

BOARD

17 February 2022

Present:

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

Also in Attendance: **Stephanie Butterworth, Ian Saxon, Alison Stathers-Tracey, Sarah Threlfall, and Debbie Watson.**

Councillors Feeley and Gwynne

208 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

209 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Board meeting on the 2 February 2021 were approved a correct record.

210 REVISED GRANT LIMITS WITHIN THE HOUSING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY 2018-2023

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Place. The report sought approval for an increase on certain discretionary grant limits within the current Housing Financial Assistance Policy 2018-2023 thereby enabling applicants to continue to obtain the assistance they need in order to maintain independence, reduce hospital admissions and to reduce further calls on other social care services.

Members were reminded that in 2019, Executive Cabinet approved the Housing Financial Assistance Policy 2018-2023 (the new Policy) attached at appendix 1, which replaced the previous Policy adopted in 2003. The new Policy increased the number and type of discretionary grants available to disabled and vulnerable residents. A significant aspect of the new Policy was to remove the need for some applicants to undergo a test of resources (means test) if the cost of the works could be met within a set grant limit of £5,000. The report approved at Board in March 2019 explained the reasoning behind the new grant arrangements attached at appendix 2. All these grants under the new Policy were discretionary grants. A complete review of the new Policy was due to begin in late 2022 with a view to implementation during 2023.

The report detailed the effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Brexit on referrals received, processing of adaptations, the contractors delivering adaptations and the supply of materials adaptations. In August 2021, Board supported an Executive Decision for a rate rise for contractors in the Adaptations Contract attached at Appendix 3.

The proposed changes to the Policy did not change any criteria, were not significant or detrimental to the Policy or to those applicants who could wish to apply for assistance. The changes to the grant limits would not materially change the grant offer; it would maintain the status quo for all applicants, returning the Policy to its original intention when adopted in 2019.

The proposal to increase the grant limits would affect the following discretionary grants:

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|---------------------------|--|
| • Minor Adaptations | current limit £1,000 – raise to £1,500 |
| • Grant for Adaptation | current limit £5,000 – raise to £7,000 |
| • Tenant relocation grant | current limit £2,000 – raise to £2,500 |

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| • Hospital Discharge Grant | current limit £6,000 – raise to £7,000 |
| • Stay Put Scheme | current limit £6,000 – raise to £7,000 |
| • Home Repair Assistance | current limit £6,000 – raise to £7,000 |
| • Safety Net Assistance | current limit £6,000 – raise to £7,000 |

The report detailed the reasons for the new grant limits. It was explained that Minor Adaptations were a non-means tested grant with no application forms and the increase would prevent many smaller adaptations from becoming formal applications taking longer to process and affect staff resource. Further, the Grant for Adaptations was introduced with the new Policy and this change in the limit would allow the rate rise to be accommodated along with a rise in costs for any non-contracted items. The change in grant level would prevent disabled people being subject to and failing a means test with the resulting fall back onto council services.

It was highlighted that the increase in other grant limits will allow them to keep pace with the rate rise agreed previously and to increase the limit on those grants where failing the means test could have serious implications for the applicant and on council services. The new grant limits should be able to absorb any future increases, it was not clear at this time what would happen with regard to future material costs and supplies.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve an increase in the maximum discretionary grant limits on certain forms of assistance within the existing Housing Financial Assistance Policy 2018-2023, as detailed in section 5.4 of this report.

211 GM ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE – HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE TAXI SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Transport Connectivity / Director of Place. The report outlined the proposal received from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) relating to the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure for use by Hackney and Private Hire Taxi vehicles. Approval was also sought for the Council enter into an agreement with TfGM detailing the actions necessary to implement the scheme.

It was reported that Greater Manchester (TfGM) was currently a project, installing a number of electric vehicle charging points (EV points) throughout Greater Manchester; these EV points were solely for use by Hackney and Private Hire Taxis. The project supported both the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy and the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone, both of which support and encourage the use of electric vehicles, including Hackney and Private Hire Taxis.

The Greater Manchester region had secured £2.4m Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) funding to facilitate the rollout of no less than 30 dedicated rapid Taxi charging points in locations that were suitable to both Hackney and Private Hire Taxis. The GM Clean Air Plan (GM CAP) also had funding of £3.5m available for the funding of a further 30 dedicated rapid Taxi EV Points.

The following car parks had been identified as suitable locations for the new EV points:

- Mulberry Street Car Park, Ashton
- Union Street Car Park, Ashton
- Beeley Street Car Park, Hyde

It was proposed that 2 EV points will be installed at each car park with dedicated branding to identify the spaces as available for Taxi use only. The Council would continue to charge a fee for vehicles parking within the designated bay; therefore, there would be no loss of revenue income to the Council as a result of the scheme.

In order for the Council to benefit from the project, it was necessary for the Council to enter into an Agreement, which was similar to the Hosting Agreement currently held with TfGM for rapid EV points currently installed within TMBC car parks. A copy of the proposed agreement was attached at Appendix 1.

Under the terms of the agreement, TfGM will be responsible for the delivery, installation and operation of the charging infrastructure. At the end of the agreement, TfGM must remove the infrastructure and return the site to a good condition.

TfGM have confirmed that they will be responsible for all ongoing electricity costs and maintenance of the infrastructure relating to this project. The installation of the EV points and associated infrastructure would take place between summer and winter 2022.

AGREED

That the Executive Member for Transport and Connectivity be recommended to:

- 1. Enters into an agreement with Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) for the delivery, installation, commissioning, operation, maintenance and removal of Electric Vehicle Charging Points for use by Hackney and Private Hire Taxi companies.**
- 2. Approves the installation of Electric Vehicle Infrastructure in the following Car parks:**
 - **Mulberry Street Car Park, Ashton**
 - **Union Street Car Park, Ashton**
 - **Beeley Street Car Park, Hyde**
- 3. Uses its powers under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 to promote amendments to the off street parking places in order.**

212 PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF FORMER MOSSLEY HOLLINS HIGH SCHOOL, HUDDERSFIELD ROAD, MOSSLEY, OL5 9DJ.

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Place. The report proposed the disposal of the former Mossley Hollins High School, Huddersfield Road, Mossley, OL59DJ.

The report set out the options for the former Mossley Hollins High School. The report recommended the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth accept offer 5 submitted by Cube Homes Limited on behalf of Great Places Housing Association and; to progress the disposal in accordance with the provisionally agreed terms attached at appendix 2.

AGREED

That the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth be recommended to DETERMINE that in accordance with the agreed Council disposal policy, the Authority;

- (i) accept offer 5 submitted by Cube Homes Limited on behalf of Great Places Housing Association and;**
- (ii) progress the disposal in accordance with the provisionally agreed terms set out in Appendix 2 of the report.**

213 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT (DSG) FUNDING FORMULA 2022-23

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Executive Member for Finance and Growth / Director of Education for Tameside and Stockport / Assistant Director for Finance. The report sought approval regarding the decisions made by Schools' Forum on 19 January 2022. The report contained the arrangements concerning the DSG funding for 2022-23.

Members were advised that the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage and Executive Member for Finance and Growth were required to provide approval to the decisions made by Schools' Forum at the meeting of 19 January 2022 in which the following decisions were made:

- Members of the Schools' Forum approved the proposed Dedicated Schools Grant 2022-23 funding formula for mainstream schools.
- Members of the Schools' Forum approved the growth fund for 2022-23.
- Members of the Schools' Forum approved the proposed transfer of 0.5% from the Schools

Block to the High Needs Block further to the outcome of consultation.

- Members of the Schools' Forum supported schools continued contribution to Tameside Safeguarding Board for 2022-23.
- Members of the Schools' Forum approved the allocation of the Central School Services Block which includes the central retention of the following: School Admissions, Servicing of Schools' Forum and contribution to responsibilities that LAs hold for all schools (the retained duties element of the ESG)
- Members of the Schools' Forum approved the central retention of Early Years Funding.

AGREED

That the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Qualities, Culture and Heritage and the Executive Member for Finance and Growth be recommended to determine that the funding formula agreed at Schools' Forum 19 January 2022 and as set out in section 1 of the report be approved for implementation.

214 GREATER MANCHESTER PUBLIC HEALTH NETWORK TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Population Health / Interim Director of Population Health. The report proposed the delivery of a transformation work programme agreed by all 10 GM Directors of Public Health to further develop the strengthen the impact of the Greater Manchester Association of Directors of Public Health (GM ADPH).

It was stated that considerable work had gone into developing the vision and objectives for GM as an integrated health and care system over the past five years. For successful delivery of system wide transformation such as embedding ambitious ongoing population health system integration, robust and flexible support capability was vital. To ensure GM ADPH deliver on the purpose outlined in section 1, it was necessary to review current work programmes within the GMPHN. Further ensure that GM ADPH had oversight of and bring coherence across all GM integration work streams and interdependencies and be pivotal in identifying and agreeing priorities and pursuing benefits realisation.

The key aim of the transformation of the GMPHN was to enable greater collaboration across Greater Manchester (GM) between public and population health services within the 10 local authorities and the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP) through the establishment of a shared system staffing resource, collectively working on the transformation of the population health system across Greater Manchester, and bringing together staff from GM ADPH, GMHSCP, NHS England (NHSE) and Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

The report proposed the procurement of additional capacity to support the GM ADPH deliver the transformation programme (NW Employers). The recruitment of a lead role in the GMPHN to manage the team and programme jointly funded with NHSE - Public Health Strategy and Improvement Lead. In addition to the cessation of current grant arrangements with the University of Manchester to deliver the GM Sexual Health Network, bringing the function 'in-house'.

AGREED

That the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Population Health be recommended that it be DETERMINED that on behalf of all ten Greater Manchester Directors of Public Health:

1. **An award of £19,995 is made to NW Employers to support GM ADPH to develop the GMPHN transformation programme**
2. **A GM Public Health Strategy and Improvement Lead role is recruited jointly funded with NHSE on a two year fixed term to replace the current vacant Head of Service post, to manage the current staff and deliver the transformation programme.**
3. **The current grant with the University of Manchester to deliver the GM Sexual Health Network is ceased, bringing the function 'in house' as part of the GMPHN team.**

215 FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan of items for Board was considered.

CHAIR