

JOINT MEETING OF OVERVIEW PANEL WITH EXECUTIVE CABINET

8 February 2023

Commenced: 1.00pm

Terminated: 1.50pm

Present: Councillors North (in the Chair), Choksi, Feeley, Jackson, Sweeton, Ward and Wills

Overview Panel: Cllrs Naylor, Cartey, M Smith, N Sharif, T Sharif and Billington

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Stuart Fair	Interim Director of Finance
Stephanie Butterworth	Director of Adults Services
Alison Stathers-Tracey	Director of Children's Services
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Debbie Watson	Director of Population Health
Ilys Cookson	Assistant Director, Exchequer Services
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods
Caroline Barlow	Assistant Director of Finance
Simon Brunet	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
Jordanna Rawlinson	Head of Communications

Apologies for absence: Councillors Cooney, Fairfoull, Taylor and Kitchen (ex officio)

114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Cabinet Members.

115. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 25 January 2023 be approved as a correct record.

116. SCRUTINY UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive summarising the work of the Council's Scrutiny Panels for the period November 2022 to February 2023. A chronology of scrutiny activity for each Scrutiny Panel during the period was provided.

It was explained that Scrutiny had completed review activity in the following areas:

Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel

Town Centres – oversight and input to consultation on Phase 1 – Ashton public realm and market square. A response letter of the Scrutiny Chair sent to Councillor Vimal Choksi, Executive Member (Towns & Communities); and Julian Jackson, Director of Place, was appended to the report.

Children's Services Scrutiny Panel

Children's Workforce Strategy (Recruitment and Retention of Social Workers) – The final report with recommendations and response of the Executive, was circulated as a separate report later in the

agenda.

In terms of the Budget Consultation, it was reported that all Scrutiny Panel members were invited to attend one of two annual budget sessions held on 16 January 2023. The independence of Scrutiny enables members to seek assurances on budget planning, process and priorities for 2023/24 and beyond. It was appropriate for budget priorities to inform future Scrutiny activity and work programmes. A response letter of the Scrutiny Chairs had been sent to the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation); and Interim Director of Finance – Section 151 Officer, a copy of which was appended to the report.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report and summary of Scrutiny activity for the period November 2022 to February 2023, be noted.

117. SCRUTINY ACTIVITY 2022/23

The Chief Executive submitted a report summary of the work undertaken by the Council's three Scrutiny Panels: Place and External Relations, Children's Services and Health and Adult Social Care. A chronological breakdown of activity and oversight of all Scrutiny Panels during 2022/2023 was given.

Details of the Budget Consultation were provided in the Scrutiny Update report (Minute 116 refers).

In terms of follow up reviews, it was reported that Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel had recently revisited the following review: Homelessness and Housing.

With regard to Consultation and Engagement, it was explained that Scrutiny remained suitably informed of open consultations at a local, regional and national level. Responses included:

- Phase 1 – Ashton Market Square – December 2022. Details of which were provided in the Scrutiny Update report (Minute 116 refers).

Members were advised that Scrutiny Panels continued to review decisions and focus reports published by the ombudsman. The aim was to ensure learning opportunities be shared with services in a timely manner and for a formal response and/or position statement to be returned to the appropriate Scrutiny Panel within agreed timescales.

Scrutiny activity informed by recently published LGSCO focus reports included:

- Focus report – Unprecedented pressure: Learning from complaints about council and care provider actions during the Covid-19 pandemic (published February 2022).
 - Report shared with the Executive Member for Adult Services and Director of Adult Services. The activity was reported to Overview Panel on 25 July 2022.
- Guidance report – Section 117 aftercare: guidance for practitioners (published April 2022).
 - Report shared for information and awareness with the Executive Member for Population Health and Wellbeing.
- Focus report – Out of school, out of sight? Ensuring children out of school received a good education (published July 2022).
 - Report shared with the Executive Member for Education & Achievement and Director of Education. The activity was reported to Overview Panel on 26 September 2022.

In respect of Training and Development, it was reported that there was an ongoing commitment to ensure all scrutiny members received a suitable level of training and guidance. In addition to online resources, it was important that new and existing members had access to external provision based on scrutiny principles, national guidance and expectations. Details of training and development sessions delivered in 2022/23 were provided.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report and summary of Scrutiny activity during 2022/23, be noted.

118. SCRUTINY REVIEW ON CHILDREN'S WORKFORCE STRATEGY - SOCIAL WORKER RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Consideration was given to a report of the Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel / First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Deputy Executive Leader, Children and Families providing, activity undertaken by the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel into the workforce strategy for children's social worker recruitment and retention.

It was explained that a working group of the Scrutiny Panel was established to review current arrangements and with a view to support improvement priorities of the Executive. Activity took place from October to December 2022.

The key findings of the review were detailed including a number of recommendations made to the Executive, which were provided in an appendix to the report together with the Executive response.

RESOLVED

That the recommendations and Executive Response, as detailed in appendices to the report, be noted.

119. 2023/2024 BUDGET

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Interim Director of Finance (Section 151 officer), setting out the detailed revenue budget proposals for 2023/2024 and the Medium Term Financial Plan for the 5 year period 2023/24 to 2027/28, including the proposed council tax increase for 2023/4.

It was explained that the Council set a balanced budget for 2022/23 in February 2022, but the process was yet again very challenging. This was achieved through the utilisation of one-off funding, very challenging budget reductions targets and an increase in Council Tax. The budget assumed limited pay inflation, no general inflation and funded known demographic and cost pressures in Adults and Children's Social Care, but with a challenging budget reductions target for Children's Services.

Since setting the Council Budget in early February 2022, the economic landscape had changed adversely, with significant inflationary pressures impacting both generally and in specific service areas. These changes presented both cost pressures and challenges in delivering budget reductions and additional income targets, and, without a robust, proactive response, the Council was facing significant presenting risks to the delivery of a balanced position in 2022/23.

2022/23 had been a year of significant change in the NHS, with the formation of Integrated Care Boards (ICB) which replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) from 1 July 2022. During 2022/23, the Strategic Commission (Tameside Council and the Tameside locality of the Greater Manchester ICB) had continued to report on the financial position of the Tameside Health Economy as a whole in monthly Integrated Commissioning Fund (ICF) financial monitoring reports. As at the end of December 2022, the Strategic Commission was forecasting a net overspend of £1.958m due to significant inflationary pressures on utility costs and pay inflation, combined with ongoing demand pressures in Adults and Children's Social care services.

The 2022/23 budget report included forecasts for 2023 to 2027 which identified a budget gap of £11.764m in 2023/24. This gap assumed that all budget reductions and additional income identified in the 2022/23 budget plans would be delivered, that expenditure in Adults and Children's Services would be contained within budget, and that budget reductions plans of £9m would be delivered.

The significant budget pressures for 2023/24 had been mitigated through the identification of significant budget reductions, efficiencies, additional income and funding changes resulting from the Local Government finance settlement. This had resulted in a final proposed net budget of £221.397m including a 4.99% overall increase in Council Tax. The changes to the net budget were summarised in the report, with further information on the changes in resources to fund the budget summarised in Appendix 4 to the report.

The Council continued to face significant cost pressures from demographic growth and increased costs. The key cost pressures for 2023/24 had been reviewed and assumptions recalculated and were summarised in the report, with further detail in Appendix 2 to the report. The budget for 2023/24 included a number of budget reductions and additional income, including the full year effect of budget reductions identified in previous years. The nature of budget reductions was summarised in the report, with further information contained in Appendix 3 to the report.

In terms of Council tax, after taking account of budget pressures, additional income and budget reductions identified for delivery in 2023/24, the total net budget requirement for the Council was £221.397m. Before any increase in Council tax levels, the resource available in 2023/24 was £216.155m, leaving a gap of £5.241m. Appendix 4 to the report provided further detail on resourcing and Council Tax. The remaining budget gap of £5.241m could be closed with a 2.99% general increase in Council Tax (1.99% had previously been assumed in the MTFP) and a 2% Adult Social Care Precept.

For a typical band A property in Tameside a 4.99% increase in Council Tax on the Tameside element of the bill would equate to an increase of £54.96 per year, or £1.06 per week.

Under Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Section 151 Officer was required to prepare a statement on the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves and the robustness of the budget estimates. The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) statement on the robustness of the budget estimates was set out in Appendix 5 to the report.

Section 26 of the Local Government Act 2003, placed a duty on the Section 151 Officer to ensure the Council had established a minimum level of reserves to be retained to cover any unforeseen demands that could not be reasonably defined within finalising the proposed budget. The Director of Finance was recommending a proposed minimum level of general fund balances from 1 April 2023 at £27.537m, which was an increase on the level assessed in 2022. Further information was set out in the reserves strategy in Appendix 6 to the report.

Appendix 14 to the report was the Corporate Charging Policy which was adopted in February 2022. The Corporate Charging Policy established principles and a framework for setting and reviewing non-statutory fees and charges, and had been used to review fees and charges during the year. No changes had been made to the policy since adoption. Fees and charges were reviewed annually to ensure that they were set at appropriate levels, seeking to ensure costs were recovered, and that they are comparable to similar authorities across Greater Manchester. Appendix 15 set out the proposed fees and charges for 2023/24 and the proposed increase for 2023/24 where relevant.

In terms of Treasury Management, it was explained that the Treasury Management service was an important part of the overall financial management of the Council's affairs. At 31 March 2022 the Council had £144m of investments which need to be safeguarded and £140m of long term debt, which had been accrued over the years to help to fund the Council's capital investment programmes. The significant size of the amounts required careful management to ensure that the Council met its balanced budget requirement under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Members were advised that whilst the budget proposals for 2023/24 presented a balanced position (after Council Tax increases) the projected gap for 2024/25 and beyond was significant and relied on the delivery of all proposed budget reductions identified as part of this budget process. The gap was primarily driven by forecast demographic and other cost pressures, particularly in Adults services, along with continued pressures in Children's Social Care services, and general inflationary

pressures on pay and utilities. The budget forecasts for 2024/25 and beyond assumed that the £15.776m of budget reductions planned for 2023/24 were delivered in full or mitigated with alternative proposals. This budget reductions programme was ambitious and would require relentless focus on planning, project management and delivery.

The Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 was set out in Appendix 20 to the report. It set out the Council's approach to pay policy in accordance within the requirements of Section 38 of the Localism Act 2011. The pay policy applied for the year 2023/24 unless replaced or varied by Full Council.

It did not cover teaching staff whose salaries and terms and conditions of employment were set by the Secretary of State. Academy Schools were an entirely separate legal entity from the Council and were covered by Academies Act 2010 and as a separate employer were responsible for setting salaries for their employees. The purpose of the Pay Policy Statement was to ensure transparency and accountability with regard to the Council's approach to setting pay. The Pay Policy Statement had been approved by Council and was publicised on the Council's website in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 in March each year.

RESOLVED

That the following recommendations, as outlined in the submitted report be RECOMMENDED to Council for approval, subject to any final minor changes to the final figures:

- (i) That the significant financial challenges and risks set out in the report be noted;**
- (ii) That the budgeted net expenditure for the financial year 2023/24 of £221.397m as set out in section 3 and Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, noting the significant pressures outlined in Appendix 2;**
- (iii) That the proposed budget reductions to be delivered by management outlined in section 3 and Appendix 3 to the report, be approved;**
- (iv) That the uplifts to fees and charges as set out in Appendix 15 to the report, be approved;**
- (v) That the proposed resourcing of the budget as set out in Appendix 4 to the report, be approved;**
- (vi) That a 2.99% increase to Council Tax and an increase of 2% in respect of the Adult Social Care precept for 2023/24, be approved;**
- (vii) It be noted that the budget projections set out in section 6 of the report assume a 1.99% per annum increase in general Council Tax from 2024/25 through to 2027/28. The budget projections also assume that there is no reduction to current levels of Government funding;**
- (viii) That the Director of Finance's assessment of the robustness of the budget estimates and adequacy of reserves as set out in Appendix 5 of the report, be accepted. Following this, it be determined that the estimates are robust for the purpose of setting the budget and that the proposed minimum General Fund Balance is adequate;**
- (ix) That the proposed minimum General Fund Balance of £27m set out in Appendix 6 to the report, be approved;**
- (x) That the Reserves Strategy be approved and the projected reserves position as set out in Appendix 6 to the report, be noted;**
- (xi) That the position on the Capital Programme (Section 9 and Appendix 18) previously approved by Executive Cabinet, and the forecast future investment requirements, be noted;**
- (xii) That the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24 as set out in section 12 and Appendix 20 to the report, be approved;**
- (xiii) That the Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24, which includes the proposed borrowing strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (Appendix 17), be approved;**
- (xiv) That the Capital Strategy 2023/24 (Appendix 19) be approved; and**
- (xv) That delegated authority be given to the Directors (in consultation with the Section 151 officer) to agree any uplifts required to other contractual rates from 1 April 2023 which Directorates will manage within their approved budgets for 2023/24.**

120. CONSOLIDATED 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

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

It was explained that TMBC forecasts were for a full 12 months, but only 9 months of budgets were included for the ICB. Whilst still reporting an overspend on Council budgets, the scale of the overspend had reduced at month 9 to £2,491k, an improvement of £861k since month 8. ICB budgets for the Tameside locality were forecasting an underspend of £533k, an increase in the level of underspend since Month 8 of £325k.

The improved forecast at Month 9 on Council budgets mainly reflected updated staffing forecasts, where vacancies across a number of services remained open, resulting in an increase in the level of underspend on staffing budgets. As reported in months 7 and 8, a number of mitigations had also been identified to offset against the non-delivery of planned savings in year. The forecast outturn position assumed that the mitigations would be delivered before the end of the financial year.

Ongoing demand and cost pressures on Council budgets had implications for the 2023/24 budget and work continued at pace to deliver mitigations for 2022/23, whilst plans were developed to ensure a balanced budget could be delivered for 2023/24. The 2023/24 budget plans were now being finalised, with the budget proposals for next year due for consideration and approval at Full Council at the end of February 2023.

Plans for Tameside Locality were submitted for delivery of a £595k surplus in 22/23. Month 9 was forecast to achieve the surplus plus a further £533k. The plan to deliver a surplus required savings of £7.3m to be found, and whilst this had now been achieved, work continued to ensure that savings identified became recurrent.

Further details on the financial position were appended to the report.

RESOLVED

That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

121. COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT FUND

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director, Exchequer Services, which advised Members that government had provisionally allocated £455,437 to Tameside to fund a Council Tax reduction by up to £25 for residents in receipt of Council Tax Support. Any remaining monies were to be used on a discretionary basis to support economically vulnerable households with council tax bills under Section 13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Act 1992.

It was explained that a total of 13,265 Council Tax Support recipients would receive an automatic reduction on their year start Council Tax bill at an estimated cost of £331.6k, leaving £123.8k to fund a discretionary scheme. As in previous years a £25 reduction could be awarded to those not in receipt of Council Tax Support but known to have low incomes due to being in receipt of Severely Mentally Impaired Discounts, Care Leavers Discount, Carers Discount and Disabled Relief, which totalled £27.7k. This would leave £96.0k to be administered via a Section 13A Policy award as detailed in the guidance, upon evidence of hardship.

Applications for a Section 13A award would commence in June 2023 after year start billing activity slowed to enable resource to be effectively deployed to support the administration of this. The discretionary scheme would operate from June 2023 to end of March 2024 or until such time that the Council Tax Support Fund was exhausted.

RESOLVED

That the Council Tax Support Fund 2023/24, as detailed in Section 4 of the report, be approved.

122. CORPORATE PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Chief Executive, which provided evidence to demonstrate progress towards achievement of the Corporate Plan and improving the services provided to residents, businesses and key stakeholders within the locality.

The Corporate outcomes scorecard, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, contained long term outcome measures that tracked progress to improve the quality of life for local residents.

A glossary providing more information about the indicators included in the Corporate Outcomes Scorecard was attached at Appendix 2 to the report.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report, Scorecard (at Appendix 1) and Glossary of Indicators (Appendix 2) be noted.

123. EQUALITY STRATEGY

The Executive Member, Education, Achievement and Equalities / Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence submitted a report seeking approval to adopt a new Equality Strategy, following a final period of consultation. A copy of the Strategy was appended to the report.

It was explained that, Under the Equality Act 2010 the Local Authority had a duty to publish one or more specific and measurable equality objectives, and subsequently at intervals of no more than four years.

The strategy had been developed using an Local Government Association self-assessment tool, advice from an independent review of the approach to equalities in Tameside Council, engagement with the Partnership Engagement Network, reports delivered through the Inequalities Reference Group and a review of equalities data.

It was proposed that the strategy formed the basis of an action plan that would be overseen by the Executive Member and delivered by all services of the council with support from an officer group. Delivery would be in partnership where appropriate, including work with the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Inequalities Reference Group.

RESOLVED

That the Equality Strategy 2023 – 2027, as appended to the report, be agreed and published.

124. INEQUALITIES REFERENCE GROUP (IRG) – ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Education, Achievement and Equalities / Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence, which explained that Tameside Inequalities Reference Group (IRG) was established in November 2020 and aimed to reduce inequality in Tameside by providing advisory recommendations on tackling key issues within the community. When established, the group's terms of reference committed to the publication of an annual update.

The report discharged that obligation and provided an overview of the group's activities in the last 12 months.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the content of the report be noted; and**
- (ii) That the proposals for ensuring that recommendations emanating from the IRG are considered in the most appropriate forums, be supported.**

125. CAR PARKING REVIEW

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Planning, Transport and Connectivity / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods providing an update regarding immediate and longer term changes in Tameside Council's car parks.

It was explained that there were 53 Pay & Display machines in situ across the borough in car parks. All of the machines currently only accepted cash. Tameside Council was the only Greater Manchester authority that could not accept card or mobile app payments. In view of the widespread move away from cash in all areas of life in recent years, this made it less attractive to use the car parking facilities or to visit and do business in Tameside.

It was proposed to prioritise improvements in town centre car parks for immediate action. This involved 27 machines, 17 of which could be upgraded and 10 of which would need to be replaced as they were too old to be upgraded. (An appendix to the report provided a detailed breakdown).

The cost of the improvements would be £71,450. A compliant procurement route had been identified by STAR Procurement for the upgrading / replacement of the 27 machines. It was proposed to review the future of the remaining 26 machines in Tameside car parks as part a wider strategic review for medium and longer-term developments. This enabled the Council to make urgent high-priority improvements in the most cost-effective manner, and recognised the fact that more substantial changes in land usage may affect the future use of those 26 car parks.

Currently there was no system to monitor of the usage and income of each individual car park. Data about patterns of usage would be essential for future decisions about changes to estates usage and town centre development. It was proposed to purchase a software system, the cost of which would be £4,606 per year.

The costs of the proposed improvements were £76,056 in 2022/23. It was proposed to fund the cost from the existing vehicle and equipment replacement reserve and to repay this in subsequent years. A detailed costs analysis was provided in the report.

In terms of the longer term strategy for developing the parking estate, it was reported that Tameside's position, with its proximity to key economic growth drivers, leisure and recreation offers made the borough an ideal location for businesses. In particular, businesses looking for links and ease of access to markets and skills bases across the north, as well as for skilled workers wanting to live within commutable distance of Manchester and Leeds, whilst enjoying an excellent quality of life afforded by its close links with the Peak District.

Tameside Council recognised that its main town centres, Ashton-under-Lyne, Denton, Droylsden, Hattersley, Hyde, Mossley, and Stalybridge were crucial components to the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the borough. It was proposed to develop a Car Parking Strategy to ensure parking services were an effective part of the wider developments underway in the borough. There was a two-way synergy between parking services and other areas of development, and the strategy would therefore address the ways in which car parking could change to optimise its own contribution to the Council; and the ways in which it needed to align with other developments.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be granted to procure, update and install 27 pay and display machines in town centre car parks. The related cost (£71,450) to be financed via the Council's Vehicle**

- Replacement reserve and repaid over a 4 year period as outlined in section 4 of the report;
- (ii) That approval be granted to purchase new pay machine management software for the contactless payment system. The related year 1 cost (£4,606) to be to be financed via the Council's Vehicle Replacement reserve and repaid over a 4 year period as outlined in section 4 of the report. Future year annual costs to be financed via the Place Directorate revenue budget; and
 - (iii) The phased approach of car park development be noted and that a further report will be received in May 2023 setting out an approach to proposed strategic developments of car parks and estate development.

126. AWARD OF PRE-PLACEMENT AGREEMENT FOR CARE HOMES (WITH OR WITHOUT NURSING) IN TAMESIDE

The Executive Member, Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adults Services submitted a report advising Members that, on 27 October 2021, Strategic Commissioning Board initially approved a renegotiation of the current contract to commence within the next 12 months with a contract go live date on 1 April 2023 for the provision of a Pre-Placement Agreement for the provision of permanent, temporary or respite care for older people in a care home (with or without nursing).

It was explained that, following a comprehensive procurement process, the successful providers had been identified and the report sought approval to award the contract as detailed in the report with a contract commencement date of 1 April 2023.

RESOLVED

That the contract for the provision of a Pre-Placement Agreement for the provision of permanent, temporary or respite care for older people in a care home (with or without nursing) be awarded as follows:

Provider A	Anchor Hanover Group
Provider B	Auden House
Provider C	Care UK Community Partnerships
Provider D	Cartwright Care Balmoral
Provider E	Devonshire Care
Provider F	Domain Care Limited
Provider G	Downshaw Lodge
Provider H	HC-One Limited
Provider I	Hurst Hall Care Home
Provider J	Hyde Nursing Home
Provider K	Laurel Bank Residential Care Home
Provider L	Moss Cottage Nursing Home
Provider M	Oakwood Care Centre
Provider N	Parkhill Nursing Home
Provider O	Polebank Hall Residential Care Home
Provider P	Sandtoft Care Home Ltd – Partnership Caring Ltd
Provider Q	St Lawrence's Lodge
Provider R	The Lakes Care Centre (R1) and Fairfield View (R2)
Provider S	The Vicarage Residential Care Home
Provider T	Tulsi Homes TA Clarkson House

127. SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Education, Achievement and Equalities / Director

of Children's Services setting out the proposed admission arrangements for Tameside community, and voluntary controlled schools for admission in September 2024, following a public consultation exercise.

It was explained that there were proposed changes to the Published Admission Number at two community high schools and slight amendments to the wording of the school admission arrangements to comply with the School Admissions Code. The latest information on school place planning was presented which concluded that there were currently sufficient places to meet expected demand.

Members were advised that the school place planning process must continue to be dynamic particularly in view of significant housing development that was predicted within the borough and the impact that would have on demand and travel to learn patterns. Consideration also needed to be given to predicted rising levels of surplus capacity in some areas of the borough and the need to consider reducing admission numbers in future years.

The report concluded that there was a need to continue to develop capacity for specialist places given the predicted continuing rise in demand. The report also sought approval for capital spend to support the establishment of a new specialist resource base at Dane Bank Primary School.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the admission arrangements for all Tameside community and voluntary controlled schools for 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be approved;**
- (ii) That a reduction in the published admission number at Hyde Community College to 210 from September 2024, be approved;**
- (iii) That a reduction in the published admission number at Denton Community College to 270 from September 2024, be approved;**
- (iv) That approval be given to a grant agreement for £63,066 with The CLIC Trust to create a safe outdoor space; a breakout space; a sensory room and remodel a current classroom to accommodate a new resource at Dane Bank Primary School. This will provide 10 resourced pupil places for children with communication and interaction needs for at least 10 years from Easter 2023.**

128. UK SHARED PRSPERITY FUND (SME WORKSPACE)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Inclusive Growth, Business and Employment / Director of Place, which provided an update on the successful bid by the Council to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for Tameside under the SME Workspace investment priority (Intervention E22).

It was reported that the Council submitted bids in October 2022 of £1,979,141 and £1,700,000 for Tameside against the UKSPF Communities and Place and SME Workspace investment priorities. Both bids were designed to be an economic driver that delivered genuine levelling up opportunities across Tameside supporting national, GM and Tameside strategic policies.

In December 2022 GMCA received unconditional approval of the GM UKSPF Investment Plan and a draft MOU and grant determination letter. Following this approval, it had been confirmed that both the Tameside Communities and Place submissions had been successful and the associated funding would now be awarded subject to a funding agreement.

The report concluded that the interventions supported by the UKSPF programme for Tameside would support delivery of the Council's strategic priorities as set out in the Tameside Corporate Plan and Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy. The funding secured provided a significant financial contribution to the Council and provided a proactive approach to the delivery of future inclusive growth.

Full details of the projects were appended to the report.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the successful bid by the Council to UKSPF be noted;**
- (ii) That approval be delegated to the Director of Place for entering into the formal agreements for the receipt of UKSPF funding subject to satisfactory approval by Legal and Finance for the projects set out in Appendix 1;**
- (iii) That approval be given to the Director of Place to manage the programme of works associated with the UKSPF Programme for Tameside and to drawdown and incur all UKSPF expenditure related to delivery;**
- (iv) That any variations to the programme be agreed by Councillor David Sweeton – Executive Member (Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment) in consultation with the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation; and**
- (v) That the projects within the UKSPF SME Workplace programme for Tameside be included in the Council’s Capital Programme to ensure quarterly monitoring by the Strategic Planning & Capital Monitoring Panel.**

129. URGENT ITEMS

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

130. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

It be noted that the next meeting of Executive Cabinet is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 29 March 2023.

CHAIR