

## STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL

22 September 2022

**Commenced:** 09:30

**Terminated:** 10:20

**Present:** Councillors Cooney (Chair), Fairfoull (Deputy Chair), North, McNally, Bray and L Boyle

**In Attendance:**

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Caroline Barlow	Assistant Director of Finance
Alison Stathers-Tracy	Director of Children's Services
Tracy Harrison	Assistant Director of Adults Services
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
Gregg Stott	Assistant Director of Place
Catherine Moseley	Head of Access Services

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Dickinson, Feeley and Ryan.

### 11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 12 MINUTES

That the minutes of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting be approved as a correct record with the amendment that Councillors North and Boyle be noted as sending their apologies.

### 13 PERIOD 3 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy for Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Finance. The report summarised the forecast outturn at 31 March 2023. The detail of this monitoring report was focused on the budget and forecast expenditure for fully approved projects in the 2022/23 financial year.

It was reported that the approved budget for 2022/23 was £44.809m and the projected outturn for the financial year was £44.798m. 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 £44.798m on capital investment in 2022/23, which was £0.011m less than the current capital budget for the year. This variation was spread across the Education and Adults directorate, and was made up of variations on a number of specific schemes.

#### RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to NOTE:

- (i) the forecast position for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1.
- (ii) the funding position of the approved Capital Programme as set on page 8 of Appendix 1.
- (iii) the changes to the Capital Programme as set out on page 7 in Appendix 1.
- (iv) the updated Prudential Indicator position set out on pages 9-10 of Appendix 1, which

**was approved by Council in February 2022.**

## **14 PLACE CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy for Finance, Resources & Transformation / Assistant Director for Investment, Development & Housing. The report provided an update on the delivery of the capital projects in the Place directorate in relation to town centres, property and planning.

In regards to Ashton Town Centre, work had commenced on the preparation of options for the improvement of the Market Square, and a Town Centre Public Realm Vision Strategy. The Council was finalising material for public consultation on the Public Realm Vision Strategy due to commence in September 2022.

Details of the plans to deliver the next phase of the public realm works within the Northern Core and across Wellington Road in order to connect Clarendon College with Tameside One. The procurement process for purchasing materials was being progressed, as a key priority by the Council and STaR Procurement. Whilst uncertainty remained nationally regarding cost, availability and delivery of construction materials it was anticipated that works could start on site before the end of 2022.

A draft business case had been prepared for the Mayors Challenge Fund (MCF) scheme known as Ashton Streetscape on Albion Way and Wellington Road. The business case had been reviewed by TfGM and work was ongoing to finalise the proposals to complement the wider Town Centre plans and Public Realm Vision Strategy.

Work is continuing to support the restoration of Ashton Town Hall. Listed Building Consent was granted on 18 August 2022 to enable the required intrusive surveys and roof strengthening works to progress.

It was reported that in respect of Stalybridge Town Centre, work was complete on the Civic Hall Feasibility and Market Street Studies (budget £100,000 and £140,000 respectively) funded via the Stalybridge High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) grant from Historic England and Council match. The spend profile for the Shop Front Grant scheme has been reallocated to 2022/23 and 2023/24. The Council continues to engage with property owners on Market Street in relation to the scheme and Historic England have now agreed to extend the eligible area to include the row of properties immediately opposite the Civic Hall (the old fish market) to increase the potential impact.

The work on the restoration of the roof at Stalybridge Civic Hall had been re-programmed to early 2023 to allow for the full use of the Civic Hall for events linked to the Town of Culture 2022. At this point the financial impact on the delay had yet to be determined. Given the rising cost of construction inflation and specific requests made by Historic England then it was inevitable that costs would increase above the available budget. In order to mitigate the impact on the Council's Capital Programme the Council has sought a contribution to the Civic Hall scheme of £1,000,000 from the Stalybridge Levelling Up Fund 2 (LUF2) bid. The results of LUF2 were anticipated in Autumn 2022; the Council would continue to explore alternative external funding opportunities should the LUF2 bid be unsuccessful.

It was explained that the Civic Hall roof was constructed with Welsh slate and many of these were now damaged beyond re-use. Whilst the exact specification and scope of the roof materials was still to be finalised, any work done to the roof would require additional Welsh slate to match to replace those identified as being in need of replacement. Due to exceptional demand at the present time the Welsh slates needed were on a minimum of 33 week lead time for delivery. Therefore, approval was sought to place an order for Welsh slates, at a cost of up to £150,000 via the LEP Additional Services Contract in advance of the build contract for the work being finalised. By utilising the available budget to place an order for these materials now they would be available

for when needed and any further cost increases can be mitigated. Due to the need for these materials across the wider Council estate it was considered that should there be any oversupply these could be utilised for other Council owned assets.

## **RECOMMENDED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve that an order for Welsh slates (£150,000) be made via the LEP Additional Services Contract to be used on Stalybridge Civic Hall in advance of the build contract for the work being finalised due to the current 33 week lead time for delivery subject to the cost envelope and timing of the project being agreed first.**

## **15 OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy for Finance, Resources Transformation / Assistant Director for Operations & Neighbourhoods. The report provided an update on the delivery of Capital Projects in Operations and Neighbourhoods.

It was reported that tenders for the carriageway resurfacing schemes were received in July 2022 and the evaluation process had been completed. Governance was now being sought, in the form of an Executive Decision, to award a contract to the successful contractor. The value of the tender was within the existing funding available and so it was proposed to continue with the programme as identified in Appendix 1, subject to any on-site unforeseen issues. The 2022/23 Core Highway Maintenance Grant allocation had been confirmed as:

- Integrated Transport Block (ITB) £631,000
- Highways Maintenance £2,905,000

The programme of schemes (including pothole repairs) that would be financed by the grant allocation would be reported to Members for approval at the November 2022 meeting.

Works to the Bus Stop Passenger Access Enhancement within Tameside was substantially complete. Final completion was anticipated in October 2022. The project would be delivered within the available funding budget. Under the project, works had been undertaken to over 80 bus stops. TfGM had reported that more bus stop enhancements had been completed in Tameside than in any of the other Greater Manchester districts.

In regards to the cremator schemes, all three new cremators are now in situ and are being utilised daily. All the old cremators have now been removed and the temporary cremator moved from site. The abatement equipment was being installed and this should be finalised by the end of September 2022. Further repair and restoration works were required to the steeple and chapel roof once the cremator replacement scheme has been completed. Initial surveys of both the steeple and chapel roof had been undertaken with the cost of the surveys being met from the existing scheme contingency. From the surveys, design work and a Listed Building application was now required in order to inform a further report on the required actions to the steeple and chapel roof. The cost of the detailed design work and listed building consent was estimated to be £133,000 to be fully funded from the existing scheme contingency budget.

## **RECOMMENDED**

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

- (i) The inclusion of the 2022/23 Highway Maintenance grant (via GMCA) funding allocation of £3,536,000 to the Council's capital programme.
- (ii) The allocation of £133,000 from the Dukinfield Cremator scheme existing contingency budget to undertake design work and listed building approval for essential repairs to the chapel roof and steeple at Dukinfield Crematorium as set out in section 2.26 of this report.

## **16 EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Education, Achievement & Equalities / First Deputy for Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Education for Tameside and Stockport / Director of Place. The report provided members of the Panel with an overview and updated position on the Council's Education Capital Programme.

In regards to the works taking place at Alder, works on the replacement new extension were dependent on a signed Deed of Variation (DoV) being in place, a requirement of the PFI Co Lenders. This DoV would cover both the red line boundary queries and the accommodation changes. A draft DoV had been circulated and sign off was scheduled for September. A separate Executive Decision Notice would be produced to enter into the contract to build the new entrance when final costs were known but this cannot be produced until agreement was reached on the Deed of Variation for the changes to the accommodation.

Works at All Saints Catholic College to sports and other facilities to support additional places were overseen by the Shrewsbury Diocese. Phase 1 of the scheme was to remodel two classrooms into a fitness studio and dance studio to support additional places at the school. Phase 2 of the scheme is to remodel and refurbish five science labs and the associated prep room and remodel existing changing rooms and gym. Phase 3 was scheduled to be complete by the end of 2022/23 school year to ensure the impact of the work is minimised to existing students.

RIBA Stage 4 designs were being produced for Hawthorns Primary Academy New School building. The planning application for the new school was submitted in July 2022 and a decision was expected in October 2022. In the meantime work continued on finalising the detailed design. A further detailed report will be made to Executive Cabinet with detailed final costings for the school to enable a contract to be entered into.

It was explained that a number of School Condition Grant Schemes were completed over the summer. Appendix 1 provided a financial update with details of current School Condition Allocation (SCA) funded projects, including proposed changes to scheme funding.

It was highlighted that a bid for rebuilding Russell Scott under the DfE School Rebuilding Programme was submitted to the DfE before the 3 March 2022 deadline. The outcome was awaited, although, surveyors from the DfE conducted a further site visit on 3 August.

## **RECOMMENDED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the updates on the approved Education Capital Schemes within the report.**

## **17 ADULTS CAPITAL PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report provided an update of the developments in relation to the Adults Capital Programme

It was reported that the Moving with Dignity team continued to work closely with NHS colleagues both in acute services and intermediate care services, in order to promote and embed this practice. Work is also ongoing to ensure the wider education of the benefits of single handed care. Following the success of the project there was a funding agreement in place for 2022/23 for the Moving with Dignity Team, which was funding by Disabled Facilities Grant, the allocated £385k funding was funding a period of 2 years in line with the agreed plans.

It was reported that the Disability Assessment Centre funding had been reallocated to 23/24 to give the service time to review this project and consider long-term revenue implications. Planning and accommodation options needed to be explored.

In regards to replacement of ageing and obsolete equipment, work was initially progressing with a dedicated member of the Occupational Therapy team carrying out this work and within an 8 month

period 60 pieces of aging and obsolete equipment (stair lifts ceiling track hoist and through the floor lifts) reviews were completed. However, due to the significant demand for this service and a number of vacancies in the team resulting in operational pressures, this resource had to be deployed back into the central team to deliver core work. Whilst there is no current dedicated resource where time allows OTs are progressing the work.

The Panel were reminded that the Department of Health and Social Care had determined the DFG allocations for all local authorities for 2022/23. Tameside's allocation is £2,849,319 for 2022/23. Transformation plans were being developed across all Adult Services, which were in line with significant new burdens outlined in the Adult Social Care Reform White Paper. There would be a further Capital Report in autumn 2022 which would contain recommendations for the Capital Reserves for Adult Care.

**RECOMMENDED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the progress updates against Adults' capital projects**

**18 URGENT ITEM – GODLEY GREEN PLANNING APPLICATION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Chief Executive. In accordance with the Constitution the Godley Green Planning application falls to be determined by Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel unless determined otherwise by Full Council. This report made a recommendation to Panel to invite Council to refer the matter for determination by Speakers Panel Planning to avoid allegations of bias or predetermination as the application was being promoted by the Council, and Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel had a number of members who were part of the Executive Cabinet.

**RECOMMENDED**

**That a recommendation is made to Full Council that the Council's Speakers Panel consider the Godley Green planning application instead of Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring because the Council is promoting the application and it would be preferable to have a separation of roles to avoid either an appearance or challenge of bias and/or predetermination.**

**CHAIR**