

BOARD

2 March 2022

Present:

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

Also in Attendance: **Caroline Barlow, Stephanie Butterworth, Michelle Clegg, Catherine Moseley, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Ian Saxon, Alison Stathers-Tracey, Sarah Threlfall, Emma Varnam, and Debbie Watson.**

216 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

217 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

218 CASH BOX CREDIT UNION ANNUAL UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director for Digital Services, the report provided background to the current financial performance of the Cash Box Credit Union. The report also provided details of Cash Box "recovery plan", which included the new future operating model, and new initiatives aimed at encouraging more people to use the credit union as well as a scheme to help people in financial crisis get access to ethical affordable credit.

Members were advised that the primary objective of Cash Box is to improve financial inclusion for the people who live or work in Tameside and Glossop, especially young people and vulnerable and low-income groups. It aimed to help them to achieve and maintain financial sustainability by providing secure community-based savings, transactional account facilities and a source of low interest loans.

As at 31 December 2021, Cash Box had 2,183 adult members and 209 junior members. It had 557 active borrowers, with loan balances totaling £737,082. All surpluses were retained by members within the credit union either through contributing to reserves or through distribution of dividends.

It was explained that over the last 10 years Cash Box had granted loans totalling £5.8M. In doing so it had saved borrowers almost £4.6M in interest compared to doorstep and payday lenders. Analysis shows that monies borrowed from a credit union were likely to be spent locally, helping to grow the local economy.

It was stated based on Cash Boxes current balances it had a further lending capacity of around £1,000,000. This meant only around 40% of its lending capacity was being utilised. This money could be funding around 750 average loans and 1330 family loans and was so doing help some of our most financially vulnerable residents. To make this a reality issues such as back office capacity to process applications and managing the risk of lending to high risk borrowers would need to be addressed.

Further work would take place to understand what options there were to underwrite loan to enable

Cash Box to use more of their lending capacity.

AGREED

That the report and performance of the Cash Credit Union be noted.

219 COUNCIL FLEET REPLACEMENT STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods. This report and the attached 7 Year Fleet Replacement Strategy provided background to the current position. set out the Council's current fleet requirements and the length of their safe and efficient operation before they needed to be replaced.

The report set out how the Council operated a large and varied fleet of vehicles and equipment some 239 made up of 146 vehicles and 93 plant items to enable it to provide core services to the citizens of the Borough. Through the works of the Strategic and Operational Transport Group, the transport fleet had reduced by 33% from 220 vehicles to 146 since 2011. The fleet was made up of vehicles of mixed ages and types, on an agreed programme of annual replacements.

The report, with the attached strategy (**Appendix 1**) provided the case for a longer term strategy which would assist the Council in planning for fleet replacement. The proposed Fleet Replacement Strategy would ensure that the fleet replacement process continues to be compliant, efficient and that the fleet requirements of the Council were met. Fleet Services and Finance had identified that the current fleet replacement process, made on a per report basis, could be made more efficient. This was by separating the up-front financial cost of procurement from the need to confirm and justify the requirement to replace vehicles. The Strategy would allow for more targeted reporting for fleet replacement authorisations and support the Council's medium/longer-term financial planning.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to APPROVE the adoption of the Council's Fleet Replacement Strategy, as detailed in Appendix 1, including:

- (i) An updated process to approve the Fleet Replacement programme, subject to annual review, that separates the up-front financial cost of procurement from the need to confirm and justify the requirement to replace vehicles.**
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Director of Place and the Director of Finance the procurement of replacement vehicles to the fleet in line with the strategy.**

220 PERIOD 10 CAPITAL MONITORING 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 the budget and forecast expenditure for fully approved projects in the 2021/22 financial year.

It was stated that the approved budget for 2021/22 was £45.998m (after re-profiling approved at Period 6 Monitoring) and current forecast for the financial year was £29.695m. There were additional schemes that had been identified as a priority for the Council, and, where available, capital resource had been earmarked against these schemes, which would be added to the Capital Programme and future detailed monitoring reports once satisfactory business cases had been approved by Executive Cabinet.

The current forecast was for service areas to have spent £29.695m on capital investment in 2021/22, which was £16.303m less than the current capital budget for the year. This variation was spread across a number of areas, and was made up of £0.133m over spends in two areas and £2.719m underspends on a number of specific schemes (net total £2.586m) less the re-profiling of expenditure in a number of areas (£13.717m).

AGREED

That Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to:

- (i) Note the forecast outturn position for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1.**
- (ii) Approve the re-profiling of budgets into 2022/23 as set out on page 4 of Appendix 1.**
- (iii) Note the funding position of the approved Capital Programme as set on page 9 of Appendix 1.**
- (iv) Note the changes to the Capital Programme as set out on page 10 in Appendix 1**
- (v) Note the updated Prudential Indicator position set out on pages 11-12 of Appendix 1, which was approved by Council in February 2021.**

221 PLACE CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT - PROPERTY, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Place. The report provided an update on the delivery of the 2021/22 Place Capital Programme for Property, Development and Planning

It was reported that that a £1m budget was approved by Executive Cabinet on 29 September 2021 for statutory compliance, £0.5m in 2021-22 and £0.5m in 2022-23. Appendix 7 included expenditure to date of £0.244m with a projection of £0.5m to the 31 March 2022.

Members were advised that there was a final retention payment due to the LEP in regards to the Tameside One construction of £0.083. This was being independently verified via an external assessor for payment in 2021/22 (plus independent assessor fees estimated at £0.007m). The estimated total cost of £0.090m would be funded by the Place Directorate revenue budget.

It was explained that the GMCA consortium bid to the Decarbonisation of the Public Estate Fund was successful, resulting in grant award of £78.3 million. The Council's initial allocation of this grant was £2.284m, with further funding being requested to install additional measures from an underspend across the wider GMCA pot. The total additional measures equal £60,782. Including fees, the net amount for PSDS1 grant will be £2,344,386.

The Director of Place provided an update on the Godley Green Garden Village and the Stalybridge high Street Heritage Action Zone.

In regards to Land Disposals it was stated that a cumulative total of £0.415m had been achieved through completed sales. A summary of further disposal was provided in Appendix 3, which showed the current position with each asset in the Disposal Programme. A second batch of surplus sites was approved by Executive Cabinet on 29 September 2021 following consultation with the Cabinet Member initially, with further consultation completed with Ward Councillors as set out in the Disposal Policy. A third batch of surplus sites had been identified and is due to be considered by Cabinet on 23 March 2022.

AGREED

That that Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to:

- (i) Note that £0.244m of Corporate Landlord Capital Expenditure financed from the approved Statutory Compliance budget has been spent as detailed in Appendix 7.**
- (ii) Note the final retention payment due to the LEP of £0.083m (plus independent assessor fees estimated at £0.007m) relating to the Tameside One building construction to be funded by the Place Directorate revenue budget.**
- (iii) Recommend to Executive Cabinet the inclusion of additional grant budget of £0.061m to the Decarbonisation of the Public Estate scheme in the Capital Programme, which would revise the current budget to £2.344m.**

222 PLACE CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT - OPERATIONS & NEIGHBOURHOODS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Director of Place / Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods. The report provided information with regards to the 2021/2022 Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme.

The Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods delivered an update on the progress of the approved schemes in the Operations and Neighbourhoods 2021/22 Capital Programme.

In regards to Flood Prevention and Consequential Repairs, Members were advised that the three remaining inlet structures for improvement works were Broadacre, Mottram Old Road and Stalybridge Country Park. The only remaining works required for all three structures was the installation of the metal debris screens, which were awaiting fabrication. These works would be completed in spring this year. The anticipated outturn costs were within budget.

All works had been completed this financial year and within budget with a £0.065m underspend for the repairs and restoration of Cemetery Boundary Walls.

It was stated that the footway resurfacing programme identified for 21/22 had progressed. A route to market had been agreed with STAR with approval to utilise an existing framework overseen by Stockport and Bury Councils. The carriageway resurfacing works were anticipated to commence on site in March/April. The delay in commencement due to the late approval of funding and access to the procurement framework was unfortunate but works would now take place in hopefully more favourable weather conditions. The programme for Highway and Footway resurfacing works was detailed in Appendix 1.

Progress had continued on the Capital investment in Children's Playgrounds. Tenders had been evaluated and contracts awarded for two lots of work – Lot 1 was for safety surfacing and like for like replacement of play equipment; Lot 2 was for the replacement of five multi-play units. This work was likely to commence in late March and would take place over spring and summer. Officers would work with contractors to prioritise the work – the priority would be based on health and safety risk as well as the visitor numbers to site. Members would be advised of the details of the work prior to commencement.

Work on the scheme for the replacement of cremators and mercury abatement, filtration plant and heat recovery facilities was progressing. It was stated that new cremator number two was working with new cremator number one scheduled to be handed over week commencing 14 February 2022. The new cremator number three (Bariatric Cremator) was scheduled for handover week commencing 18 April 2022. The service was currently running on one old cremator, one new cremator and the temporary cremator. This was to enable service delivery to continue with minimal disruption.

AGREED

That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommended to Executive Cabinet to NOTE the following:

- (i) The progress with regards to the Flood Prevention and Consequential Repairs.**
- (ii) The progress with regard to the Slope Stability Programme and potential additional works required.**
- (iii) The progress with regards to the replacement of Cremators and Mercury Abatement, Filtration Plant and Heat Recovery Facilities.**
- (iv) The progress of capital schemes in section 2.18-2.25.**
- (v) The progress of the Walking and Cycling infrastructure schemes set out in section 3 of the report.**
- (vi) The progress on the external grant funded schemes in section 4.**

223 EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Education (Tameside and Stockport) / Director of Place. The report provided an update with the Council's Education Capital Programme.

Members were provided an update of the Basic Need Funded Schemes 2020/21. Attached to the report at Appendix 1 was a financial update with the details of current Basic Need funded projects. It was explained that the current focus of the Council's Basic Need programme was to complete the remaining scheme at Aldwyn Primary School and create additional places in secondary and special schools where forecasts had indicated a need.

It was highlighted that 3.12 in the report detailed the Hawthorns Primary Academy New school building. The first step is to produce designs to RIBA Stage 3 and this was approved at June 2021 Executive Cabinet. The first main expenditure was to produce designs to RIBA Stage 3 at a cost of £537,783 and this work has been ordered from the LEP. I

In order to prevent a possible delay to works starting on site there were a number of trees and shrubs on the site that needed removing or pruning as they are on the line of the future access road on the site. These works needed to be carried out before the bird-nesting season starts. The cost was £4,200 and the Panel would be asked to add a further recommendation not in the current report to Board to recommend to Executive Cabinet that this amount be allocated from within the £13m budget already approved so that the works can be carried out. The remaining issues included significant design work and consultation, which was continuing to a very tight timescale.

It was proposed that the report be amended to include a proposal for the LEP to undertake the project and to move onto RIBA Stage 4, which would include a cost of approximately £0.235m with the necessary information required to ensure decision making best value and achieves the necessary delivery expediently. RIBA stage 4 was a technical design stage. This would be within budget and prevent delay to the scheme.

It was reported that the scheme for two classroom extensions and associated spaces at St Johns CE was now completed.

The Board were provided an update of the School Condition Grant Schemes. It was highlighted that On 3 February 2022 the DfE provided an opportunity for responsible bodies to submit proposals for urgent rebuilding schemes as part of the wider DfE School Rebuilding Programme. In order not to miss the opportunity the Council submitted a bid for the rebuilding of Russell Scott before the 3 March 2022 deadline. The Panel would be asked to recommend to Executive Cabinet that this bid submission be supported subject to sufficient funding being granted.

In regards to Condition Schemes for 2022/23 4 in order for schemes to be carried out over summer 2022 progress in designing and tendering schemes needed to be carried out before the grant announcement was made. The likely costs were high level only as design work was on-going and tenders had not yet been obtained. It was requested that Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet that the Assistant Director of Education be authorised to vire amounts between schemes within the total amount of SCA funding received. The following paragraphs list, in priority order the schemes that would need to be funded from 2022/23 SCA and the remaining unallocated SCA from previous years.

AGREED

That the report be amended to include a proposal to move onto RIBA Stage 4 and that the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to APPROVE:

- (i) The proposed changes to add £30,000 of Basic Need funding to the programme as detailed in paragraph 2.2.**
- (ii) The proposed changes to add £33,000 of School Condition funding to the programme**

as detailed in paragraph 2.6.

- (iii) The proposed estimate of the School Condition Grant for 2022/23 is added to the programme as detailed in paragraph 4.29. The final amount of grant will be updated on receipt of the final confirmation of the grant.
- (iv) The addition of £95,000 school contributions to the capital programme in 2022/23 as detailed in paragraph 4.50, subject to the confirmation of School Condition Grant as per recommendation 3.
- (v) The addition of £35,000 developer contribution to the capital programme in 2022/23 to fund works at Whitebridge College as detailed in paragraph 4.48.
- (vi) The 2022/23 School Condition grant is allocated to the projects detailed in the table at paragraph 4.51.
- (vii) That the Director of Education be authorised to vire amounts between schemes within the total amount of School Condition Grant received.
- (viii) A grant agreement for a £663,023 with St Anselm's Catholic Multi Academy Trust to enable All Saints Catholic College to accommodate additional school places from September 2021. The capital scheme focusses on remodelling and refurbishing five science labs and the associated prep room along with remodelling of the existing changing rooms and gym as set out in paragraph 3.9.
- (ix) It was proposed that the report be amended to include a proposal for the LEP to undertake the project and to move Hawthorns Primary Academy onto RIBA Stage 4, which would include a cost of approximately £0.235m with the necessary information required to ensure decision making best value and achieves the necessary delivery expediently. RIBA stage 4 was a technical design stage. This would be within budget and prevent delay to the scheme.

224 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE CAPITAL SCHEMES UPDATE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families) / Director for Children's Services. The report provided an update on the Children's Social Care Property Capital Scheme and set out details of major approved property capital schemes in the Directorate.

It was reported that the purchase of a respite property was underway. All land searches had now been completed and contact made with vendors solicitors who sought clarity over a small area of land to the side of the property. Once the vendor's solicitors had provided an update, a further report would be prepared outlining the options on how to proceed. Updated costs had been provided for the refurbishment and fit out costs.

In regards to the Assessment Unit (St Lawrence Road) Works on the unit had been completed and handed over to Children's Services, the Ofsted registration process was underway, however, registration could not be completed until a named Residential Manager and residential staff team had been completed. Recruitment was underway with live adverts out both for permanent and agency staff. It had to be noted that similar to the situation in the adult residential sector, there were significant pressures in recruiting suitable qualified and experienced children's residential staff.

Works on the Solo Unit (66 Chester Avenue) unit were now complete and had been handed over to Children's Services. The Ofsted registration process was in progress and a young person with high complex needs had been placed in the unit as part of a discharge plan from hospital.

Originally supported by a combination of permanent and agency residential staff, due to the young person requiring specialist bespoke intervention and to stabilise the placement, the service had commissioned a specialist mental health team to work with the young person. It was agreed with this staff team it would operate under the home management and support the registration process. The provider would support the training of staff through access to their CPD pathway to deliver a consistent and coherent model of care. Work would take place with the provider to blend in Tameside staff as part of a managed handover of the care to a Tameside staff team that would cover the medium to longer term result in the withdrawal of the specialist care team

AGREED

That Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to note the report.

225 ADULTS CAPITAL PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Health, Social Care and Population Health / Director of Adult Services. The report provided an update of the developments in relation to the Adults Capital Programme for schemes previously approved and still underway and the usage of the wider disabled facilities grant (DFG) including the housing adaptations budget. In addition, this report sought to request an extension of the Moving with Dignity project at a cost of £385k over two years to fund a small team specialising in Occupational Therapy and Manual Handling.

The report detailed that the Moving with Dignity programme was continuing to work closely with NHS colleagues both in acute services and intermediate care services, in order to promote and embed this practice. Work was also ongoing to ensure the wider education of the benefits of single handed care thorough risk assessed moving with dignity across all sectors.

It was explained that a review of the Moving with Dignity programme had determined that demand for this service and targeted support continues. Permission was therefore sought for additional DFG funding to be released to invest in the extension of this programme for a further 2 years. In the longer term, this would be aligned with the adult social care reform work locally, and encompassed in the wider Occupational Therapy service review.

The extension of the project will allow for a small team, planned to consist of:

- 1 x Senior Occupational Therapist
- 1 x Occupational Therapist
- 1 x Manual Handling Assessor
- 1 x Occupational Therapist Assistant

It was stated that work was ongoing to identify a further potential location with Adult Services and Asset Management working together to search for a suitable property for the Disability Assessment Centre. Until this was achieved, it was difficult to make a determination of the timescales or final cost of the project.

During the year, Government announced it was to make funding available to provide Changing Places Toilets (CPT) for disabled people. A CPT was more than just a disabled toilet; it provided a shower, changing table, specialist wash dry toilet, track hoist, etc. A total of £30m was available for local authorities to make expressions of interest (EOI) for grant assistance. The Council submitted its EOI for £100k with a £25k co-funding element from the Council. There had been no announcement relating to this project from government.

Delivery of adaptations continued and the rate of delivery had increased as restrictions had eased. The number of approvals and completions at end of January was up on the previous year and should continue to the end of the financial year. Access to properties had improved and the availability of some materials had also improved. Delays in delivery of imported supplies due to Covid-19 in some countries and Brexit are easing but there are still specific issues

AGREED

That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel be recommended to ask Executive Cabinet to

- (i) note the progress updates,**
- (ii) extend the Moving with Dignity programme for a further two years at a cost allocation of £385k from DFG funding.**

226 APPROVAL OF REVISED NON-RESIDENTIAL CHARGING POLICY 2022

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Health and Social Care and Population Health / Director of Adult Services.

This report sought approval of the updated revised Non-Residential Charging Policy 2022, which had been produced expediently following approval by Board Members at the last meeting of the Strategic Commissioning Board on the 9 February 2022 to update the previous policy dated 25 March 2015 to take effect from the 1 April 2022 to include:

- The Minimum Income Guarantee level would remain at the level the Council currently uses
- The level of income disregarded be changed to disregard the difference between DLA care higher and middle rate and PIP daily living allowance enhanced and standard rate
- An annual fee for managing non-residential self-funders' accounts of £95 be implemented, with an annual review of the level, which would apply only to non-residential packages of care created from this date, rather than existing packages.

AGREED

That Strategic Commissioning Board AND Cabinet be recommended to agree the attached Policy at Appendix 1 in line with their decision of the 9 February 2022.

227 FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan of items for Board was considered.

CHAIR