

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL

14 March 2022

Commenced: 2.00pm

Terminated: 2.45pm

Present: Councillors Fairfoull (In the Chair), Cooney, Feeley, McNally, Newton, Reid and Dickinson

In Attendance:	Steven Pleasant	Chief Executive
	Sandra Stewart	Director of Governance and Pensions
	Tim Bowman	Director of Education (Tameside and Stockport)
	Caroline Barlow	Assistant Director of Finance
	Emma Varnam	Assistant Director of Operations & Neighbourhoods
	Tracy Morris	Assistant Director, Children's Services
	Paul Smith	Assistant Director of Strategic Property
	Trevor Tench	Head of Commissioning, Adult Social Care

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Warrington

Councillors Ryan and Cooney participated in the meeting virtually and therefore without voting rights.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

38. MINUTES

That the minutes of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting held on the 22 November 2021 were approved as a correct record.

39. 2021/22 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT – AS AT MONTH 10

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).

RESOLVED

That the Panel be RECOMMENDED to NOTE:

- (i) the forecast outturn position for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1;
- (ii) the funding position of the approved Capital Programme as set on page 9 of Appendix 1;
- (iii) the changes to the Capital Programme as set out on page 10 in Appendix 1; and
- (iv) the updated Prudential Indicator position set out on pages 11-12 of Appendix 1, which was approved by Council in February 2021.

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to APPROVE the re-profiling of budgets into 2022/23 as set out on page 4 of Appendix 1.

40. CAPITAL PROGRAMME – OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (PLACE DIRECTORATE)

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.

RESOLVED

That Panel be RECOMMENDED to NOTE the following:

- (i) The progress with regard 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 regard 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; and**
- (vi) The progress on the external grant funded schemes in section 4 of the report.**

41. 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.

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. Schemes that would need to be funded from 2022/23 SCA and the remaining unallocated SCA from previous years were detailed in the report.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED 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 2.5;**
- (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; and**
- (ix) Commissioning the LEP to move the Hawthorns programme to the next stage to develop detailed designs up to tender stage – RIBA Stage 4 and include the planning submission fee. Initial ecology work is also required as part of this work. It is requested £236,000 be allocated from within the provisional budget previously approved.**

42. 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

RESOLVED

That the Panel be RECOMMENDED to NOTE the progress update in the report.

43. 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.

Members were advised 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

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to:

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

44. 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 was due to be considered by Cabinet on 23 March 2022.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to:

- (i) Note that £243,593 of Corporate Landlord Capital Expenditure financed from the approved Statutory Compliance budget has been spent as detailed in Appendix 7; and**
- (ii) Approve the inclusion of additional grant budget of £60,782 to the Decarbonisation of the Public Estate scheme in the Capital Programme, which would revise the current budget to £2,344,386.**

45. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the 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 outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, because financial or business affairs includes contemplated, as well as past or current activities and disclosure of the land values was not in the interest of the public purse until sold.

46. ITEM 9 APPENDIX 6

Consideration was given to Appendix 6 of the Place Capital Programme Update and the Assistant Director of Strategic Property responded to questions from the Panel.

47. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

48. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel was provisionally scheduled to take place on 18 July 2022.

CHAIR