

EXECUTIVE CABINET

26 October 2022

Commenced: 1.00pm

Terminated: 1.35pm

Present: Councillors Cooney (Chair), Choksi, Feeley, Jackson, North, Taylor, Ward and Wills

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Kathy Roe	Director of Finance
Stephanie Butterworth	Director of Adult Services
Alison Stathers-Tracey	Director of Children's Services
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Debbie Watson	Director of Population Health
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director, Operations & Neighbourhoods
Tom Houghton	Policy & Strategy Service Manager

Apologies for absence: Cllrs Fairfoull, Sweeton and Kitchen (ex officio)

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Cabinet Members.

65. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 28 September 2022 be approved as a correct record.

66. CONSOLIDATED 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 31 AUGUST 2022

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Finance, which reflected actual expenditure to 31 August 2022.

It was explained that, from a healthcare commissioning perspective, the report looked at 9 months of expenditure based on indicative ICB plans (for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023). Month 5 was the second month in which the ICB had been operational. As such, final approved delegated budgets at locality level had not yet been confirmed. Work was ongoing to finalise budgets, but in the meantime the report presented indicative locality budgets. Plans for Tameside were submitted for a delivery of £595k surplus in 22/23. At month 5 it was assumed that the plan would be delivered, which was in line with wider ICB reporting for month 5. The plan to deliver a surplus required savings of £7.8m to be found, and whilst there was risk of achievement, it was currently expected that Tameside would be on target, however work continued to ensure that savings identified became recurrent.

As highlighted in previous finance reports for the year, the Council was facing significant and growing inflationary pressures across a number of areas, combined with demand pressures in Adults and Children's services, resulting in a substantial forecast overspend by 31 March 2023 of £11.117m. This represented a £1,188k improvement since month 4, driven largely by additional investment income resulting from increases to interest rates.

Significant work was still required to balance the financial position in 2022/23. Work was in progress

to identify mitigating savings to reduce the forecast overspend on Council budgets, and address the forecast budget gap for 2023/24 and beyond. This was being done in the context of growing inflationary pressures, including significant energy cost and pay inflation, with no indication that any additional funding would be provided either in 2022/23 or the next two financial years.

In terms of the Integrated Commissioning Fund, Members were advised that, since 2016/17, the Council and the former Tameside and Glossop CCG, had been parties to a section 75 agreement to pool resources for Health and Social Care in the Tameside locality. Upon creation of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB) from 1 July 2022, the section 75 agreement had novated to the ICB. The Section 75 agreement included a risk share arrangement, which enabled each organisation to make additional contributions into the pooled budget in agreement with the other party. The making of additional contributions, up to a maximum amount of £5 million per annum, then placed an obligation on the other party to increase its contribution to the same value in future years.

In 2020/21 and 2021/22 the CCG agreed to increase its contribution to the pooled budget. This agreement was reported to Executive Cabinet and Strategic Commissioning Board in March 2021 and March 2022 respectively. These additional contributions enabled the Council to reduce its contribution in these years, and set aside the funding into reserves to enable reciprocation with additional contributions into the pooled fund during 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The Council would transact additional contributions to the Tameside Locality of the Greater Manchester ICB in month 6 of 2022/23 of £3.5m to support winter pressures and reduce delayed discharges. In addition, an amount of £2.060m would be transacted over the next two years to support additional investment in ISCAN Therapies (Integrated Services for Children with Additional Needs) in Tameside, supporting the written statement of action in response to the SEND inspection.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;**
- (ii) That the position on the Integrated Commissioning Fund, including the transaction of the risk share as part of the section 75 agreement, as set out in section 3 of the report, be noted; and**
- (iii) That the expenditure of £30K to refresh of Grant Thornton financial data work to inform priority areas of focus for services for budget reductions, be approved.**

67. SOCIOECONOMIC DUTY

The Executive Member, Education, Achievement and Equalities / Assistant Director, People and Workforce Development submitted a report setting out the local and national context, policy recommendations, case studies, key terms and other considerations with a view to adopting the socioeconomic duty in Tameside, in line with work taking place in other local authorities in Greater Manchester and across England..

It was explained that, in recent years the rise of poverty had emerged as a major policy issue. This has made adopting the socioeconomic duty and other anti-poverty measures a matter of urgency. Local and National statistics were provided in an appendix to the report and key issues for consideration was detailed as follows:

- Tameside had the 5th best male Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy in Greater Manchester, but the 9th best female Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy. Life Expectancy (at birth) in Tameside was 77.57 years for men and 80.7 years for women, while Healthy Life Expectancy (at birth) was 61.9 years for men but only 58.3 years for women.
- In the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Tameside was ranked as the 28th most deprived of 317 Local Authority districts in England, and the 5th most deprived local authority in GM. Within Tameside, 11 of the borough's 141 lower layer super output areas (LSOAs) are also within the most deprived 5% of such areas nationally.
- The Trussell Trust end of year data for 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 showed that their

foodbanks in Tameside had given out the 4th most parcels in GM. This equated to 11.1% of their total food parcels for Greater Manchester, 10.6% of their parcels for adults in GM, and 12% of their parcels for children in GM.

- According to the Resolution Foundation, the real incomes of the poorest quarter of households nationally were set to drop by 6% in 2022/23, putting an extra 1.3 million people, including 500,000 children, into absolute poverty. This would be the first recorded incident of a rise in absolute poverty in Britain outside of a recession.

Members were advised that, whilst the precise details of implementation of the socioeconomic duty could vary, research by a number of organisations had identified key practical steps in all cases.

Short-Term Recommendations - Simple measures that could be implemented quickly.

1. Identify Senior Members and Officers to take on the role of “Designated Leads” of the Socioeconomic Duty;
2. Integrate Socioeconomic Disadvantage into Equality Impact Assessments using appropriate proxy indicators and review processes; and
3. Consolidate existing poverty-related data held by the Council and partners.

Long-Term Recommendations – More involved measures that would require an element of discretion.

4. Develop internal guidance and training for officers to consider how they could meet the Socioeconomic Duty at a service delivery level, on a day-to-day basis, outside of formal Equality Impact Assessments;
5. Collaborate with residents, civil society and voluntary and community sector organisations to build awareness and understanding of the Socioeconomic Duty and people’s lived experience of socioeconomic disadvantage;
6. Embed accountability for the implementation of the Socioeconomic Duty through monitoring, evaluation, and sharing of best practice; and
7. Deliver the Living Wage for all council staff and contracted employees, and introduce mechanisms to promote uptake of the Living Wage among other local employers.

Successfully implementing the socioeconomic duty in Tameside would deliver a number of benefits, including but not limited to:

- Reducing the inequalities of outcome which result from socioeconomic disadvantage;
- Supporting coordination and partnership working, both within the Council between service areas and externally with partners in the public, private, community and voluntary sectors;
- Raising awareness of existing socioeconomic inequalities in Tameside within the Council and among our partners;
- Securing a widespread commitment from council services to consider their impact on local socioeconomic inequalities while carrying out their day-to-day functions;
- Actively encouraging the participation of low-income residents in decisions that affect them, especially in the context of any proposed cuts or changes to services;
- Achieving greater consistency in practice in both the short-term and in the long-term across political administrations and turnover of staff;
- More rigorous and systematic approaches to Equality Impact Assessments and general assessments of policy and practice;
- Strengthening data gathering and analysis practices, especially in the context of Equality Impact Assessments, thereby strengthening the council’s evidence base and accountability to residents and partners; and
- Supporting the effective and efficient allocation of limited resources in medium and long-term planning.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to implement the socioeconomic duty in Tameside as part of the wider Poverty Strategy.

68. ASHTON TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Towns and Communities / Assistant Director Operations and Neighbourhoods, which sought to introduce a Public Spaces Protection, which had been designed to help address anti-social behaviour in Ashton town centre.

It was explained that, in March 2020, the UK entered a national lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the subsequent two years, lockdowns were lifted, then re-imposed; social restrictions lessened and re-imposed. The impact of this period had had significant effects on individuals, business and town centres. During the periods of lockdown, anti-social behaviour activity naturally decreased in Ashton Town Centre. However, as restrictions lifted and the town centre became busy again, a subsequent rise of reports of anti-social behaviour occurred. As a rise in anti-social behaviour was occurring, Greater Manchester Police and Tameside Council began receiving complaints from members of the public. The complaints related to intoxicated individuals consuming alcohol & other substances and causing a nuisance.

The report proposed the introduction of a Public Spaces Protection Order, which would be applicable to the proposed restricted area identified in the map attached to the order (Appendix 1 to the report).

The order would prohibit the following activities:

- the consumption of alcohol or the possession of an open alcohol container;
- the use or possession of other intoxicating substances as defined by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016;
- discarding a hypodermic needle or syringe;
- urination or defecation;
- health and/or safety risks including obstruction of doorways and stairwells; and
- the erection of temporary structures within the restricted area.

The order would also require the provision of information upon request by an authorised person reasonably suspected of breaching any of the prohibitions or requirements in this order within the restricted area. The order would require clear signage to be placed at every point of access to the relevant restricted area, detailing those activities, which were restricted and outlining the penalties for breaching the order (£100 fixed penalty or £1,000 fine following summons).

In addition to the signage, the Council, in partnership with GMP, would develop a communications strategy which ensured that the order was publicised very clearly in local and social media to ensure maximum public awareness of the order. The order would be enforced by officers from Greater Manchester Police (both police officers and police community support officers) and any appeal would be through GMP's own appeals system.

A draft copy of the Public Spaces Protection Order was appended to the report.

Details of the six week public consultation exercise were given and written responses were detailed at Appendix 4 to the report. Of the responses 90.3% (or 9 out of 10 people) supported the introduction the Public Space Protection Order.

Of those in favour of the Public Space Protection Order being introduced, 10.8% raised some notable concerns on a number of thematic areas:

- Comments were made around policing the PSPO, specifically because of a perceived lack of visible policing in the town centre;
- Concern was expressed that the PSPO may push the problems into other areas in the borough;
- Some respondents expressed concern that the PSPO targeted individuals who were vulnerable and in need of support, rather than enforcement; and
- Reference was made to the potential for victimising those who were jobless, homeless or substance abuse misusers, many of whom may not be able to pay an imposed fine.

As a result of the comments, the Community Safety and Homelessness Service would conduct an annual review of the impact of the PSPO covering its effectiveness in tackling ASB as well as the potential impacts suggested by some of the respondents. Tameside Council also received a response to the consultation from the Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor the Rt. Hon Baroness Beverley Hughes who provided her support for the proposals to introduce the Public Space Protection Order as proposed. A copy of the letter was appended to the report at Appendix 5.

RESOLVED

That the proposed public space protection order be adopted for Ashton Town Centre as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, for the area shown in Appendix 1 to the report, which has been designed to help address anti-social behaviour in Ashton town centre.

69. FAMILY HUBS AND BEST START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader, Children and Families / Assistant Director, Early Help and Partnerships providing an update following the confirmation that Tameside qualified to apply for the Top Tier funding allocations for the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Fund and outlined Tameside's approach and intentions.

The Department for Education had confirmed an allocation of £3,295,000 over 3 years:-

- 2022/23 - £799,000
- 2023/24 - £1,356,000
- 2024/25 - £1,140,000

It was explained that since 2017, the Early Help Offer in Tameside had grown significantly, with the development of an Early Help Access Point, better Early Help Assessments tools, building 'Team Around' Approaches, Early Help Panels with joint decision-making and shared workforce development, such as Signs of Safety. The development of the Family Hubs had been identified as a key programme to improve the Early Help offer for children and families in Tameside further. In November 2021, Local Authorities were invited to apply for up to £1 million transformation funding to implement Family Hubs. In March 2022 Tameside Council were informed that they were unsuccessful in this application, however, continued with the ambition to develop the family hub model locally, with endorsement from the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The new investment from the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme would enable around half of upper-tier Local Authorities in England to transform their services into a family hub model.

Building on previous work regarding the Family Hubs model, Members were advised that a scoping exercise had been undertaken in Tameside with partners to begin to explore the model and identify buildings across the four neighbourhoods. Communication and engagement events took place, between April and July 2022 within each of the four neighbourhoods to support local voice and coproduction. A proposed hub and spoke model had been presented to the Early Help Operational Board, neighbourhood meetings and Partnership Event for each of the four neighbourhoods. It was intended that under the implementation of the Programme, a public consultation exercise would take place later in the year to inform and formalise proposals.

Building on previous work regarding the Family Hubs model, Members were advised that a scoping exercise had been undertaken in Tameside with partners to begin to explore the model and identify buildings across the four neighbourhoods. Communication and engagement events took place, between April and July 2022 within each of the four neighbourhoods to support local voice and coproduction. A proposed hub and spoke model had been presented to the Early Help Operational Board, neighbourhood meetings and Partnership Event for each of the four neighbourhoods. It was intended that under the implementation of the Programme a public consultation exercise would take place, later in the year to inform and formalise proposals.

The new investment from the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme would also include funding for essential services in the crucial ‘Start for Life’ period from conception to age two, and services which support parents to care for and interact with their children. The Programme represented a significant step forward in delivering on the Government’s commitments set out in ‘The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1,001 Critical Days’, and built on delivery of the Healthy Child Programme and wider 0-19 public health services.

It was intended that a Tameside Family Hubs Steering Group be established to provide action focused, system leadership on the implementation of Family Hubs and the strategic oversight of Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme.

Tameside had started a journey to build on the neighbourhood model where four neighbourhood areas had now been defined with partners. This would provide a strong foundation to develop the Family Hubs approach, which was an integral part of the development of a Children and Young People’s Plan and would enable the delivery of accessible, local and joined up services to children and their families within their neighbourhoods.

Staffing requirements to support the delivery of the programme were detailed and discussed.

The report concluded that, Tameside Council were committed to deliver the expectations of the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme. Through the Family Hubs Steering Group, the key next steps included: formally submitted the sign up form, working closes with the allocated DfE adviser, resource the programme team effectively and develop the detailed action plan by December 2022.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the DfE Grant and associated Terms & Conditions of Grant, as set out in section 2 of the report, be accepted and agreed;**
- (ii) **That the signing of the Sign Up Form on behalf of the Council, as set out in section 3 of the report; be agreed;**
- (iii) **That Tameside’s proposed approach to developing options and “governance” to Family Hubs and Best Start for Life delivery be supported; and**
- (iv) **That further reports setting out the proposals to spend the grant together with progress on deliverables, be submitted to the Executive Cabinet.**

70. REPLACEMENT OF BOYDS WALK (CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PROVISION)

The Deputy Executive Leader, Children and Families / Executive Director, Finances, Resources and Transformation / Director of Children’s Services submitted a report, detailing the current configuration of the six bed Boyds Walk home for short and long term stay for children with disabilities and the risk posed to its closure. The report also detailed the options for a replacement home that was not only fit for purpose but would put at its heart the best outcomes for children with disabilities in childhood and as they prepared for adulthood.

Members were advised that a range of alternative vacant sites / existing properties had been considered as options for the replacement of Boyds Walk as follows:

Site Location	New Build / Remodelling	Description	Site Area	Reason for rejection
Land at Lime Street, Dukinfield	New Build	Site of former residential properties 61-67 Church Street – now cleared.	0.044 acres	Site too small
Land at Lower Bennett Street, / Arnside Drive, Hyde	New Build	Large vacant site and part of the site could be developed in isolation. Site topography – part	2.20 acres	Potential Second Option

		undulating, part sloping.		
Site of former Flowery Fields Infant School, Old Road, Hyde	New Build	Site is adjoining Flowery Fields Children's Centre.	1.26 acres	Preferred option
Jubilee Gardens Child & Family Centre, Droylsden	New Build	Site is an operational Children's Centre, adjacent to Active Medlock leisure facility.	0.65 acres	Site too small for new build
Wilshaw House, Wilshaw Lane, Ashton	Remodelling	Operational asset – occupied by Adult Services and home to Dementia Day Care	0.80 acres	Rejected on grounds of cost, time and value for money

The re-purposing of Boyds Walk for other service use had been considered by Children's Services. However, a decision had been made to hand back the property to Jigsaw Housing. With no formal lease in place a negotiated position would have to be taken in terms of the dilapidation / condition on hand back, the only formal agreement in place was for Tameside MBC to remove the additional pod of accommodation put in place in recent years and make good (estimated cost £10,000).

Members were further advised that the Department for Education (DfE) ran a capital funding programme during summer 2022 (details of which were appended to the report at Appendix 6. This was a competitive bidding process for local authorities against a fixed envelope of investment that would provide 50% capital funding for children's homes. The funding was designed to support local authorities individually or in a partnership / consortium to establish new children's homes provision via expansion, refurbishment, or new building work.

Tameside had submitted a bid for this funding to support the capital cost of replacing and expanding Boyds Walk (bid requested £1,632,500 of DFE funding). The anticipated costs of delivering the new building was: £3,265,000

It was explained that the option that provided the best value for money was to build a new home with nine units of accommodation on the former Flowery Field, Old Road site. The additional units of accommodation this brought allowed for a compliant capital bid to be submitted to the DFE Children's Home Capital Programme 2022-25 for 50% (£1,632,500) of the estimated capital funding required. If the bid was unsuccessful then the full £3,265,000 would be required to be funded from the Council via Prudential Borrowing.

RESOLVED

- 1) That Option 1, to replace Boyds Walk with a new build for nine units of accommodation on the Flowery Fields site, be approved;**
- 2) That the use of the former Flowery Field, Old Road site to locate the new building, be approved;**
- 3) That the terms and conditions set out in the DFE Children's Home Capital Programme 2022-25 Grant Offer Letter (£1,632,500 of match capital funding currently required) be accepted, subject to legal advice that there are no additional liabilities to those outlined in this report and the capital programme;**
- 4) That it be RECOMMENDED to Council to include the £1,632,500 of Council match capital funding in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan;**
- 5) That the procurement of the scheme through the Local Education Partnership be approved;**
- 6) That the virement of £622,399 revenue budget from the Children's Services external agency placement budget to the Children's Services in-house residential services budget to operate the premises, be approved; and**
- 7) That Boyds Walk be decommissioned immediately on the opening of the replacement together with meeting any reasonable ancillary costs relating of the surrender of the premises to Jigsaw.**

If the Council is unsuccessful in its bid to the DFE Children's Home Capital Programme 2022-25, then the Council agrees to change recommendation 4 above to:

That it be **RECOMMENDED** to Council to include the full £3,265,000 of Council capital funding required to replace Boyds Walk in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and the capital programme.

It be agreed that this capital allocation will need to be kept under scrutiny and the necessary due diligence to ensure it is subject to any required uplifts to manage inflationary pressures in the current financial markets in order that it can both be delivered and continues to be a vfm invest to save project, over an appropriate return period given the increasing rates of interest in the unusual volatile markets. Any such financially sensitive information will be provided at the next stage to progress this project.

71. ENERGY UTILITIES FRAMEWORK PURCHASE AGREEMENT THROUGH STAR PROCUREMENT

A report was submitted by the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Place, which explained that the electricity contract was due for renewal on 1 April 2023. Tameside Council currently utilised Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation framework for electricity supplies. A new arrangement was required after 31 March 2023.

The report sought delegated approval to the Director of Place and Director of Finance in consultation with the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation and the Executive Member for Environmental Services to enter into new utility contracts for electricity from April 2023.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the procurement of an electricity provider, with the aim to minimise energy rate increases from 1 April 2023, be approved;**
- (ii) That authority be delegated to the Director of Place and Director of Finance in consultation with First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation and the Executive Member for Climate Emergency & Environmental Services to enter into a contract for electricity from April 2023 subject to the due diligence on the options available to the Council, including the consideration of the green energy tariff charges; and**
- (iii) It be noted that the current arrangements under the gas contract with Crown Commercial Services means we must provide notice in the September of each year if we are to leave the following April therefore we are to remain on this framework for gas for 2023/24 so this is not included in the report and a review of these arrangements will be undertaken separate review during April to June of 2023 to ensure any revised contract arrangements are in place from 1 April 2024 to ensure that the Council achieves vfm at the end of the existing arrangements.**

72. ASHTON PUBLIC REALM STRATEGY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Towns and Communities / Director of Place providing an update on the draft proposal for the redevelopment of Market Square and the outdoor market including the key findings of consultation and engagement work to date.

It was explained that on 27 October 2021, it was announced that the £19,870,000 Levelling Up Fund (LUF) bid for Ashton Town Centre had been successful. The specific interventions proposed in the LUF bid were prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LUF and were critical to unlocking the comprehensive redevelopment of the Town Centre; supporting a coherent vision and completing of the final phase of Vision Tameside.

The Council had now commenced delivery of 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. A Memorandum of Understanding with Department for Levelling Up,

Housing and Communities (DLUHC) was signed in February 2022, which had enabled the first payments of the grant to be drawn down by the Council. A further update was provided to Executive Cabinet on 9 February 2022. Progress on delivery of the Ashton Town Centre LUF programme and public realm works was reported quarterly to the Council's Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel.

Work had commenced on the preparation of a draft proposal (Phase One) for the improvement of Market Square and the outdoor market in Ashton that would be used to shape future design proposals for the key public space in the Ashton Town Centre. The draft proposal had been costed and formulated from feedback received at the Love Ashton Event in March and from discussions with Council officers, key stakeholders and market traders.

Within the wider Ashton LUF programme grant funding of £5,300,000 had been secured associated with the former interchange site. The Council was currently finalising the acquisition of the site from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) that would be the subject of a separate report to Executive Cabinet later in 2022.

Consultation and engagement to date had identified that delivery of significant improvements to the outdoor market and Market Square in Ashton was a priority for the local community. Market Square and the market stalls continued to attract anti-social behaviour which in turn, deterred people from visiting the area, new businesses from setting up in the centre of Ashton and a general overall negative perception of the town centre.

The Council had secured funding of £19,870,000 from LUF, of which £11,200,000 was identified for public realm works in the Town Centre for delivery by 31 March 2025. As the priority area of focus was to deliver works linked to Market Square, the public realm strategy and some of the design principles were primarily focused on this area and its immediate surrounds. However, the Public Realm Strategy included proposals, strategies and design principles for the whole of the Town Centre. It would be important that Ashton Town Centre had a clear vision and plan in place in order to respond positively to future funding initiatives as and when they emerged in order to deliver the later phases of works.

The Director of Place then delivered a presentation, which gave details of the draft proposal for Phase One - Market Square/Ashton market.

Members were advised that the proposed works for Market Square would look to improve the quality of the public realm, accessibility and mobility of the square, an improved outdoor market offer including the creation of a flexible town square to incorporate a range of uses and possibilities that would enhance the area and the town as a visitor destination in its own right. The extent of adaptations and improvements to Market Square was dependent on the future ambition and provision of the outdoor market.

The total cost of the draft proposal was £10,832,846 and would include the removal of all of kiosks and market stalls and replacing them with the construction of a large canopy or a series of canopied structures (including a canopy attached to Market Hall) that would include flexible market units to meet the needs of modern market traders.

It was explained that there were a significant number of advantages of progressing the draft proposal, which included the opportunity to open up the views to heritage buildings in the square, shelter for traders and visitors from the elements, reduce the likelihood of ASB by removing the fixed stalls and providing modern market facilities. Ultimately, the clearance of the existing stalls and kiosks would enable the comprehensive redevelopment of Market Square that would deliver a much more flexible space for a multitude of uses in addition to a modern outdoor market, to enable small and larger scale events to take place. The main disadvantages of the draft proposal was that it would inevitably lead to disruption to market traders whilst the work took place. Measures would need to be put in place to ensure disruption caused to traders was minimised. Specialist consultants in market operations would be included in the multi-disciplinary team to support the practicalities and logistics when the scheme

was to be delivered. A high level breakdown of the costs for the draft proposal are included in the report. The costings would be subject to detailed design work due to commence imminently.

In terms of next steps, the Council were now seeking to undertake public consultation on Phase One of the Public Realm Strategy, which included the draft proposal for the redevelopment of Market Square using funding secured from Levelling Up Fund. It was proposed that consultation would begin week commencing at the end of October 2022/start of November for a period of 4 weeks. Briefing updates to Ashton Ward members, Ashton Town Team, a market traders group and other key stakeholders would take place before consultation commenced.

Consultation material would be available online and an event would also be held at Ashton Market Hall where the local community would be able to speak with Council officers and members of the consultant team around the emerging proposals which would be displayed on exhibition boards at various locations in the town centre. Once the consultation period had ended, comments and feedback would be collated. This would inform preparation of the final proposals for the Phase One works for Executive Cabinet approval.

Timescales for delivery of the works to Market Square were challenging and the funding agreement was clear that monies need to be spent and works completed by March 2025. This was achievable within the current delivery programme on the assumption that the phase of consultation was completed by November 2022 to enable the first stages of the detailed design stage to progress.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the work to date in preparing the proposal for Market Square and the outdoor market for Ashton Town Centre be noted, including the key findings of the consultation and engagement to date;**
- (ii) That the proposal and associated costings for the redevelopment of Market Square and the outdoor market be reviewed and noted;**
- (iii) That the undertaking of public consultation for a period of 4 weeks from the start of November 2022 on the draft proposal for Market Square redevelopment be approved, which includes the future provision of the outdoor market.**

73. TAMESIDE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND SME WORKSPACE OVERVIEW

The Executive Member, Inclusive Growth, Business and Employment / Director of Place submitted a report seeking approval for the submission of a bid by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SME Workspace E22).

RESOLVED

It be noted that a bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SME Workspace E22) has been submitted from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council for the deadline of 19 October 2022.

74. URGENT ITEMS

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

75. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

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

CHAIR