

EXECUTIVE CABINET

29 March 2023

Commenced: 1.00pm

Terminated: 1.50pm

Present: Councillors Cooney (Chair), Fairfoull, Feeley, Jackson, Kitchen (ex-officio), North, Sweeton, Taylor, Ward and Wills

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

Apologies for absence: Councillor Choksi

131. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Cabinet Members.

132. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the joint meeting of Overview Panel and Executive Cabinet held on 8 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

133. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group held on 15 March 2023 be noted.

134. MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting held on 16 March 2022. Approval was sought of recommendations of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel arising from the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (a) The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 16 March 2023 be noted; and
- (b) That the following recommendations be approved:

2022/23 P10 CAPITAL MONITORING

RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Note the forecast position for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1.
- (ii) Note the funding position of the approved Capital Programme as set on page 4 of Appendix 1.
- (iii) Note the changes to the Capital Programme as set out on page 9 in Appendix 1
- (iv) Note the updated Prudential Indicator position set out on pages 10-11 of Appendix 1, which was approved by Council in February 2022
- (v) Approve a budget of £0.060m to be drawn down from the £0.500m allocation for works in Tameside One for the work smart programme as set out in Appendix 2(f).

**CAPITAL PROGRAMMES FOR GROWTH DEPARTMENTS
RECOMMENDED**

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to

- (i) Note the progress with regards to the schemes within the Place Capital Programme (Town Centres, Property and Planning) as set out in the report
- (ii) Approve the allocation of £31,000 to the capital programme to finance the additional expenditure at Hyde Pool as stated in section 2.34. The funding to be allocated via the cumulative underspend of £207,000 against schemes detailed in table 2 (section 2.32),
- (iii) Approve the allocation of up to £30,000 to the capital programme to finance the additional expenditure at Hattersley Station as stated in sections 2.21 and 2.22. The sum to be allocated via funding held in Council reserves on behalf of the Land Board and is subject to a separate Council decision.
- (iv) Approve the allocation of up to £7,500 to the capital programme to finance expenditure relating to the relocation of the Mottram show as stated in section 2.18. This sum to be resourced via the earmarked capital programme budget of £103,000 that is allocated to the Mottram showground.

**OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS CAPITAL REPORT: UPDATE
RECOMMENDED**

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Note the progress with regards to the schemes within the Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme as set out in the report.
- (ii) Approve the reprioritised resurfacing schemes for the Highway Maintenance programme as outlined in Appendix 1.
- (iii) Note the progress on the list of highway maintenance schemes identified in Appendix 1 that are to be funded from the Highway Maintenance Grant Allocation
- (iv) Approve the drawdown of funds in respect of the S106 agreements detailed in Section 4 of this report and add to the Council's Capital Programme to allow the detailed design, procurement and installation of the various works.
- (v) Reverse the previous recommendation approved in November 2022 which requested that £1,600,000 of the 2022/23 Highways Maintenance Grant be added to the Councils Revenue budget to fund the cost of reactive maintenance works. Due to a required change in accounting treatment, it is necessary to reverse this decision and transfer that grant funding back to the Council capital programme. It is important to note that this is purely an accounting adjustment and the funds will still be utilised in for the same purpose.

**EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME: UPDATE
RECOMMENDED**

That a report is produced for April Executive Cabinet to agree the funding, scope and contract for Hawthorns to enable it to be delivered and that Executive Cabinet be recommended to **APPROVE:**

- (i) The addition of £667,612 2022/23 additional Devolved Formula Capital grant to the capital programme as detailed in paragraph 2.10 to the programme in 2023/24.
- (ii) The Section 106 contributions totalling £529,205.04 as detailed in paragraph 2.16 are approved to finance Education Capital Schemes.

- (iii) The proposed estimate of £1,400,000 School Condition Grant for 2023/24 is added to the programme as detailed in paragraph 4.21. The final amount of grant will be updated on receipt of the final confirmation of the grant.
- (iv) The 2023/24 School Condition grant is allocated to the projects detailed in the table at paragraph 4.29.
- (v) The addition of £20,000 school contributions to the capital programme in 2023/24 as detailed in paragraph 4.30, subject to the confirmation of School Condition Grant as per recommendation.
- (vi) The allocation of £150,000 from High Needs Provision Fund for Oakdale School as detailed in paragraph 6.4 to be added to the programme in 2023/24.
- (vii) The allocation of £720,000 from High Needs Provision Fund for the New Bridge Academy Trust as detailed in paragraph 6.5 to be added to the programme in 2023/24.
- (viii) An allocation of £70,414 from High Needs Provision Fund for St James' Church of England Primary School as detailed in paragraph 6.6 to be added to the programme in 2023/24.
- (ix) A grant agreement for £70,414 is agreed with the Forward as One Academy Trust as detailed in paragraph 6.6 to provide 10 resourced pupil places at St James' Church of England Primary School, Ashton from September 2023.

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to NOTE:

- (i) Lyndhurst Primary and Ravensfield Primary – Air Con units (£11,000) to be returned to the unallocated school condition fund and (£20,000) removal of school contributions as detailed in paragraph 4.15.
- (ii) The addition of £203,210 Direct Revenue Funded projects to the capital programme as detailed in paragraph 2.11.
- (iii) The use of £30,000 contingency to support asbestos removal and fire compartmentalisation at Stalyhill Juniors (as part of the works required for the decarbonisation schemes) as detailed in paragraph 4.14.

135. PERIOD 10 2022/23 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 21 JANUARY 2023

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Finance, which reflected actual expenditure to 31 January 2023.

It was explained that, as highlighted in previous reports, 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 significant forecast overspend by 31 March 2023 of £1,634k. This represented a (£857k) improvement since M9. The movement was driven by an increase in Adults, Governance and Finance & IT forecasts, which had been offset by reductions in forecasts for Place, Children's and Corporate. Ongoing demand and cost pressures on Council budgets would have implications for the 2023/24 budget. Mitigations were in place for 2022/23, and 2023/24, although further work was still needed.

Further detail on the financial position was provided in Appendix 1, with further detail by Directorate set out in Appendix 2, to the report.

The latest forecast for the Collection Fund in 2022/23, together with collection performance, was summarised in Appendix 3 to the report.

The latest position and forecast for the Dedicated Schools Grant funding and deficit position was summarised in Appendix 4 to the report. If the 2022/23 forecasts materialised, the deficit would further increase to £4.956k. A deficit recovery plan had been developed and submitted to the DfE. Discussions were continuing with the DfE and were ongoing. The position would continue to be closely monitored and updates reported to Schools' Forum and Members.

Appendix 5 to the report, listed those debts scheduled for write off as uncollectible in the period 1

October to 31 December 2022.

The Director of Finance had approved the re-purposing of £245k unspent Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) grant to the Household Support Fund (HSF) grant. HSF applications were forecast to exceed the funding available for 2022/23. The transfer would ensure continued support to the most vulnerable and those in need of support for essential living costs via the HSF until the end of March. Further HSF grant funding had been allocated from April 2023.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;**
- (ii) That the forecast position on the Collection Fund as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be noted;**
- (iii) That the current position in respect of the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit as set out in Appendix 4 to the report, be noted;**
- (iv) That the write off of uncollectable debts as set out in Appendix 5 to the report, be approved;**
- (v) That the reserve transfers set out in Appendix 6 to the report, be approved; and**
- (vi) That the transfer of unspent grant to the Household Support Fund in section 4 of the report, be noted.**

136. BUSINESS RATES REVALUATION AND RELIEFS 2023-24

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director, Exchequer Services, which advised Members that the Local Government Finance Act 1988 Part 3 Sec 41(2), updated in the Non-Domestic Rating (Lists) Act 2021, determined that the Valuation Office Agency should compile a Non-Domestic Rating List.

The report detailed the revaluation of Business Rates effective from 01 April 2023, the implications based on data from the Valuation Office Agency to all local authorities and the reliefs available in the 2023/24 financial year.

It was concluded that the retail sector was the only sector to show a decrease in rateable values and the industry sector had the biggest increase across all regions, which was reflected in the rateable value changes to businesses in Tameside. Overall there had been a 7.4% increase in overall rateable values in Tameside from £149m to £160m.

The government had introduced three new business rates reliefs from 1 April 2023 subject to specific eligibility criteria. The effect of being awarded a relief was that there was a reduced amount of business rates payable. The three new reliefs were a transitional relief scheme, Retail, Hospitality and Leisure (RHL) rate relief scheme and Supporting Small Business (SSB) relief scheme.

There was an expectation that ratepayers that were eligible to receive the reliefs would have the relief applied to year start bills issued in March 2023. Processing systems required upgrades and testing to ensure that the reliefs could be applied to bills in time for the new financial year.

RESOLVED

That the 2023 national revaluation and the new reliefs introduced by central government effective from 1 April 2023, be noted.

137. COUNCIL TAX – EMPTY PROPERTIES AND SECOND HOMES

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director, Exchequer Services setting out proposed increases to empty properties and second homes on the condition that local authorities must 'make the determination at least one year

before the financial year to which it relates', as detailed in the Levelling Up Bill and which was expected to become legislation within the current financial year.

The Bill proposed:

- Up to a maximum of a further 100% Council Tax be charged from the time the property has been empty for one year instead of the current 2 years;
- Discounts on second homes be withdrawn; and
- Second home Council Tax charges may be increased by no more than 100% providing that there is no-one resident and the dwelling is substantially furnished.

Members were advised that there were currently 133 second homes in the Borough and 341 empty properties, however both of these figures fluctuated. If the proposals to increase charges were implemented and based on 2022/23 Council Tax levels, an estimated income of £506,859k could be realised from empty properties and £210,676k from second homes, however it must be taken into account that Councils must *'make the determination at least one year before the financial year to which it relates'*, and the charge could not be effective until 1 April 2024, subject to legislation being passed in the current financial year.

It was further advised that any proposed increase in Council Tax for second homes and empty properties was aligned to guard against empty property owners leaving furniture in a property and classing as a second home in an attempt to attract a reduced charge for a longer period of time.

RESOLVED

It be agreed that, subject to legislation being in place within the current financial year, that Council Tax in respect of empty properties and second homes be increased to 200% charge after the necessary 12 months' notice has been given.

138. ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

The Executive Member, Population Health and Wellbeing / Director of Population Health submitted a report, which provided an update on the development of a place based anti-poverty strategy by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

It was explained that, in recent years the rise of poverty, exacerbated by the cost of living crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic, had emerged as a major policy issue. The current cost of living crisis had been significantly worsened by a number of longer-term structural weaknesses in the UK, including low wages, low productivity and high inequality relative to other major economies.

All partners recognised the severity of the current crisis and were working hard to support residents and gain a deeper understanding of poverty through cooperation with groups such as the Tameside Poverty Truth Commission.

Following the development of a Poverty Needs Assessment, which sat as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Health & Wellbeing Board agreed to support the development of a system-wide strategy to address both the short-term and long-term issues that drove poverty in Tameside.

The strategy – *'Building Resilience: Tackling Poverty in Tameside'* – was adopted by the Health and Wellbeing Board at their meeting on 16 March 2023. The document was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

It was further explained that the consultation and research undertaken through the development of the needs assessment served the dual purpose of understanding both the issues prevalent in Tameside but also the available solutions. The needs assessment was attached to the report at Appendix 2 and a summary of the exercises undertaken to gather this information was provided.

Members were advised that on 22 February 2023, Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA) published their report '*Local anti-poverty strategies – Good practice and effective approaches*'. The report was attached at Appendix 4 to the report. GMPA made twelve advisory recommendations for those areas embarking on the development of an anti-poverty strategy. Current work put Tameside in a strong position against GMPA's recommendations. Examples of work that met the recommendations included:

- Poverty Needs Assessment;
- Programme of engagement and lived experience listening;
- Poverty Truth Commission.;
- Adoption of the socio-economic duty in 2022;
- Partnership approach through the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- Clear leadership with named Executive Member (Cllr Wills);
- Development of a detailed and tracked action plan (in development now);
- Poverty dashboard (in development now building on the needs assessment); and
- Pilot and implementation of Money Advice Referral Tool.

In terms of next steps, Members were advised that the final consultation concluded on 31 January 2023 with minimal revision of the core recommendations required. The final strategy was presented at Health and Wellbeing Board on 16 March 2023 where it was formally adopted by the board on behalf of all partners.

An action plan to deliver the ambitions set out in the strategy was already in development over which, the Health & Wellbeing Board would have oversight. Delivery of the action plan would be undertaken by a sub-group reporting into the Board. It was appropriate for the council to also adopt the strategy and establish an operational delivery group internally to ensure its contribution to delivery of the action plan was progressed quickly and effectively.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the report and the strategy document (as at Appendix 1 to the report), agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board for the place on 16 March 2023, be noted; and**
- (ii) It be agreed that the strategy be adopted by Tameside Council as one of the place based partners who will work together through the Health and Wellbeing Board to deliver the recommendations outlined in the strategy.**

139. ENERGY SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE FUEL PAYMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director Exchequer Services, which explained that the Government announced that the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) (now the Department for Energy, Security and Net Zero), would work in partnership with Local Authorities to deliver alternative funding for help with consumers' energy bills.

It was explained that, for the majority of the population the support was being delivered direct by the Energy Bill Support Scheme (EBSS) as a £400 credit to electricity bills and as a reduction to the unit cost of gas and electricity and was delivered by energy suppliers. However, the government estimated that around one million households across the UK would miss out on the EBSS as they did not themselves directly contract with a domestic electricity supplier or used alternative fuels to heat their homes. They would instead qualify for assistance via the Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Fund (EBSS – AF) or the Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Funding (AFP – AF) to be administered by local authorities. The scheme was underpinned by the Energy Prices Act 2022.

The government therefore required local authorities to deliver 2 energy bill support schemes, as follows:

- **Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Fund (EBSS – AF)**
This was to be a £400 payment for households that did not have a direct contract with an energy supplier such as residents in park homes, care homes. This would be delivered from

27 February 2023 to 31 May 2023.

- **Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Fund (AFP – AF)**

This was a £200 payment for households that used alternative fuels to heat their homes such as heating oil, biomass and LPG. This would be delivered from 6 March 2023 to 31 May 2023.

Local Authorities would be required to deliver both schemes on behalf of central government from 27 February 2023 to 31 May 2023 for receipt of applications and with reconciliation commencing August onwards.

RESOLVED

It be noted that the Council delivers the Energy Bill Support Scheme Alternative Funding (EBSS – AF) payment in addition to the Alternative Fuel Payment Alternative Funding payment (AFP – AF).

140. ASHTON PUBLIC REALM: PHASE ONE, MARKET SQUARE

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Towns and Communities / Director of Place, which provided a summary of the findings from the recent public consultation along with the final strategy for the delivery of the redevelopment of the Market Square and outdoor market in Ashton Town Centre utilising Levelling Up Funding.

Members were reminded 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 has 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.

The draft proposal for the redevelopment of Market Square (including Ashton outdoor market) were the subject of a full public consultation for a period of 4 weeks across November and December 2022. The draft proposals were costed and fell within the identified LUF budget allocated for the public realm in the town centre. The total cost of the draft proposals was £10,800,000 and included the removal of all kiosks and market stalls and replacing them with the construction of a large canopy (including a canopy attached to Market Hall) that included flexible market units to meet the needs of modern market traders.

Feedback from the consultation and engagement to date including the Love Ashton event in March 2022, identified the need for the delivery of significant improvements to the outdoor market and Market Square in Ashton was a priority for the local community in order to breathe new life into the town centre to develop a clear local picture and to gain an insight into issues, opportunities, and future aspirations for Ashton Market Square and outdoor market.

A summary of some of the feedback received, how the feedback had been reviewed and analysed, and how the findings had fed into the final strategy proposals for Market Square and the outdoor market was detailed in the report. A vision, masterplan and set of design principles had been developed that would inform the next stage of detailed design work before the construction phase of the scheme commenced in early 2024.

A detailed programme of the works was included in Appendix 5 to the report. Members were advised that timescales for delivery were very tight in line with the Levelling Up Funding agreement of works being completed in full by March 2025. Some of the key milestones were detailed in the report.

The report concluded that, responses received from the public consultation as well as discussions with market traders, demonstrated an overall support for the draft proposals and design principles identified within the draft masterplans. Whilst there were still some concerns with market traders in respect to the future of their business, the Council continued to liaise with market traders to ensure they were involved in the proposals as they become more defined.

Given the nature and multi-functionality of market squares across all towns, there were a number of competing demands, desires, needs and ambitions for different people as to what a modern market town should deliver. Whether it was a modern or traditional market, a diverse offer, events, culture, art, play, greenery or any other feature of a market square, there were competing demands from those who visited and utilised Market Square, which must be balanced to ensure the successful delivery of a public square that was unique to Ashton, now and for generations to come.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the work to date in preparing the proposal for Market Square and the outdoor market for Ashton Town Centre, including the key findings of the consultation and engagement to date, be noted; and**
- (ii) That the final proposals relating to the redevelopment of Ashton Market Square and outdoor market (Phase One) Public Realm Strategy for Ashton Town Centre, as detailed in the report and appendices, be approved; and**
- (iii) That approval be given to progress the detailed design based on the final strategy.**

141. HYDE TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN UPDATE

The Executive Member, Towns and Communities / Director of Place providing an update on the Hyde Town Centre Masterplan including the results of the initial fact finding exercise.

Members were advised that the Council was recently successful in achieving a grant award of £225,000 via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Evergreen Round 3) which needed to be expended by 31 March 2023. The use of GM Evergreen funds of £225,000, with match funding of £125,000 from the Investment, Development and Housing (IDH) budget and £100,000 secured from the One Public Estate (OPE) programme, was approved for Hyde by Tameside Council Executive Cabinet on 29 September 2021. Of this funding £100,000 was identified for the preparation of the Hyde Town Centre Masterplan with the remainder to support the repurposing of the former library building on Union Street.

Furthermore, a report to Executive Cabinet in June 2021, identified that Hyde Town Centre had been identified as one of the 70 local authority areas that would be able to access government support through the High Street Task Force (HSTF) programme. The report agreed that the Council would formally participate and engage in the programme and the first stage of support from HSTF included an initial diagnostic which was undertaken earlier in the year offered under the banner 'Unlocking Your Place Potential'. The appointed Task Force Expert also participated in the selection process for the appointment of GL Hearn and Hemingway Designs. The next stage included a Place Workshop on 2 February 2023, would bring together key stakeholders to collectively consider how to improve the town centre. Feedback would contribute to the masterplan proposals.

The consultant team were working towards a comprehensive masterplan that would ensure that all aspects of regeneration was considered. This would include working collaboratively with the local community and key stakeholders so they were able to shape the proposals for Hyde. The fact finding stage had come to an end and the baseline assessment completed, the findings would feed into draft proposals and a vision for the town, which would be subject to a formal consultation period early in the New Year.

The report outlined some of the key findings from the fact finding exercise carried out. All of the responses had been reviewed and analysed in order to help to shape the draft masterplan for Hyde Town Centre. A vision, set of design principles, development opportunities, public realm and highway improvement areas were included in the draft masterplan, a copy of which was appended to the report.

In terms of next steps, it was explained that the Council would undertake a formal consultation on the draft masterplan for a period of four weeks commencing in May 2023. A review of comments and responses from consultation would take place in June 2023 and approval would be sought from Executive Cabinet to adopt the Hyde Town Centre Masterplan, in August 2023. This would ensure the masterplan acted as a material consideration in the planning application process for any proposals submitted in the area.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the findings from the fact finding exercise that have been used to feed into the draft Masterplan for Hyde Town Centre, be noted;**
- (ii) That the draft proposals, including vision and design principles in the draft Masterplan, be approved;**
- (iii) That the consultation on the draft Masterplan for Hyde for a period of 4 weeks following the Elections in May 2023, be approved; and**
- (iv) It be approved that the estimated remaining non-recurrent Council reserve balance of £125,000 (as set out in table 1, section 6.2 of the report), previously allocated to the Place Directorate to support town centre master planning, be utilised in 2023/24 to progress the regeneration of Hyde Town Centre, subject to further governance setting out what will be delivered within this budget envelope.**

142. HATTERSLEY ANNUAL REPORT

A report was submitted by the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Place setting out an update on the Hattersley Regeneration Programme for the period 2022/23.

Progress in 2022/23 was provided in respect of:

- Public Realm;
- Hattersley Station Ticket Office;
- Housing Development;
- RSK Science Park; and
- Work and Skills Coach.

Priorities for 2023/24 were also detailed and discussed, in terms of:

- Public Realm Delivery;
- Housing Development; and
- District Centre Phase 2.

With regard to governance, in order to provide clarity as to decisions set within the context of the Hattersley Land Board, Members were advised that there would be regular reporting to the Council's Executive Board and Executive Cabinet. These reports would include updates on annual performance of the delivery of the Hattersley Regeneration Programme, together with approval of payments, as required, in relation to the funding held in a Council reserve for the Land Board where the Council acts as the accountable body.

In terms of funding, summary details of the balance of funding held in the Council reserve as accountable body at 31 March 2022, were provided. The balance was allocated between the funding that supported public realm schemes and the Collaboration Agreement. It was noted that there was no expenditure in 2021/22 via the funding held in the reserve. Summary details of the forecast balance of funding that would be held in the Council reserve as accountable body at 31 March 2023,

were also provided, including details of the proposed expenditure to be financed via the reserve allocated between public realm schemes and the Collaboration Agreement.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the work undertaken in 2022/23 as part of the Hattersley Regeneration Programme and the proposed next steps, be noted;**
- (ii) That the payments to Onward Homes, Homes England and the Council to reimburse expenditure as set out in table 2 (section 4.2) of the report, be approved, with a sum of up to £281,000 to finance public realm schemes and a sum of up to £318,000 to finance collaboration agreement expenditure. The expenditure is to be financed via the funding held in the Council reserve for the Hattersley Land Board, the balance of which is included in table 2 and was £4,708,395 at 1 April 2022;**
- (iii) It be approved that future payments to partners in respect of the Hattersley Regeneration Programme be undertaken at a minimum of every six months (usually September and March), subject to approval either via Cabinet through the Annual Update Report or a separate Executive Member Decision Notice.**

143. ACTIVE TRAVEL FUND 2 – FULL SCHEME DELIVERY APPROVAL

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Planning, Transport and Connectivity / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, which, subject to approval of the Active Travel Fund 2 (ATF2) Delivery Plan, sought approval to enter into the relevant ATF2 funding agreement between the Council and TfGM in order to secure and allow draw down of active travel grant funding to support delivery of the four prioritised ATF2 schemes located at:

- Oldham Road (Ashton-under-Lyne)
- Newman Street (Ashton-under-Lyne)
- Stockport Road (Ashton-under-Lyne)
- Guide Lane (Audenshaw)

Details were provided in respect of each of the above four schemes, including a progress report on the consultation and design process.

Members were advised that the Council had been allocated, in principle, £985,000 from TfGM's Active Travel 2 programme. This funding must be spent by March 2024.

The report concluded that the ambitious ATF programme, and the high-quality design standards being applied across the Bee Network should help to increase the number of people choosing active travel modes. This was a key priority for the Council as it would support the delivery of environmental, economic and societal benefits.

Current cost estimates exceeded the allocated ATF2 budget. Construction works would only start on all four ATF2 schemes if they were affordable within the approved grant funding envelope. There was currently no requirement to provide match funding from existing Council budgets.

Standard scheme procedures and statutory processes were being followed, including advertising of traffic orders, road safety audits and consultation with residents and key stakeholders.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the four Active Travel Fund 2 (ATF2) schemes detailed in the report be approved after having given careful consideration to the outcome of public consultation, which was undertaken between the 5 September 2022 and 14 October 2022;**
- (ii) Subject to Transport for Greater Manchester's (TfGM) approval of the Council's ATF2 Delivery Plan; authorisation be given to enter into the relevant funding agreement to secure the allocated ATF2 grant funding to add to the Council's capital programme; and**
- (iii) Subject to approval and satisfactory completion of statutory processes, the construction of the four ATF2 schemes be authorised, located at:**

- Oldham Road (Ashton-under-Lyne)
- Newman Street (Ashton-under-Lyne)
- Stockport Road (Ashton-under-Lyne)
- Guide Lane (Audenshaw).

144. PROBATION DEPENDENCY AND RECOVERY SUPPORT SERVICE (DRUGS AND ALCOHOL) – FUNDING TRANSFER AND CONTRACT VARIATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Population Health and Wellbeing / Director of Population Health, providing background information on reforms within His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). It gave details of work at a GM level to meet the objectives of the National Drug Strategy, which included the proposals set out in the report for the local authority to receive additional funding from HMPPS and GMCA to ensure continuation of the Dependency and Recovery service aimed at residents under the supervision of the probation service, to ensure they had access to appropriate treatment and support for substance misuse issues.

The report outlined the progress already made and described the arrangements and approach proposed over the coming years, which would involve the local authority receiving the additional funding and varying in to existing contract with the substance misuse treatment provider, to ensure support continued to be offered to Tameside residents. The values were £88,047 for 2023/24 and indicative amounts of £95,287 for 2024/25 and £95,755 for 2025/26.

It was explained that the Council proposed to commission the existing specialist substance misuse service provider, Change Grow Live (CGL) Services My Recovery Tameside, to deliver the Dependency and Recovery services funded by the HMPPS and GMCA. This would be for the duration of the existing contract between Tameside MBC and CGL Services (up to 31 August 2025) utilising a contract variation. The substance misuse commissioners in the Population Health Team were working with STAR procurement on the process and collaboratively with the management team from CGL Services to develop a continued robust delivery plan that met local needs.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That approval be given to receive the allocation of £88,047 for delivery of the HMPPS Dependency and Recovery Service in 2023/24 and to award this to CGL Services via a contract variation to the existing substance misuse treatment service contract in place. Also to receive an award the indicative amounts for 2024/25 and part of 2025/26 up to the end of the current CGL Services contract in August 2025 (c. £95,287 and £95,755 respectively); and**
- (ii) **That approval be given to vary the existing contract with CGL Services My Recovery Tameside to deliver the HMPPS Dependency and Recovery Service in 2023/24, 2024/25 and part of 2025/26.**

At this juncture, in respect of the following item, it was noted that Councillor Cooney was a Trustee/Director of Jigsaw Homes Group, however it was further noted that the report sought approval to go out to procure the Domestic Abuse Support Service for Tameside and that delegation be given to the Director of Population Health in consultation with the Director of Finance to award the contract following the completion of a compliant competitive procurement exercise and Cllr Cooney would not be involved in any procurement exercise whatsoever.

145. DOMESTIC ABUSE COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS 2023-2024

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Population Health and Wellbeing / Director of Population Health, which explained that domestic abuse continued to be a growing issue in Tameside with data highlighting that the number of domestic abuse incidents reported to the police increased from 4424 in 2019/20 to 5409 in 2021/22 (22%). This was further echoed by the increases seen by Children's Social Care whereby referrals relating to domestic abuse rose from 1850 in 2019/20 to 3222 in 2021/22 (74%).

It was further explained that reducing Domestic Abuse was a key objective in the Corporate Plan and the Local Authority currently committed £506,818 annually to the delivery of domestic abuse support in Tameside, which funded the core contract provided by Jigsaw Support, delivering the Bridges service. This was enhanced by the Women and Families centre at a cost of £112,000 per year, which was also provided by Jigsaw Support.

Both contracts were due to end on 31 March 2024 and would be subject of a re-commissioning exercise in 2023, with new contracts due to begin on 1 April 2024. In addition, the Council received an annual Domestic Abuse grant from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to deliver against statutory duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, specifically safe accommodation.

The report set out the intentions to re-commission the domestic abuse response in Tameside from 1 April 2024, taking into consideration statutory requirements, national learning and recommendations, and stakeholder feedback. Furthermore, the report outlined the commissioning intentions for 2023/24 in line with the statutory duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given for a total of £5,035,101.05 (£1,007,020.21) per year) to be allocated from ring-fenced domestic abuse grant and core budget for the recommissioning of the Domestic Abuse Support Service for a 5-year contract, with the option of extending up to a further 5-years (optional extension of contract will be pending full formal review of service outcomes in Year 3);**
- (ii) That approval be given to go out to procure the Domestic Abuse Support Service for Tameside;**
- (iii) That delegation be given to the Director of Population Health in consultation with the Director of Finance to award the contract following the completion of a compliant competitive procurement exercise; and**
- (iv) That approval be given to undertake the necessary procurement exercises including award and other necessary arrangements in order to deliver the commissioning intentions for 2023/24 as set out in section 3 of the report.**

146. URGENT ITEMS

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

147. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED

It be noted that the next meeting of Executive Cabinet is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 26 April 2023.

CHAIR