proposed that the recommendations from the UYPP report be formally accepted and a Hyde Task Force or similar be established. This would include place leaders across Council, business and the community to shape the strategy for the town; formal Terms of Reference would be agreed.

## **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:**

- (i) Approve the formation of a Hyde Town Centre Task Force Partnership;**
- (ii) Note that the Director of Place will manage the formation and programme of works associated with the Hyde Town Centre Task Force Partnership**
- (iii) On-going performance and reporting will be provided as required to keep Members appraised and for decision making.**

## **182 ADULT SERVICES WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION FUND (ROUNDS 1 & 2)**

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Adult Social Care and Health / Clinical Lead,

Living Well, Finance and Governance / Director of Adult Services, which explained that the outbreak of Covid-19 had been unprecedented and the last 20 months had seen a significant increase in the demand for services and the complexity of people needing social care support. The increase had not been matched by the number of people attracted to work in social care, and this had been compounded with increased numbers of staff leaving the sector.

The Government had recognised the issue with a commitment made to support local authorities and social care providers to maintain safe staffing levels over the winter period and to continue working closely with the care sector to build sufficient workforce capacity across services. Government had announced the “Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund for Adult Social Care Round 1”, which confirmed an allocation of £781,378 to Tameside to cover the period to 31 March 2022. The Government had recently announced a second round of the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Grant which confirmed an allocation of £1,442,545 to Tameside, which could be used to enable local authorities and providers to bring forward planned uplifts relating to pay, in advance of the new financial year.

The report set out proposals for allocation of the available resource locally to support workforce recruitment and retention across the local social care sector.

The proposal was to spend the allocation in two ways. The first proposal related to direct Council activity to support the market as a whole in relation taking pressure out of the system and aid recruitment and retention. The following initiatives were proposed to utilise £64,700 of the total funding of £781,378:

- **Recruitment Video** – it was clear that a number of people recruited to social care roles quickly became aware that the work really was not for them. It was believed from discussions that a video describing various roles across the sector from experienced staff which described in a “warts and all way” what the work entailed would be a really helpful resource that would maximise the efforts of any recruitment campaign and get people into the work that were clear what the roles entail.
- **Level 3 Trusted Assessor Training – Manual Handling** - the proposal was to get two staff from each of the six “zoned” support at home provider trained up to carry out low level manual handling assessments. This would free up capacity with the Council’s manual handling team and having qualified staff of their own would mean providers could issue their own low level equipment to people they supported, quickly and flexibly. This would free up some MH assessor time and mean providers could get certain items of kit to people they supported quickly and flexibly. Courses would be run in Manchester throughout January and February..
- **Local Recruitment Initiative** - the proposal was for the Council to run a recruitment day for all providers to attract people to the various social care work opportunities on offer across in-house and independent provision.
- **Blue Light Card** – the proposal was to purchase cards for all operational social care staff working across in-house and independent provision. The Blue Light card provided those in the NHS, emergency services, social care sector and armed forces with discounts online and in-store. This proposal had been identified as an important gesture to recognise the important role operational staff have made alongside the NHS and emergency services over the past twenty months, whilst opening up some significant discounts across a wide range of small and large companies.
- **Halfords Voucher** – this proposal was to recognise the important role that staff vehicles had made in ensuring support to vulnerable people throughout the pandemic. The vouchers could be used to support the cost of vehicle servicing, replacement of tyres and exhausts and so on.

All five proposals met the requirements of the grant as outlined in the report.

The second proposal was that the remaining £716,678 of the grant be distributed across the domiciliary and care home providers (both in-house and external provision) based on the formula used for the previous allocations against the Infection Prevention Grants provided by the

Government.

## **AGREED**

**That Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to agree:**

- (i) An allocation of £781,378 made to the Council by Government from the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (Round 1) for Adult Social Care to support the recruitment and retention of staff across the local social care sector to maintain safe staffing levels over the winter period be accepted.**
- (ii) That £64,700 of this allocation is approved for spend by the Council as a whole sector response across five proposals, namely a recruitment video, Level 3 Trusted Assessor Training Manual Handling, a Local Recruitment Initiative, Blue Light Cards for staff, and Halfords vouchers.**
- (iii) That the remaining £716,678 of the grant allocation be distributed across the CQC registered domiciliary, care home, and supported living providers utilising the formula used in relation to previous Infection Control Grants made available through Government.**
- (iv) An additional allocation of £1,442,545 made to the Council by Government from the Workforce Recruitment and Retention Fund (Round 2) for Adult Social Care to enable the Council and providers to bring forward planned uplifts relating to pay in advance of the new financial year be accepted.**
- (v) That this allocation of £1,442,545 be distributed across the CQC registered domiciliary, care home, and supported living providers utilising the formula used in relation to previous Infection**

## **183 COVID 19 ADDITIONAL RELIEF FUND**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services. The report set out a new business rates grant and a relief available to eligible business rate payers in the current financial year 2021/22.

Members were advised that during December 2021 central government released information and guidance on a number of further financial support packages for businesses impacted by the COVID pandemic. Both CARF relief and the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant were to be awarded to businesses on the Rating List and would be administered by Exchequer Services and which were the subject of this report. Further, Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) monies was subject to a separate report and would be administered by the Growth Directorate.

The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme was for businesses on the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) ratings list only as at 30 December 2021 and the following thresholds applied for these businesses:

- Exactly £15,000 or under - £2,667
- Over £15,000 and less than £51,000 - £4,000
- exactly £51,000 or over - £6,000

It was stated that the primary principle of the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant scheme was to support businesses that offered in-person services, where the main service and activity took place in a fixed rate-paying premise, in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors.

It was reported that the government had determined that the £1.5 billion funding available for CARF would be allocated to local authorities via a Section 31 grant, and based upon the estimated rateable value in each local authority rating list that fell within the scope of the fund. The total monies in respect of CARF would be administered in Tameside was £3,709,485m

It was stated that in terms of eligibility, guidance made clear that local authorities must direct their support towards ratepayers who had been adversely affected by the pandemic and had been unable to adequately adapt to that impact. Guidance made clear that local authorities must not

award relief as follows:

- a) ratepayers who for the same period of the relief either are or would have been eligible for the Extended Retail Discount (covering Retail, Hospitality and Leisure), the Nursery Discount or the Airport and Ground Operations Support Scheme (AGOSS),
- b) not award relief to a hereditament for a period when it is unoccupied (other than hereditaments which have become closed temporarily due to the government's advice on COVID-19, which should be treated as occupied for the purposes of this relief).

It was estimated that a total of 1,811 businesses could be eligible to receive CARF funding in Tameside. If relief were granted using the rateable value bands (as Government have determined in other COVID grant determinations) then the numbers within each band would be as follows with an estimated relief per business:

#### **AGREED**

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

- (i) **That the award of the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant to eligible business ratepayers in 2021/22 be noted and**
- (ii) **That the local discretionary scheme for the award of £3.7m CARF monies, to eligible ratepayers, in 2021/22, be approved.**

#### **184 ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT – FUNDING JANUARY 2022**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services. The Additional Restrictions Grant had been provided with additional funding by Government under new guidance issued on 30 December 2021. This report sought permission to reopen the application process using the guidance previously agreed and published.

It was stated that the Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) guidance was revised on 30 December 2021 following the announcement made by Government on 21 December 2021 that a further £102 million would be made available for Local Authorities, through a top up to the Additional Restrictions Grant. This grant scheme was provided by Government, and administered by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), to support businesses not eligible for the Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant, which was open to businesses in those sectors on the business ratings register.

A grant offer letter confirming the amount that would be provided to each Local Authority was received on the 7 January 2022 and the allocation had been made using data based on the number of businesses per authority. The set out the allocation for each GM authority, it was reported that Tameside MBC would receive an allocation of £268,355.

The Director of Place explained that any business in Tameside who had been impacted by COVID and not supported by other schemes, will be able to apply. The grant payment levels would be amended in the guidance as below, the previous ARG pot was originally £6.8m. The reduction in payment amounts both reflected the smaller funding allocation available and the expectation that the majority of larger businesses would be supported through other funding streams, such as OHLG or CARF.

It was further explained that the guidance would be updated to advise that the fund would reopen on Monday 17 January 2022 and would remain open until funds were exhausted or until 28 February 2022 whichever was earliest. This would allow all payments to be made by the Government deadline on 31 March 2022.

#### **AGREED**

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

- (i) **The Additional Restrictions Grant fund will be reopened for applications as soon as possible.**
- (ii) **Once applications are processed and determined as eligible, working with Finance & Audit, the grant team will apply the payments.**

## **185 RENEWAL OF HOSTING AGREEMENT IN RELATION TO ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS (VARIOUS SITES)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Transport and Connectivity / Director of Place. The report set out details of the renewal of the existing agreement that had electric vehicle charging points installed at the four locations in the borough stated in section 1.2 of the report. The report also requested approval for the installation of a charging point at the Darnton Road, Ashton car park.

It was reported that as part of the Greater Manchester Clean Air plan and in order to support the roll out of rapid charging points across Greater Manchester, TfGM had approached the Council seeking to renew the existing agreement. In addition, they had sought consent to add a new site at Darnton Road car park.

The proposed hosting agreement would expire on 5 December 2026, unless terminated in accordance with the appropriate clause within the agreement. This scheme would not result in any cost to the Council with TfGM meeting the costs of installation and maintenance of the charging points along with any associated electricity costs.

It was explained that this scheme would not result in any cost to the Council and all maintenance and associated energy costs will be borne by TfGM. The Council would charge an appropriate parking fee for any person parking within a bay whilst charging their vehicle, the implementation date of which was to be determined.

### **AGREED**

**That the Executive Member for Transport and Connectivity be recommended to determine that the Council renew the existing Hosting agreement to support the GM Clean Air Plan and expansion of the Greater Manchester Electric Vehicle (GMEV) Network; and to enable TfGM to replace existing electric vehicle charging points along with the installation of a new charging point at Darnton Road car park, Stalybridge.**

## **186 STALYBRIDGE STREET FEAST**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods Community Safety and Environment / Director of Place. The report provided an overview of the Stalybridge Street Feast event, its current position, and the support actions needed to aid its continuation. The report also provided an update on the position with regard to external funding and the financial implications of this.

Members were advised that the Stalybridge Street Feast pilot had delivered on its aim of engaging residents and businesses, increasing footfall in the town centre, supporting local SME traders and increased the profile of Stalybridge as a desirable location to visit. Demand throughout the pilot programme had not waned and there was a clear opportunity for the Council to continue to deliver this event for the benefit of the local economy in Stalybridge.

It was stated that in delivering these aims it had supported the objectives required by the Action Plan for Stalybridge – Our Place Our Plan produced in accordance with the result of the 2018 Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge Public Consultation. The Street Feast was helping to develop a vibrant and visited town that attracts a wide range of people and a town where local people could be proud to promote the strengths and are active in enjoying, supporting and enhancing the offer.

The report detailed that the Street Feast needed to be considered as part of the wider strategic approach to regeneration in Stalybridge and ensuring the town delivered on its potential as being a town centre to meet future need and to evolve based around a strong independent retail offer, high quality public realm, new homes, heritage, food and drink, community and events. This 2022 programme of events for the Street Feast will provide further robust market testing and assurances that there was a sustained demand for an event of this type in the future. Opportunities to review the event in terms of delivery and funding would be undertaken to ensure value for money and the possibility of the event being cost neutral to the Council.

Due to the success of the Street Feast Stalybridge Town Team were planning a series of Artisan Markets throughout 2022, commencing in April 2022.

#### **AGREED**

**That the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods Community Safety and Environment be recommended to:**

- (i) Note the positive achievements to date in regard to the successes of the event and the impact it is having on the local economy and community and the intended Artisan Markets which will be organised by Stalybridge Town Team.**
- (ii) Approve the allocation of £0.030m via the existing Place Directorate revenue budget to fund ten further monthly markets throughout the period March – December 2022, to build upon the success of the pilot events held in 2021. The Directorate will explore grant and other funding opportunities to support the self-financing of the related costs.**
- (iii) Note the application for Town of Culture and the allocation of funding if successful.**

#### **187 GREATER MANCHESTER CARE RECORD**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health / Director of Adult Services. This report outlined how Tameside Council could become part of the multi-agency initiative, the Greater Manchester Care Record, by sharing its Adults Social Care data.

It was explained that each health and care organisation in Greater Manchester collected information about patients / service users and keeps records about the care and services they provided. The Greater Manchester (GM) Care Record pulled together the key information about people from different health and social care records and displays it in one combined record. This allowed workers in health or social care, access to patient information from multiagency settings to support decision-making about patient care and treatment.

It was stated that there were 463 organisations sharing their data via the GM Care Record. This included 10 Clinical Commissioning Groups (accounting for 434 GPs), 10 Acute Hospitals, 11 Councils and 8 other health and care organisations. Of the 10 GM authorities, 8 were already live sharing their adults social care records and 2 with children's social care records. Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust was also live with its data as part of the GM Care Record.

Members were advised that the Council's role would share its Adults Social Care information as part of this project. The banner of 'social care information' was broad and covered a range of information about our service users. A full list of the data that would be shared by the Council to form part of the GM Care Record was attached to the report at Appendix 1. The amount of data that the GM Care Record holds would increase as the system became embedded. The Council would need to ensure that any information governance was reviewed to reflect any changes to ensure compliance with data sharing legislation.

#### **AGREED**

**That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Population Health be recommended to determine that:**

- (i) The Council will share its Adults Social Care data to form part of the Greater Manchester (GM) Care Record subject to:**

1. **GDPR compliance as detailed in this report.**
  2. **Completion of a data cleanse of records in the Adults Social Care IT system.**
- (ii) **The Council will commit to the GM Care Record for a period of 5 years as part of the GM contract.**

## **188 FORWARD PLAN**

The forward plan of items for Board was considered.

**CHAIR**