JOINT MEETING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET WITH OVERVIEW PANEL

9 February 2022

Commenced: 1.30pm **Terminated: 3.20pm**

Present:	**Councillors Warrington (Chair), Bray, Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Kitchen and Wills**	
	Overview Panel: Councillors Naylor, Glover, Owen and N Sharif	
In Attendance:	**Ashwin Ramachandra**	**Co-Chair, Tameside & Glossop CCG (part meeting)**
	Steven Pleasant	**Chief Executive & Accountable Officer**
	Sandra Stewart	**Director of Governance & Pensions**
	Kathy Roe	**Director of Finance**
	Stephanie Butterworth	**Director of Adults Services**
	Alison Stathers-Tracey	**Director of Children's Services**
	Jess Williams	**Director of Commissioning**
	Sarah Threlfall	**Director of Transformation**
	Tim Bowman	**Director of Education (Tameside and Stockport)**
	Caroline Barlow	**Assistant Director of Finance**
	James Mallion	**Interim Assistant Director of Population Health**
	Gregg Stott	**Assistant Director, Investment, Development and Housing**
	Tracey Harrison	**Assistant Director, Adult Social Care**
	Sally Dickin	**Head of Service, Early Intervention and Youth Justice**
	Simon Brunet	**Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence**
Apologies for absence:	**Councillors Boyle, J Fitzpatrick and T Smith** **Councillors Ryan and Costello participated in the meeting virtually**	

123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Cabinet Members.

124. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 26 January 2022 be approved as a correct record.

125. MINUTES OF STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

RESOLVED
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 26 January 2022 be noted.

126. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

RESOLVED
That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Board held on 12 January 2022 be noted.

127. SCRUTINY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Governance and Pensions summarising the work of the Council's two scrutiny Panels: Place and External Relations and Integrated Care and Wellbeing. A chronological breakdown of activity and oversight of both Scrutiny Panels during 2021/2022 was given.

With regard to the Budget Consultation, Members were informed that all Scrutiny Panel Members were provided with an opportunity to attend one of two budget briefing sessions held in January 2022. This followed on from a mid-year budget position update received at Panel meetings held in September 2021. The independence of Scrutiny enabled Members to seek assurances on budget planning, process and priorities for 2022/23 and beyond. It was also appropriate for budget priorities to inform future Scrutiny activity and work programmes. A response letter of the Scrutiny Chairs had been sent to the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth; and the Director of Finance – Section 151 Officer, a copy of which was appended to the report.

In respect of follow-up on past reviews, it was reported that both Scrutiny Panels had recently conducted follow-up activity in order to monitor and seek assurances against past recommendations. This work was a vital part of the review process and it was customary for follow-up activity to take place approximately 12 months following the initial review.

The Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel had recently revisited the Recruitment and Retention of Foster Carers review and follow up had now been received at meetings of the Children's Working Group on 12 November 2020 and 20 September 2021.

The Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel had recently revisited the Improving Quality and Standards in the Private Rented review - as part of the Homelessness and Housing review, detail of the wider housing strategy and homelessness prevention work touched upon the role of the private rented sector. A further recommendation was put to the Executive regarding future decision-making linked with previous ambitions to improve quality and standards in the private rented sector; and to connect with regional schemes aimed to promote best practice and build partnerships with the private rented sector.

Members were advised that Scrutiny continued to review decisions and focus reports published by the Ombudsman. The aim was to ensure learning opportunities were shared with services in a timely manner and for a formal response and/or position statement to be returned to the appropriate Scrutiny Panel within agreed timescales. It remained important to ensure that the subject matter was appropriate, proportionate and could add value. Work in this area had progressed well, with the plan to ensure responses were reported to Overview Panel at the earliest opportunity. Activity informed by recent LGSCO focus reports was detailed in the report.

In respect of consultation and engagement, it was reported that the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel had recently submitted a direct response and feedback to the Greater Manchester Police HMICFRS Inspection.

RESOLVED
That the content of the report and the summary of scrutiny activity, be noted.

128. ASSURANCE REVIEW OF LGSCO FOCUS REPORT - IMPROVING SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS

A report was submitted by the Director of Governance and Pensions providing, for information, a service response on shared learning within the LGSCO focus report on improving services for domestic abuse victims. A copy of the service response was appended to the report.

It was explained that the focus report included case studies and experiences to highlight the breadth of investigation and identified common issues and themes associated with the following areas of provision for domestic abuse victims:

- Wrongly sharing personal information with an abuser;
- Failing to work with other agencies to keep victims safe;
- Failing to safeguard children from risk of domestic abuse;
- Refusing to believe victims of domestic abuse and failing to understand what constitutes abuse;
- Failing to provide proper advice and support;
- Ignoring disclosures of domestic abuse;
- Failing to identify risks to victims; and
- Delays in providing victims with services.

RESOLVED
That the content of the report be noted, including the ongoing activity of Scrutiny Panels to review LGSCO decisions to inform and improve local service delivery.

129. SCRUTINY REVIEW ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

The Chair of the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel / Executive Member, Housing Planning and Employment submitted a report, providing a summary of the Scrutiny review on Homelessness and Housing.

It was explained that, as part of the process, Scrutiny had:

- Completed a desktop review of homelessness and housing, informed by the emerging national picture and growing concerns highlighted for the accessibility of quality housing and risks of homelessness;
- Met with Councillor Gerald Cooney, Executive Member, Housing, Planning and Employment; Ian Saxon, Director of Place; Gregg Stott, Assistant Director, Investment, Development and Housing; and John Gregory, Head of Community Safety and Homelessness, to receive an update in response to the Scrutiny desktop review of homelessness at the formal Scrutiny Panel on 2 November 2021; and
- Submitted a number of questions to the Executive for response. The three areas below had remained in place as key strands that Scrutiny aimed to seek assurance and focus its attention towards improving outcomes for residents:
    - Homelessness – statutory responsibilities and wider preventative work.
    - Housing access to public and private rent.
    - Private rented sector and improving quality.

Key findings were detailed and discussed.

The report put forward a number of recommendations to the Executive. A copy of the Executive Response to the review was appended to the report including recommendations to support future services.

RESOLVED
That the recommendations as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted.

130. SCRUTINY INTERIM REPORT - MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT (ACCESS AND CRISIS)

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel summarising interim activity undertaken by the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel in respect of the Interim report – Mental Health Support (Access and Crisis).

It was explained that, as part of the process to date, Scrutiny had:

- Met with Councillor Eleanor Wills, Executive Member, Adult Social Care and Health; Jessica Williams, Director of Commissioning; Lynzi Shepherd, Head of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities; and Emma Richardson, Pennine Care, to receive an update regarding the accessibility of local mental health services and responding to impacts of Covid-19 with regard to demand pressures and ongoing support for residents.
- A working group of the Scrutiny Panel met with Lynzi Shepherd, Head of Mental Health and Learning Disabilities to receive additional detail on the transformation plan for access and crisis.

The report identified areas for further investigation and improvement.

RESOLVED
That the initial findings for future investigation and improvement, as detailed in the report, be noted.

131. 2022/23 BUDGET REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Director of Finance setting out the detailed revenue budget proposals for 2022/2023 and the Medium Term Financial Plan for the 5 year period 2022/23 to 2026/27, including the proposed council tax increase for 2022/23.

It was explained that the Council set a balanced budget for 2021/22, but the budget process was challenging, and required a substantial savings target of £8.930m. Whilst moving away from reliance on reserves, the budget was only balanced with a number of corporate financing initiatives and one off funding, which was not sustainable and placed further pressure on future year budgets.

The COVID-19 pandemic had continued to have a significant adverse impact on Council finances, due to a combination of additional costs and lost income. Significant additional funding was provided in 2020/21 and 2021/22, however no additional funding was available for 2022/23, despite ongoing pressures and income reductions forecast into 2022/23 and beyond.

For much of the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years the CCG had been under a command and control regime from NHS England, which whilst providing some short-term financial stability, had limited future planning. During 2021/22, the Strategic Commission had continued to report on the financial position of the Tameside and Glossop Health Economy as a whole in monthly Integrated Commissioning Fund (ICF) financial monitoring reports. As at the end of December 2021, the Strategic Commission was forecasting a net overspend of £5.1m due primarily to continuing significant pressures in Children's Social Care Services.

The CCG reported position at Month 9 showed a forecast overspend of (£3,931k). With the exception of the QIPP shortfall, all of this was reimbursable, but in line with national reporting guidance needed to be shown as an overspend until appropriate allocation changes were transacted.

The Council forecast position was a net overspend of (£1,159k) but this masked a number of pressures and overspends in some areas, including Children's Social Care Services, Place and Exchequer, offset by underspends in areas including Adults, Population Health and Finance & IT.

Balancing the 2022/23 budget had only been possible through the use of a significant amount of additional one-off funding which was not expected to be available in 2022/23, and as a result the Council still faced a significant budget gap in future years. The delivery of a significant programme of savings in 2022/23 would be challenging, and would require a sustained focus on delivery of plans. The scale of savings, combined with significant financial pressures which may emerge from further demographic changes in Children's Social Care and Adults services, meant that delivery of the 2022/23 budget presented a significant financial challenge. The proposals did not, however, drawdown further on Council reserves, which represented a reduction in the reliance on reserves to balance the budget as in previous years. This helped to protect the Council's overall reserves position during 2022/23.

The 2021/22 budget report included forecasts for 2021 to 2026, which identified a budget gap of £14.3m in 2022/23. This gap assumed that all savings and additional income identified in the 2021/22 budget plans would be delivered and that expenditure in Children's Social Care Services would be contained within budget in 2021/22. In addition, savings of £3.4m would be delivered in 2022/23 as progress was made around the early help model and reduction in placements, with further reductions in spending of £4.1m planned over the following two years.

Key assumptions underpinning the budget for 2022/23 and future projections were set out in the report.

There remained a significant budget gap in 2023/24 of £11.764m, which increased to £28.633m by 2026/27. This forecast gap was predicated on the assumptions detailed in the report and would continue to be reviewed and revised over the course of the year as future forecasts were refined.

It was explained that the Council continued to face significant cost pressures from demographic growth and increased costs. The key cost pressures for 2022/23 had been reviewed and assumptions recalculated and were summarised in the report and appendices.

Details of savings, budget reductions and additional income were given and it was reported that the Council must continue to make efficiencies but could not keep cutting at that scale over the longer-term. There was a need to continue to rescale underlying demand across high cost areas. This would require innovative and creative remodelling of services with the need to invest in transformation capacity and capability.

After taking account of budget pressures, additional income and savings identified for delivery in 2022/23, the total net budget requirement for the Council was £208.609m. Before any increase in Council tax levels, the resource available in 2022/23 was £205.572m, leaving a gap of £3.037m.

Appendix 4 to the report provided further detail on resourcing and Council Tax. The remaining budget gap of £3.037m could be closed with a 1.99% general increase (which had previously been assumed in the MTFP) and a 1% Adult Social Care Precept on Council Tax. For a typical band A property in Tameside a 2.99% increase in Council Tax would equate to an increase of £31.97 per year, or 61 pence per week.

Whilst the budget proposals for 2022/23 presented a balanced position (after Council Tax increases) the projected gap for 2023/24 and beyond was significant and relied on the delivery of all proposed savings identified as part of this budget process. The gap was primarily driven by forecast demographic and other cost pressures, particularly in Adults services, along with continued pressures in Children's Social Care services.

The budget forecast for 2022/23 and beyond assumed that the £8.9m of savings planned for 2021/22 were delivered in full and that a further £7.6m of savings was delivered in 2022/23. The savings programme was ambitious and would require relentless focus on planning, project management and delivery.

The Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 18 to the report**,** set out the Council's approach to pay policy in accordance within the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. The pay policy applied for the year 2022/23 unless replaced or varied by Full Council.

In relation to the Treasury Management Strategy, Members were informed that, as at 31 March 2021 the Council had £94m of investments which needed to be safeguarded, £141m of long term debt, which had been accrued over the years to help to fund the Council's capital investment programmes, and £10m of short term debt. The Council was also the lead authority responsible for the administration of the debt of the former Greater Manchester County Council on behalf of all ten Greater

Manchester Metropolitan Authorities. As at 31 March 2021, this represented a further £21m of debt. The significant size of these amounts required careful management to ensure that the Council met its balanced budget requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992. Generating good value for money was therefore essential, in terms of both minimising the cost of borrowing and maximising the return on investments. The Treasury Management Strategy also set out the estimated borrowing requirement for both Tameside MBC and the Greater Manchester Metropolitan Debt Administration Fund (GMMDAF), together with the strategy to be employed in managing the debt position.

RESOLVED
That the following recommendations, as outlined in the submitted report be RECOMMENDED to Council for approval, subject to any final minor changes to the final figures:

(i) That the significant financial challenges and risks set out in this report be noted;
(ii) That the budgeted net expenditure for the financial year 2022/23 of £208.609m as set out in section 3 and Appendix 1 be approved, noting the significant pressures outlined in Appendix 2;
(iii) That the proposed savings to be delivered by management outlined in section 3 and Appendix 3 be approved, noting the additional detail provided in Appendices 7 to 14;
(iv) That an uplift to fees and charges as set out in Appendix 21, be approved;
(v) That the proposed resourcing of the budget as set out in Appendix 4, be approved;
(vi) That a 2.99% increase to Council Tax for Tameside MBC for 2022/23, consisting of a 1.99% general increase and 1% Adult Social Care precept, be approved;
(vii) It be noted that the budget projections set out in section 6, assume a 1.99% per annum increase in general Council Tax through to 2026/27. The budget projections also assume that there is no reduction to current levels of Government funding;
(viii) That the Director of Finance's assessment of the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of reserves as set out in Appendix 5, be accepted. Following this, it be determined that the estimates are robust for the purpose of setting the budget and that the proposed minimum General Fund Balance is adequate;
(ix) That the proposed minimum General Fund Balance of £26m set out in Appendix 6, be approved;
(x) That the Reserves Strategy and note the projected reserves position as set out in Appendix 6, be approved;
(xi) That the new Corporate Charging Policy set out in Appendix 17, be approved;
(xii) That the position on the Capital Programme (Section 8 and Appendix 15) previously approved by Executive Cabinet, and the forecast future investment requirements, be noted;
(xiii) That the Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 as set out in section 9 and Appendix 18, be approved;
(xiv) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23, which includes the proposed borrowing strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (Appendix 19), be approved;
(xv) That the Capital Strategy 2022/23 (Appendix 20), be approved; and
(xvi) That delegated authority be given to the Directors (in consultation with the Section 151 officer) to agree any uplifts required to other contractual rates from 1 April 2022 which Directorates will manage within their approved budgets for 2022/23.

132. CONSOLIDATED 2021/22 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Lead Clinical GP / Director of Finance. The report detailed actual expenditure to 31 December 2021 (Month 9) and forecasts to 31 March 2022.

It was reported that, overall, the Council was facing a total forecast overspend of £1.159m 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 49k since Month 8, mainly due a reduction in external placement costs in Children's Social Care. There were some other smaller movements relating to Covid income and expenditure.

The CCG reported position at Month 9 showed a forecast overspend of (£3,931k), with a YTD variance of (£814k). With the exception of the QIPP shortfall, all of this was reimbursable, but in line with national reporting guidance needed to be shown as an overspend until appropriate allocation changes are transacted. Further details were set out in the report and appendix.

Members were advised that, in November 2021, Executive Cabinet received a report on the Council's successful bid for Levelling Up Funding of £19.870m. Council officers met with officials from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on 21 December 2021 to discuss monitoring and delivery arrangements. A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be agreed with DLUHC had been shared with the Council and would cover the terms and conditions for the LUF grant funding; the final MOU for Council sign off was anticipated in mid-February 2022.

There would be a grant determination offer letter sent to the Council every 6 months (in line with payment), where the Council would be required to confirm the capital funding spent. Additionally, there would be a requirement to submit a Programme Management Update as part of the 6 monthly reporting process signed by the Council's s.151 officer. It was currently estimated that expenditure of £0.2m would be incurred in 21/22 in relation to land acquisition of the former interchange site and project management costs (including public realm strategy). It was proposed that the £19.870m be added to the Council's Capital Programme, pending sign-off of the Memorandum of Understanding with DLUHC.

RESOLVED
(i) That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for the 2021/22 revenue budgets as set out in Appendix 1, be noted; and
(ii) That the inclusion of £19.870m of Levelling Up Grant Funding in the Capital Programme be approved, pending sign off of the Memorandum of Understanding with DLUHC (Section 3) and it be noted that on-going performance updates and reporting will be provided to Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel.

133. CORPORATE CHARGING POLICY

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Finance, which recommended that the Council adopt a Corporate Charging Policy, a copy of which was appended to the report. The Policy established principles and a framework for setting and reviewing non-statutory fees and charges. It was the intention to ask Full Council to approve the policy as part of the budget report for 2022/23. The policy would then be expected to be applied to the review of fees and charges during 2022/23 with full compliance from 1 April 2023 for the 2023/24 financial year.

RESOLVED
That it be RECOMMENDED to Council that the Corporate Charging Policy, as attached to the report, be approved.

134. YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE HMIP INSPECTION RESPONSE

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader, Children and Families, Assistant Director Children's Services providing a summary of the recent HMIP inspection of the Youth Justice Service, including the response of the service and next steps. The full report could be accessed at: An inspection of youth offending services in Tameside (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk).

A summary of strengths was outlined, including the implementation, delivery and reviewing of court disposal casework, and in the assessment, planning and delivery of casework across out-of-court disposals. The service was noted to have a strong understanding of desistance, and work to promote this was evident to HMIP.

Arrangements for staffing and partnerships and services were found to be good. Staff were described as being motivated, experienced, child-centred, and in receipt of regular supervision, with access to good training and development. The YJS partnership was found to have access to a good volume, range and quality of services, including specialist and mainstream interventions. In particular, the report highlighted that the partnership was to be commended on adapting to the difficult local challenges that had arisen during the Covid-19 pandemic and continuing to deliver quality services.

HMIP noted that many of the children supervised by the YJS had complex lives, and their circumstances could change rapidly. Reviewing of cases was found to be strengths-based, informed by other agencies and child-focused, with the YJS described as achieving an appropriate balance between supporting desistance, safeguarding children and protecting the public. They found a consistently good level of involvement of children and their parents or carers across all elements of casework.

A summary of areas for improvement was also provided.

The report concluded that the YJS Management Board would drive forward the recommendations of HMIP and would review the action plan and progress against the plan in its quarterly meetings. The service would continue to ensure that children and young people who came to their attention received a high quality service that was proportionate and addressed any unmet need. The Board would continue to promote across the partnership the importance of children who were open to the YJS being viewed as children first and foremost, in line with the 'Child First, Offender Second' approach.

RESOLVED
That the content of the report be noted.

135. SEND UPDATE

The Executive Member, Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Director Education, Tameside and Stockport, submitted a report explaining that between 18 and 22 October 2021, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) conducted a joint inspection of the local area of Tameside to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The findings of the report had been received, (published 11 January 2022), which was published and available publicly. A link to the report was available at https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80569.

The outcome of the inspection was that a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) was required because of significant areas of weakness in the area's practice. HMCI had also determined that the local authority and the area's clinical commissioning group(s) (CCG) were jointly responsible for submitting the written statement to Ofsted. The Written Statement of Action must be submitted for approval no later than 12 April 2022.

RESOLVED
- **(i) That the requirement for the local authority and the clinical commissioning group(s) (CCG) to submit a written statement of action to Ofsted by 12 April 2022, be noted;**
- **(ii) It be agreed that the Written Statement of Action will be presented to Executive Cabinet for approval on 30 March; and**
- **(iii) It be noted that an additional investment of £98.2k be made in staffing in the SEND team from within existing budget provision.**

136. PFI ACADEMY CONVERSIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Director of Education, Tameside and Stockport, which updated Members on the conversion to Academy Status of five PFI built schools; three High Schools, Alder, Mossley Hollins and Hyde and two primary schools, Pinfold and Arundale.

It was explained that, subsequent to the decision of Executive Cabinet in July 2020, the Governing Boards of Hyde and Alder High Schools had decided not to academise and join the Tame River Trust. Therefore, three PFI built schools were now proposing to academise.

Officers had been engaged in project meetings with the schools and DfE officials since September of 2020. These meetings had also included external legal officers, representing both the schools and the Council. Whilst these discussions had been positive, progress had been slow.

There were two substantive issues that had hampered progress. The first was costs. The Council was seeking to recover its costs in progressing the academisations. As councils received no funding from central government to complete the substantial work associated with this process, the council recovered its costs directly from converting schools. Typically these costs between £2,500 and £10,000 dependant upon the complexity of the individual schools circumstances. Converting schools received a grant of £25,000 per school from central government to pay the Council for this and other costs of conversion.

Members were advised that the conversion of PFI built schools was a very complicated process, as such, it entailed a substantial additional cost arising from the PFI contracts needing to be changed. Preparing the three conversions had required the Council to instruct external legal and financial experts.

It was not reasonable to expect that the costs were met by individual schools, furthermore, Elected Members when they agreed that the Council no longer had an in-principle objection to these conversions, instructed officers to ensure that the Council was not subsidising the costs of conversions. In order to resolve this issue and on the advice of DfE, officials prepared a "business case" outlining the costs the Council was expecting to incur and asking for this funding to be provided by Central Government. In Tameside, these costs were estimated to be in the region of £140,000 for the 3 remaining schools. The latest offer from Central Government was that they were prepared to contribute £60,000 to the costs, leaving a shortfall of £80,000 for the 3 remaining schools to fund. The Council had been very clear that it should not be in a position that it was subsidising PFI conversations, schools will be expected to pick up these costs from school budget for the £5,000 that exceeds the grants they had been allocated.

The second substantive issue limiting progress concerned the extent to which the model legal documents which determine the academisation could be amended. A list of the issues which the Council had raised was included in the report.

On 16 July 2021 the Chief Executive received a letter for Dominic Hetherington, the National Schools Commissioner (NSC). In this letter the NSC offered a contribution to the council's costs and asked that we expedite these academisations. Some further comfort was also provided about the Council's risks. A copy of this letter was included as an appendix to the report.

The Chief Executive's response was appended to the report and outlined clearly the issues that the Council was seeking advice from the department on. Furthermore it made clear that, "*the Council is seeking nothing more than reimbursement of the costs it is incurring. Officers have and will continue to work in an "open book" manner with officials on costs. This, in line with the normal process for charging outlined in the Council procedure note that is used for all conversions in Tameside."*

The Council's legal and financial advisors had performed the required due diligence and articulated the key issues, risks and potential mitigations in relation to the academisation of PFI schools. The issues listed were detailed and complex and were summarised in the report.

RESOLVED
That, noting the due diligence work already undertaken, it be agreed that officers will continue to negotiate with schools and the DfE about the paying of our costs and subject to a successful outcome, negotiate the variations with the schools and engage with DfE to ascertain that these changes can be made.

Thereafter officers will either:
(a) present a further report to Members with the outcome of those negotiations in order that a determination can be made as to Council's position if the costs are not indemnified by the DfE and the schools so that the Council is left cost neutral; or
(b) present the final academisation paper work including the updated due diligence in relation to the financial and legal position following those negotiations.

137. ST PETERSFIELD PHASE 1 – MASTERPLAN

The Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Place submitted a report outlining the proposals included in the emerging masterplan prepared as part of the Phase 1 work in the St Petersfield area.

The specifics of the masterplan were presented, including proposals for a mixed use development across nine development plots comprising high quality, sustainable and healthy office buildings, new residential development, a hotel, food and drink establishment and public realm improving connectivity across the area and with the core of Ashton Town Centre.

Details on the next steps to be taken including the preparation of a partnership strategy that would identify a preferred procurement route, were also provided.

RESOLVED
(i) That the masterplan for adoption be approved, which will guide development in St Petersfield and act as a material consideration when consulting on planning applications in the area and ensure that proposals for development in the area will comply with the principles, parameters and vision for St Petersfield;
(ii) That the next steps in relation to preparing a delivery/partnership strategy that will identify a preferred option for the procurement of a development partner(s) to start to develop the sites, be noted;
(iii) That the Director of Place manage the programme of works associated with the delivery strategy to be prepared for the St Petersfield area, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth, which will be subject to the usual governance and transparency requirements; and
(iv) That further updates be provided to Executive Cabinet on completion of the delivery/partnership strategy included in the Phase Two commission underway.

138. ASHTON DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Place seeking approval to create a Greater Manchester Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) around the Ashton Innovation Corridor to be known as the Ashton Development Zone (ADZ).

It was explained that the Council had identified the Ashton Innovation Corridor, comprising St Petersfield, Ashton Moss and Ashton Town Centre, as one of its priority areas to deliver high innovation growth and implement the objectives of the Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy 2021-26.

The unique cluster of opportunity had been the focus of activity over a number of years and had recently secured £19.8m from the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) that would contribute to the regeneration of Ashton Town Centre. The Town Centre had undergone improvements in recent years, with the Council's ambition evident through the significant investment of c£60m under the Vision Tameside programme that had delivered the new Ashton Interchange, enhanced digital connectivity, learning facilities, the Council Head Office and public realm. Other key successes included the development of the St Petersfield site and refurbishment of Ashton Old Baths to enhance Ashton's digital sector and commercial office offer as well as improvements to Ashton Market Hall.

There were further opportunities for a mixed use business led growth, particularly in the digital and creative sectors, being brought forward at St Petersfield and the draft GM Places for Everyone (PfE) joint development strategy proposes to allocate a major employment site at Ashton Moss. This significant scale of employment and residential growth would accelerate the economic growth and competitiveness of the area.

Of critical importance would be to ensure that these opportunities improved the quality of the town centre and realise business growth and new homes in a quality environment. It will also be important to ensure that there was good connectivity between development sites and the local population was upskilled to take advantage of the opportunities whilst raising the profile of the area to deliver at pace and attract further investment.

Members were advised that the Council had now commenced the Ashton Town Centre LUF programme in the context of an emerging wider strategic vision for Ashton Town Centre following the decision by Executive Cabinet on 24 November 2021. Officers met with officials from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on 21 December 2021 to discuss monitoring and delivery arrangements. The interventions supported by the LUF were critical to unlocking the comprehensive redevelopment of the Town Centre and integrating with other as part of a coherent vision, completing of the final phase of Vision Tameside. The enabling works would act as a catalyst for significantly accelerating delivery of the comprehensive transformation of the Town Centre and unlock its full potential.

The Council was also finalising a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and associated Terms of Reference with the owners of the Arcades and Ladysmith Shopping Centres to explore the scope for the redevelopment of the two shopping centres as part of a wider plan to regenerate the Town Centre whilst supporting the Council's priorities for growth. As previously reported to Executive Cabinet, subject to further due diligence and viability assessment, the potential had been identified for delivery of c470 new homes of a range of types and tenure, 8,750 sq.m of commercial spaces, a new Health and Wellbeing hub, with 8,500 sq.m of retail space retained.

It was considered that the ADZ would significantly raise the profile of Ashton and Tameside; helping to position the opportunities that existed for future funding, investment and Greater Manchester (GM) support. It would provide a mechanism for effective engagement with key stakeholders and organisations in both from the public and private sector.

RESOLVED

(i) That the creation a Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) around Ashton Innovation Corridor to be known as the Ashton Development Zone (ADZ), be agreed;

(ii) That the Director of Place implement the ADZ and manage the programme of works associated with its delivery and on-going performance and reporting be provided to Executive Cabinet; and

(iii) That the work underway to deliver the £19.87m Levelling Up Fund bid for Ashton Town Centre and associated Town Centre Regeneration Programme, be noted.

139. SHARED SERVICES UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Director of Education, Tameside and Stockport, updating Members on progress with Tameside and Stockport shared services programme, which aimed to improve outcomes for children and families by delivering the best possible services through challenging times and within diminishing resources, supported through an emphasis on collaboration and partnership.

It was explained that the programme aimed to explore and realise the opportunities to do things differently, to build capacity and share best practice across traditional boundaries.

Information was also provided in respect of a proposal to develop an integrated school improvement team.

RESOLVED
That the progress to date be noted, including the proposal to develop an integrated school improvement team.

140. APPROVAL OF REVISED NON-RESIDENTIAL CHARGING POLICY

The Executive Member, Adult Social Care and Health / Director of Adults Services submitted a report seeking approval of the revised Non-Residential Charging Policy, following a public consultation exercise on the following matters:

- The level the Council sets the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG);
- The way that the level of income is disregarded;
- The introduction of an arrangement fee and annual charge for self-funders; and
- General feedback on the revised Non-residential Charging Policy.

It was explained that, following permission to consult on the proposed Non-Residential Charging Policy in general, there were three specific areas that the public consultation explored:

- Level of Minimum Income Guarantee;
- Level of Income that was disregarded; and
- Arrangement and annual fee for setting up care for self-funders.

Details of the feedback received in the consultation exercise was set out in the report.

Proposed changes to current practice were also detailed and discussed.

The report concluded that every effort was made to ensure people that could potentially be impacted by the proposals were made aware of the consultation and opportunity to feed back.

It was estimated that the proposed changes following the consultation exercise, as outlined in the report, would impact on the Council's budget by up to £200k annually. However, it would ensure the proposed Non-Residential Charging Policy recognised that more severely disabled people may have a higher level of spend to meet their enhanced needs, and therefore the additional benefit they received would be disregarded in recognition of this. The added financial pressure may be offset marginally by the introduction of an arrangement and annual fee for self-funders.

If agreed, the new Non-Residential Charging Policy would be implemented at the start of April 2022.

The Residential Charging Policy would be drafted and presented at a future meeting of Executive Cabinet for approval. Consultation may be required on the self-funder's charging element of the Policy. Aside from this, there would be no further changes being proposed to the assessment or charging process in the revised policy, it was an exercise to separate the residential and non-residential elements of the current policy.

RESOLVED
It be agreed:

(i) That permission be given to implement the following elements of the revised Adult Services Non-Residential Charging Policy:
- **The Minimum Income Guarantee level remains at the level the Council currently uses;**
- **The level of income disregarded is changed to disregard the difference between DLA care higher and middle rate and PIP daily living allowance enhanced and standard rate; and**
- **An annual fee for managing non-residential self-funders' accounts of £95 be implemented from 1 April 2022, with an annual review of the level. This will apply only to non-residential packages of care created from this date, rather than existing packages.**

(ii) That permission be given to implement the proposed Non-Residential Charging Policy from 1 April 2022.

141. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED
That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the press and public be excluded for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information as disclosure would or would likely prejudice the commercial interests of the Council and it would not be in the Council's and/or taxpayers interests to disclose at this time.

142. HS2 UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Director of Place, which provided an update on the delivery of HS2 and the potential impact on Tameside during the construction period and the next steps required to provide appropriate mitigation.

RESOLVED

(i) That it be RECOMMENDED to Council to submit a petition, to secure alternative arrangements for the delivery of HS2 that mitigate the potential impact on Metrolink services in Tameside during the HS2 construction period; and

(ii) That the Director of Place manage the programme of works and engagement with partners associated with the provision of Metrolink services in Tameside during the HS2 construction period, in consultation with the Executive Leader of the Council where any decisions will be subject to governance/legal requirements.

143. URGENT ITEMS

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

144. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED
It be noted that the next meeting of the Executive Cabinet is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 23 March 2022.

CHAIR