

## **EXECUTIVE CABINET**

**26 April 2023**

**Commenced: 1.00pm**

**Terminated: 1.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors Cooney (Chair), Choksi, Fairfoull, Feeley, Jackson, North, Sweeton, Ward and Wills

<b>In Attendance:</b>	<b>Sandra Stewart</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
	<b>Ashley Hughes</b>	<b>Director of Resources</b>
	<b>Stephanie Butterworth</b>	<b>Director of Adults Services</b>
	<b>Alison Stathers-Tracey</b>	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
	<b>Julian Jackson</b>	<b>Director of Place</b>
	<b>Debbie Watson</b>	<b>Director of Population Health</b>
	<b>Emma Varnam</b>	<b>Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods</b>
	<b>Jordanna Rawlinson</b>	<b>Head of Communications</b>

**Apologies for absence:** Councillors Kitchen (ex-officio) and Taylor.

### **148. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Cabinet Members.

### **149. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 29 March 2023 be approved as a correct record.**

### **150. ADULT SOCIAL CARE FEES 2023/24**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services outlining proposals in relation to revised provider fees to meet the increasing cost of providing Adult Social Care services for 2023/24 effective from 1 April 2023. In addition, the proposed fees included the payment of the Real Living Wage (RLW) for all care workers in the borough from 1 April 2023.

It was explained that the Government was implementing wide-ranging and ambitious reform of adult social care. In December 2021, the white paper 'People at the Heart of Care' was published.

Local Authorities in 2022 to 2023 were also expected to start making genuine progress towards more sustainable fee rates, where they were not already doing so. This meant increasing fee rates paid to providers in respect of 65+ care homes and 18+ domiciliary care, including those who operated in extra care settings.

To progress the Fair Cost of Care exercise, the Council engaged external consultants to undertake a review of care providers in Tameside to complete the Fair Cost of Care and Market Sustainability exercise. The review, as per Government direction, considered the cost of delivering care for care at home provision (18+), and care homes (65+). The methodology utilised for the work was detailed, including response rates.

The data collected had been used to calculate indicative FCoC rates as they pertained locally. However, due to forecast budget pressures in 2023/24 on the Adult Services revenue budget, it was proposed that further analysis be carried out on the FCoC data during the current financial year to inform proposed future year provider fee rates.

In terms of the Real Living Wage, Members were advised that the National Living Wage (NLW) was the obligatory minimum wage that employers had to pay to workers in the UK, aged over 25 years. This law had not been around for long, as it only came into effect on 1 April 2016, adding to the National Minimum Wage act of 1998. The National Minimum Wage covered workers that were below 25 years old or apprentices.

The Council had stated its ambition to become an “accredited real wage employer” and in reaching this, it would move to ensure all care workers were paid as a minimum at the RLW rate. This commitment was re-affirmed in the Adult Social Care Fees 2022/23 report approved at the Strategic Commissioning Board on 23 March 2022, although a funding source was not identified at that stage. The social care sector was struggling to recruit to many social care roles, and it was believed that one factor of difficulty was paying at the lower NLW whereas other sectors such as hospitality and retail paid above the RLW.

On the 22 September 2022, the Living Wage Foundation announced that the RLW would increase to £10.90 per hour on 1 April 2023, which represented an increase on the hourly rate of 10.1%. The National Living Wage announced by Government would see the rate increase rate to £10.42 per hour on 1 April 2023, an increase on the current rate by 9.6%. Given full Council approval, 28 February 2023 all staff across Adult Social Care contracts were to be paid the minimum of the Real Living Wage from 1 April 2023. The proposals within the report made provision for this to be paid as a minimum to all staff working across these contracts for the 2023/24 financial year. To pay the Real Living Wage it was important that all contract arrangements in place across Adult Services reflected payment to all staff as a minimum in revised terms and conditions. This would be done by way of contract variations to all existing contracts, and would be included within all future contract agreements going forward.

Financial information in respect of the following was provided in the report:

- Care Home fees;
- Support at Home/Standard Home Care rates;
- Contract Uplifts;
- Day Service options;
- Direct Payments Personal Assistant Rates;
- Shared Lives Scheme;
- Out of Borough Placements; and
- Charges for Services.

Members were further advised that the 2023/24 budgets for the provision of Adult Social Care Placements and Packages of Care including related contracts (e.g. Supported Living) totalled £79.941m gross (£51.286m net of service user contributions).

The estimated additional cost of the proposed increase on provider fees, as set out in the report, was £5.827m (£4.746m net of additional service user contributions to their care package). In addition there was also estimated service demand pressure on the related budgets of £7.006m.

The Council had approved additional funding of £7.221m to support the related costs of inflationary and service demand increases.

The Directorate were reviewing a number of proposals to mitigate the estimated additional budget pressure due to the proposed fee increases and estimated additional service demand of £4.531m in 2023/24. These included (and were not limited to):

- A review of the level of hours provided in home care packages;
- The acceleration of a review of Mental Health placement packages;

- Increasing Independence in Supported Accommodation by reducing packages of care as part of 'my house my home' work to support people into independent tenancies; and
- The return of service users from out of borough placements to accommodation in borough.

Delivery of the mitigations would be provided within the Directorate revenue monitoring reports during the 2023/24 financial year. All cost uplifts and demand pressures were to be constrained within existing resources as set out at Full Council in February 2023. There was no capacity to overspend against planned expenditure budgets.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the content of the report be noted;
- (ii) That the proposed new rates for care home placements as detailed in table 1 section 4.4 of the report, be approved;
- (iii) That the proposed new rates for Support at Home, Standard Home Care and care provides by Routes, as detailed in table 2 section 4.8 of the report, be approved;
- (iv) That the spot purchase rates for sleep-in and waking nights as detailed in table 2 section 4.8 of the report, be approved;
- (v) That the proposed Adult Social Care contract values as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, with delegation to the Director Of Adult Services to approve a greater increase with supporting evidence;
- (vi) That the proposed revised rate for additional hours commissioned in Extra Care of £17.83 per hour per section 4.10 of the report, be approved;
- (vii) That the proposed Direct Payment rates as detailed in table 3 section 4.17 of the report, be approved;
- (viii) That the proposed Shared Lives Carer payments detailed in table 4 section 4.19 of the report, be approved;
- (ix) That the proposal to increase younger adults out of borough placement care packages by 6.7% be approved, with delegation to the Director Of Adult Services to approve a greater percentage rate with supporting evidence as detailed in Section 4.23 of the report;
- (x) That the proposal to increase specialist placement care packages by 6.7% be approved, with delegation to the Director of Adult Services to approve a greater percentage rate with supporting evidence;
- (xi) That the payment of older people's out of borough placement care packages at the host local authority prevailing weekly rate, be approved;
- (xii) That all payment rates detailed in the report to be effective from 1 April 2023, be approved;
- (xiii) That the related impact of care package fee increases on the financial assessment of the service user is from 1 May 2023, be approved; and
- (xiv) That the variation of existing contracts with providers to ensure that all relevant employees are paid at the real living wage hourly rate as a minimum effective from 1 April 2023, be approved.

## **151. CONTRACT AWARD HOME CARE FLEXIBLE PURCHASING SYSTEM**

The Executive Member, Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services submitted a report providing information in respect of the Contract Award Home Care Flexible Purchasing System.

It was explained that, on 24 August 2022, Executive Cabinet approved an extension to the existing Home Care framework from original end date 30 October 2022 to 31 May 2023. At the same time, approval was given to tender the Home Care Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) that would replace the framework from 1 June 2023.

The FPS would run for six years through to 31 May 2029 opening annually – or more frequently if required – in order to allow other providers to apply to join. Following the initial procurement process,

twenty seven providers had passed the requisite evaluation criteria and the report sought approval to award contracts as detailed.

## **RESOLVED**

That following the evaluation of tender submissions, approval be given for the initial admission of twenty seven providers to the FPS, with potential subsequent awards to follow annually.

<b>Provider A</b>	<b>365</b>
<b>Provider B</b>	<b>Benhill</b>
<b>Provider C</b>	<b>Bridging the Gap</b>
<b>Provider D</b>	<b>Care4Us</b>
<b>Provider E</b>	<b>Care Needs</b>
<b>Provider F</b>	<b>Care Solutions</b>
<b>Provider g</b>	<b>Choices Care</b>
<b>Provider H</b>	<b>City Care</b>
<b>Provider I</b>	<b>Connect Care</b>
<b>Provider J</b>	<b>Delta Care</b>
<b>Provider K</b>	<b>Elmar</b>
<b>Provider L</b>	<b>Engage Care</b>
<b>Provider M</b>	<b>Grace Live-in</b>
<b>Provider N</b>	<b>Highland Ornate</b>
<b>Provider O</b>	<b>Homecarers Liverpool</b>
<b>Provider P</b>	<b>iCare Solutions</b>
<b>Provider Q</b>	<b>Link Care</b>
<b>Provider R</b>	<b>Meridian</b>
<b>Provider S</b>	<b>Person Centred Care &amp; Support</b>
<b>Provider T</b>	<b>PBT Safer Care</b>
<b>Provider U</b>	<b>Right Care</b>
<b>Provider V</b>	<b>Sam's Helping Hands</b>
<b>Provider W</b>	<b>SBC</b>
<b>Provider X</b>	<b>Shabach Healthcare</b>
<b>Provider Y</b>	<b>Sure Care</b>
<b>Provider Z</b>	<b>Valour</b>
<b>Provider AA</b>	<b>We Lead</b>

## **152. HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND ROUND 4 – APRIL 2023 TO MARCH 2024**

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods, which proposed options for the disbursement of the Household Support Fund Round 4 allocated to Tameside. This would follow the split utilised in funding rounds 1 and 2 between:

1. Funding for families eligible for free school meals to provide support during holiday periods
2. An open support programme into which all residents could apply, offering payments for food, essentials and energy. The full options for this would be brought back in a further report.

It was proposed that the awarded monies be split across three distinct support streams, each serving a specific purpose and together ensuring that the support offer spread was maximised across the Borough's residents whilst meeting the requirements of the funding.

**Stream 1** was the provision of vouchers to households with children eligible for Free School Meals to cover school breaks during the grant period, this would be administered by Education and was detailed in section 3 of the report.

**Stream 2** would continue the previous open support offer into which residents could apply for an award to cover the costs of food, energy and/or related essentials and was detailed in section 4 of

the report.

**Stream 3** would mirror the approach in the majority of other GM localities of providing financial support to community groups, such as Food Banks, to deliver direct and emergency support.

#### **RESOLVED**

**It be approved:**

- (i) That £3.08 million be provided for the provision of funding for school holiday periods via supermarket vouchers as previously provided for the year 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024; and**
- (ii) That a further report be received setting out how streams 2 and 3 in the report can be best supported together with any necessary funding to provide administrative support for the distribution of funds.**

#### **153. FAMILY HUBS AND START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME - UPDATES AND FURTHER COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader, Children and Families / Assistant Director, Early Help and Partnerships providing key updates on the delivery of the ongoing Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme and to seek approval on further commissioning intentions to meet the requirements of the programme framework.

It was explained that the Family Hub and Best Start for Life allocation from the Department for Education had been agreed for Tameside over 3 financial years:

Allocated agreed overall budget - £3,325,216:

- 2022/23 - £831,712
- 2023/24 - £1,354,644
- 2024/25 - £1,138,860

The report gave details of Tameside's Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme progress update and Commissioning Intentions and concluded by explaining that Tameside Council and partners had now had formal approval of the delivery plan form from the DfE and were now required to submit a self-assessment and data requirement form on the required template provided.

The DfE Delivery Plan had and continued to be developed in partnership with members of the Family Hubs Steering Group, and therefore it was important to acknowledge the detail in the plan was subject to change.

Tameside Council and its partners were on track to deliver the full expectations of the programme and expenditure within the timeframes required, and were working closely with the DfE Advisor, and the Early Intervention Foundation.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the delivery plan approval from the Department of Education be noted;**
- (ii) That the progression made against the delivery plan be acknowledged and noted;**
- (iii) That the proposed commissioning intentions as outlined in section 3 of the report, be agreed; and**
- (iv) That a further report be submitted detailing progression and further spending plans in December 2023.**

#### **154. CIVIC EVENTS REPORT 2023**

The Executive Member, Towns and Communities / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods submitted a report, which gave details of the Civic Events programme for 2023.

It was explained that the Council supported and programmed a vibrant and affordable calendar of events, generally free at the point of delivery. Key parts of the annual calendar were Whit Friday Brass Band Contests, Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Services and Parades and the Borough's Christmas celebrations. Significant national or local commemoration events complimented the calendar which in 2023 included plans to mark and celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. The report set out a vision for those key events and activities in 2023. The proposed model took into account the financial, organisational challenges facing the Council and the lessons learnt from staging/supporting civic events in the past.

It was proposed that the civic event dates put forward in the report were noted and adopted. It was further proposed that the plans to deliver Remembrance Services and Parades in line with 2022 were adopted and the revenue budget allocations were noted to ensure these could run safely in 2023.

The report also included the proposed plans for the corporate Lantern Parade to cease rotating between the four towns but return to Ashton annually as this was the economic centre and was easily accessible for all residents. This would mean that Ashton would host the lantern parade from 2023 onwards.

With regard to the Borough's Town Christmas Switch On, it was recommended that the named towns on their allocated dates all received a free Christmas tree, tree lights and the install and removal of those. It was also recommended that further sponsorship opportunities were explored to further support organisers with logistics following their mandatory Christmas Switch On training and compliance with Event Notifications being submitted by the 7 September 2023. The recommendations would ensure that the Town Christmas Switch On Events continued to be safe and affordable whilst also highlighting the Council's commitment to supporting Community events and town centres where possible.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the plans for Whit Friday be noted;**
- (ii) That the plans for Armed Forces Day be noted;**
- (iii) That the plans and revenue budget (section 2.16 refers) for Remembrance Sunday and the associated Services and Parades be noted;**
- (iv) That the proposal relating to Tameside's corporate festive Lantern Parade 2023 be agreed;**
- (v) It be agreed that Ashton, as the economic centre, reverts to being the annual host of the corporate lantern parade;**
- (vi) That the dates for the Town Christmas events 2023 be agreed;**
- (vii) That the support package for the Town Christmas events be agreed;**
- (viii) That the revenue budget of £18,000 (section 3.12 refers) to support the core Christmas package be noted;**
- (ix) That the proposals for marking and celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III be noted; and**
- (x) That the additional highlighted events programme be noted.**

#### **155. NATIONAL RESOURCES AND WASTE STRATEGY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Climate Emergency and Environmental Services / Head of Waste Management and Fleet Services, which updated members on recent progress by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on the Resources and Waste Strategy and the implications for Tameside Council.

Members were advised of the four main elements of the Resources and Waste Strategy as follows;

- The introduction of a deposit return scheme (DRS) for beverage containers;
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging;
- The collection of food waste on a separate, weekly basis; and

- Consistency framework for household waste collections.

It was explained that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) had recently provided further information on the deposit return scheme, extended producer responsibility for packaging and the requirement to collect food waste separately and weekly. The approach taken by Defra was to look at each area separately and to release consultation responses as they became available. This meant there was not a complete picture on the impacts and how each element would interact on others.

In terms of the deposit return scheme, the government published its consultation response in late January 2023, which set out the how the scheme was likely to work. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles, steel and aluminium cans between 50ml and 3 litres would be included in the scheme. Glass bottles were not included. The deposit rate was yet to be set but was likely to be 20p per container. A commencement date of 1 October 2025 had been set.

Containers would include an identification marker that could be read at the scheme return point. Local authorities could separate out any containers in its waste stream and redeem the deposit on them, provided they met the quality required for return i.e. the QR or barcode was readable. This would be technically challenging.

The implications of the scheme for Tameside were the diversion of PET bottles and metal drinks cans away from kerbside collections. This would in turn reduce the income levels received via the Waste Levy and the reported recycling rate. It was not possible to put any figures to the impact but if a similar scheme went ahead in Scotland as expected this summer it would provide real world data that could be used to model expected outcomes. There was likely to be some confusion with the public on what types of container would be part of the deposit return scheme. It was expected the scheme would reduce the amount of litter and may even encourage people to litter pick their area in order to redeem deposits.

With regard to Extended Producer Responsibility for Packing (EPR), it was explained that Extended Producer Responsibility would see local authorities receiving financial support for the collection, recycling, treatment and disposal of packaging with payments based on modelled costs. Defra was running a series of workshops and webinars with local authorities so the modelling accurately captures costs flowed within waste collection and disposal authorities. Payments would be based on efficient and effective collections and processing of waste and recycling by local authorities. Defra was also engaged with the packaging industry who will be charged according to the amount of packaging materials they placed on the market as this would be used to provide financial support to local authorities. The first issue of the model outputs was expected in spring 2023 with guidance on how local authorities would be assessed for efficiency and effectiveness expected in summer 2023.

In respect of the Collection of Weekly Separate Food Waste Members were advised Defra contacted GMCA as the waste disposal authority in late January 2023 to gather information on the impact of introducing weekly separate food waste collections on residual waste treatment contracts. This was so Defra could detail which waste collection authorities required Transition Arrangements and they could be named in the Regulations thus delaying implementation of separate food waste collections. The GMCA waste disposal contract ended in 2034. The deadline to submit support for Transition Arrangements was 9 March 2023 so it was not possible to take the decision through the usual governance process.

Tameside had two options; to support the application for Transition Arrangements and delay any changes to food waste collections until 2034 or look to introduce weekly food waste collections to all properties by 2025 and rely on a TEEP (Technical, environmental, economically practicable) assessment to demonstrate the current collection method was the most suitable for Tameside. Following discussion with the Leader and Chief Executive on 9 March 2023 it was agreed Tameside wished to continue with weekly comingled food and garden waste collections. Tameside along with Stockport and Trafford councils had opted to rely on TEEP and not apply for Transition Arrangements. It was believed there was a strong case that the current collection arrangements

delivered a good capture rate of waste food from households and was the most economic and practical way for collections to take place in the Borough.

Members were further advised that Defra has yet to publish a consultation response to the Consistency Framework for Household Collections, however it was believed to be imminent. It was expected to set a minimum collection frequency for all waste streams, include dates for when pots, tubs and trays (PTTs) and flexible plastic wrapping would need to be collected from the kerbside and if councils could continue to charge for separate garden waste collections.

The report concluded that there would be significant changes in how and what recycling was collected from households in the next few years and how the Council received funding to provide the service. By opting to roll out food waste recycling to more households, this linked into Tameside's Climate Change and Environment Strategy.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the content of the report be noted and that a further report be submitted when more detail on funding and the Consistency Framework for Household Waste Collections was known.**

## **156. FUTURE ST PETERSFIELD DELIVERY STRATEGY**

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Inclusive Growth, Business and Employment / Director of Place, which provided an update on the preparation of the Delivery Strategy for the Future St Petersfield Masterplan area and the preferred route to market to deliver the nine identified plots for a mixed development scheme in Ashton Town Centre.

As set out in the Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy (2021), St Petersfield provided a clear opportunity for Tameside to create a modern, tailored development that could provide a hub for the growth of the digital, creative and tech sector in the borough. The installation of a Dark Fibre network into the area, and the completion of a data centre in Ashton Old Baths, ensured digital connectivity to match that available in Media City.

As part of the Eastern Growth Cluster, the recent designation of the Ashton Mayoral Development Zone was approved by Executive Cabinet on 9 February 2022. The Ashton Mayoral Development Zone was a key strategic economic growth opportunity encompassing Ashton-under-Lyne town centre including the St. Petersfield Digital Creative and Tech Hub, and the large scale employment development opportunity of Ashton Moss. The AMDZ comprised three key economic growth projects;

- Ashton-Under-Lyne Levelling Up Fund Project;
- St. Petersfield Digital, Creative and Tech Hub; and
- Ashton Moss Advanced Manufacturing Park.

The scale and location of AMDZ, positioned between the digital hubs of Manchester City Centre, and Leeds, and the advanced manufacturing hubs of Lancashire and South Yorkshire, made it a key opportunity to harness the digital, creative and tech sector and advanced materials strengths of Greater Manchester, to create an economic growth engine in the east of the City region.

The approved Future St Petersfield Masterplan and associated Development Prospectus included a set of agreed development principles that would ensure a high quality development was delivered in the Masterplan area and enabled the right mix of uses to be delivered including commercial/office, residential, leisure and food and drink. The Development Prospectus had been used as a promotional tool in the Expressions of Interest exercise recently carried out by Tameside Council. The St Petersfield masterplan comprised a vision for the area which would appeal to the city region's fast growing Digital, Creative and Tech Sector, utilising the Boroughs newly installed dark fibre network. A total of nine development plots had been identified and the proposals for each development plot were connected by the improvements to the public realm and highways.



The nine development plots included proposals for new homes, commercial/office floor space, a hotel, and ancillary food and beverage establishments. Along with an improved public realm, the quantum of delivery had the potential to create new jobs, business rates income and an increased GVA for the borough. However, further discussions that had taken place with interested developers had recognised that there could be opportunities to increase the number of new homes and reduce the amount of commercial space identified.

The Masterplan was currently being used as an economic and planning tool to guide and enable the future development and enable more detailed design of the site, in accordance with existing and proposed planning policies.

Historically, there had been some legacy matters which required resolution. On 26 March 2004, the Council entered into a development agreement with ASK Property Developments Limited. The development agreement related to the redevelopment of St. Petersfield in accordance with an agreed masterplan over a 10-year period. As part of the legacy associated with the history of St Petersfield, the existing striking off of the existing management company in St Petersfield would create the platform to enable the Council to progress the delivery of the St Petersfield Masterplan.

A St Petersfield Legacy progress update and Future St Petersfield Delivery Strategy was provided in the report and accompanying appendices.

The report concluded that the Council remained committed to bring forward the Future St Petersfield masterplan development opportunity as an exemplar mixed use town centre location in Greater Manchester.

The Ashton Mayoral Development Zone would play a key role in the delivery of this opportunity in St Petersfield, and its makeup would reflect the importance of the zones potential for the regeneration and economic growth of the city region. There would be a requirement for a board to be set up that would carry out an important oversight role, providing guidance and facilitating co-ordination and co-operation between the different project elements.

The soft market testing exercise had demonstrated that there is interest from the market and from potential developers to deliver the scheme in partnership with Tameside Council.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That the progress on the approach to delivery since the adoption of the masterplan for St Petersfield in January 2022, be noted;**
- (ii) That the options considered and feedback received from the recent Expressions of Interest exercise in regards to the alternative routes to delivering a scheme for St Petersfield, be noted;**
- (iii) That the delivery strategy be approved, including the preferred route to market for procurement of a private sector developer partner in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations (2015), through a competitive tendering process utilising a streamlined framework such as the Pagabo Framework; and**
- (iv) That the allocation of £70,000 be approved, to progress the St Petersfield Masterplan proposals and resolve historical matters to be financed via the non-recurrent Council's Growth and Investment reserve sum as set out in Appendix 4 to the report. The expenditure is to be financed via the reserve sum of £200,000 that was approved for the St Petersfield development in a report to the Executive Cabinet on 28 April 2021. A balance of £74,000 remains at 1 April 2022.**

## **157. STALYBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE FUNDING**

The Executive Member, Inclusive Growth, Business and Employment / Director of Place, submitted a report providing an update on the selection of Stalybridge Town Centre as one of 16 capital regeneration projects to be funded through UK Government Departmental budgets in the 2023 UK

Budget.

The report sought approval to progress the Stalybridge Town Centre Regeneration Programme, subject to confirmation of further details from Government. A further decision by the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment to formally accept the funding would be required once the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement were available.

It was explained that, as part of the March 2021 budget, the Government announced £4.8 billion of 'Levelling Up Funding' ('The Fund') over four years (up to 2024-25), committed to a holistic, place-based approach to funding projects and programmes across the country. The Council submitted a bid of £19.9m for Stalybridge Town Centre to Round 2 of the Fund on 28 July 2022. On 19 January 2023 it was announced that the bid had been unsuccessful in Round 2 of the Fund.

On 15 March 2023 it was announced in the 2023 UK Budget that, since the conclusion of Round Two of the Fund, DLUHC had identified further funding to support shortlisted bids that did not receive funding. Following an assessment process the Stalybridge bid was selected as one 16 Capital Regeneration Projects nationally to be funded through Departmental budgets and therefore Council would be awarded £19.9m.

The bid for Stalybridge was focused on enabling infrastructure to bring forward vacant sites for redevelopment, public realm and active travel improvements, and the delivery of the Stalybridge 'Cultural Quarter' at the Civic Hall and Ashley Cheetham Art Gallery. This would help the Town Centre to reach its full potential and deliver further comprehensive regeneration, attracting additional investment.

This has been set within the context of emerging wider Town Centre master planning work and would provide the enabling works to act as a catalyst for significantly accelerating delivery of the comprehensive transformation of the Town Centre and unlock its full potential. The lack of enabling works that were the primary focus of the interventions to be supported, significantly inhibited the Council's ability to deliver the further comprehensive regeneration of the Town Centre to attract further investment, failing to meet the regeneration objectives for Stalybridge.

The interventions that would be funded were set out in the report and were focussed on;

- Stalybridge West, Enabling Infrastructure;
- Public Realm and Active Travel; and
- Cultural Quarter.

The programme of works was supported by match funding of £2,555,671 that the Council had successfully secured via the HSHAZ and within the Council's Capital Programme to help regenerate areas of the Town Centre and restore the local historic character.

Once received the Council would need to agree and sign the relevant grant funding documentation and agreement to enable the Council to deliver the programme of works for Stalybridge Town Centre and drawdown associated funding. The delivery of the interventions supported via the grant funding would form part of a wider Stalybridge Town Centre Regeneration Programme comprising a number of related projects within the Town Centre that were in receipt of further funding, primarily from the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ), UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the Council's Capital Programme.

A robust governance process was required for the delivery of the Stalybridge Town Centre Regeneration Programme. This would be ultimately overseen by the Council's Executive Cabinet who would have final decision-making responsibilities for the delivery of individual projects. Executive Cabinet would approve the entering into of any relevant funding agreements, approval the overall approach to delivery and receive regular monitoring and updates on progress as appropriate.

## **RESOLVED**

**(i) That the successful award of £19.9m capital funding from Government for Stalybridge**

- Town Centre, be noted;**
- (ii) That the entering into of the formal agreements for the receipt of funding and inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme, be approved;**
  - (iii) That the governance arrangements, as set out in the report, be agreed; and**
  - (iv) It be noted that a further report will be forthcoming setting out the programme of works associated with the Stalybridge Town.**

## **158. STALYBRIDGE CIVIC HALL UPDATE**

A report was submitted by the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Place providing an update in respect of Stalybridge Civic Hall.

It was explained that various initiatives to support the restoration and further development of Stalybridge Civic Hall had been ongoing since Stalybridge was selected as Tameside's focus for the Greater Manchester Mayors Town Centre Challenge in 2018.

Members were advised that the roof at Stalybridge Civic Hall was in poor condition and the roof had been identified as being beyond repair following survey work undertaken in 2019 and 2021 and therefore required a full restoration. The cost of restoring the roof had increased due to external factors and additional funding was now required to deliver the approved scheme as the original allocation of funding related to repair and restoration rather than replacement.

In order to mitigate the impact on the approved Capital Programme the Council had secured UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) monies totalling £320k and £875k from the £19.9 million Capital Regeneration Projects Funding announced for Stalybridge Town Centre in the March 2023 UK Budget. The additional funding would make up the cost variation and provide robust contingency. By undertaking the roof works as planned the risk of any "clawback" of HSHAZ funding from Historic England would be mitigated.

### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That in principle approval be given to utilising the UKSPF Grant of £320k and £875k Capital Regeneration Projects Grant identified for the Civic Hall;**
- (ii) That the total maximum budget for Stalybridge Civic Hall Roof is set at £2,893k, with £1,195k financed from the UKSPF Grant of £320k and Capital Regeneration grant of £875k. The revised budget will include £647k contingency for un-costed works as set out at paragraph 3.6. of the report; and**
- (iii) That the Council enter into the standard Design & Build contract with the Inspired Spaces Tameside Limited (LEP) for the replacement of Stalybridge Civic Hall Roof to a value of £2,077,456 including the LEP fee, subject to the outcome of the independent Value for Money Assessment and that the Council enter into a Deed of Appointment with the LEP and Currie & Brown for the appointment of an Independent Certifier for the roof replacement scheme.**

## **159. NEW HAWTHORNS SCHOOL UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Education, Achievement and Equalities / First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Place / Director of Children's Services, providing members with a progress update on the Hawthorns SEND school scheme including the latest design solution, cost plan, programme, value for money assessment and grant funding bid submission to the Football Foundation.

The report also sought approval to progress the scheme including the development of standard BSF Design and Build Contract with the LEP now all the final construction costs were known for the school building. Further reports would be required in relation to (a) the construction and costs of the Football pitches following a grant application to Football Foundation and (b) the use of the current Hawthorn

School site.

It was explained that Hawthorns School was an outstanding primary special school currently located within the Audenshaw area of Tameside and catered for pupils with a range of complex special educational needs aged between 4-11 years old. The school was an academy and part of New Bridge Multi Academy Trust. The area of the school building designated as Hawthorns School was originally designed to accommodate 60 pupils. In 2015, it was identified that additional accommodation was needed and so a joint scheme to expand both Hawthorns School and Aldwyn Primary School was developed. The scheme for Hawthorns School included internal remodelling to create an additional classroom and a new build classroom. The internal remodelling work was completed. A four classroom demountable extension was currently on the site to accommodate additional pupils.

Since Executive Cabinet approved the expansion of Hawthorns School in 2021, the number of parents requesting that their children were placed at the school had increased significantly. The school now had 192 pupils on roll as at Easter 2023 and in order to accommodate these preferences, the school had opened two satellite classrooms. Those bases were at Discovery Academy in Hattersley and at Wild Bank Primary School in Stalybridge. Executive Cabinet recently approved an outline budget for the New Bridge Trust to explore options for additional accommodation to be made available to Hawthorns School from September 2023 that would take the number of children on roll at the school to 220. This was most likely to be in the form of demountable classrooms on the Samuel Laycock School site. The demountable classrooms could then be repurposed for additional secondary age provision when the new Hawthorns Building opened and the primary age children moved there. The additional temporary accommodation at Samuel Laycock School would mean that, from September 2023 until the new school building was open, Hawthorns School would be operating from its current Lumb Lane base and three additional satellite sites. The school advised that this could not be a permanent solution to the issue of additional places. The new building would enable the school to come together again on one site and expertise and good practice to be shared amongst all staff. It would also give the school and the Trust the capacity to support inclusive practice across the mainstream school system.

Members were advised that, in June 2021 Executive Cabinet, considered an options appraisal for a new building and approved a project to allocate an initial £13m of Basic Need funding to the expansion and relocation of Hawthorns School to 220 places on the Longdendale Playing Field site.

Since that date the Capital Projects Team and colleagues in Education had worked with the LEP and the school to produce designs to RIBA Stage 4 at which point the significant majority of work packages had been tendered (98% of the measured works (by value) had been market tested accordingly to the independent Value for Money consultant) or priced by the LEP's sub-contractor.

The planning application for the new school was submitted in July 2022. Several community consultation events were held including with a representative group of parents from Hawthorns School and planning permission was granted on 21 December 2022. The pre-commencement planning conditions were discharged by the planning authority on 22 March 2023. Following the granting of planning, the LEP had produced the 4<sup>th</sup> updated cost plan, which included additional works that were needed to ensure planning conditions were met and an updated programme to deliver the new school. Site enabling works had already commenced, including site clearance, access and boundary protection.

Details of the construction project, including, cost and delivery timescales and milestones were provided in the report.

The report concluded that a new school building for Hawthorns School was essential to meet the needs of primary age children in the borough who have SEND needs outlined in Education, Health and Care Plans. When the project began to build a new school, Hawthorns had 140 pupils on roll and it was envisaged that the new school building would provide an additional 80 places when it opened. This would enable the Council to avoid circa £3.022m (pa), which against a project cost of

£22.762m represented a pay back of circa 7.5 years. The growth in EHCPs in the borough since then had meant that Hawthorns School had already had to implement many of these places in the knowledge that a bigger school building had been agreed by the Council. However, these places were in temporary, satellite provision, which was not sustainable or desirable in the long term for primary aged children in need of specialist provision.

Since Executive Cabinet approved the original scheme, colleagues in the Council, at Hawthorns School, in the New Bridge Trust and the LEP had worked together to produce designs for the building which received planning permission in December 2022. This had led to cost plan 4 being issued. There had been significant increases in cost since the original estimate from the LEP in 2021 due to the economic climate and additional design requirements which were outlined in the report, mainly the construction of football pitches to meet the planning requirements of Sport England and looking to achieve carbon neutral status. The total cost was now predicted to be £22.762m.

Whilst there was sufficient headroom in the education capital budgets to accommodate this increase, the impact of the increased costs was that there was a reduction in residual funding to support other capital projects that may be needed to increase school places in the borough in line with PAN. The Council may receive further capital allocations from the DfE to support high needs provision places, or general places in line with PAN, but this would not be before the 2024/25 financial year and could not be guaranteed.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (i) That £9.762m additional budget allocation from the Education Capital funding budget to deliver the overall school project, be approved. £13.000m had previously been approved, and the capital programme be increased accordingly;**
- (ii) It be agreed that any increase in cost variations to the scope or design will need to be met by the Academy or the Education and Skills Funding Agency;**
- (iii) Approve entering into the standard Design & Build contract with the Inspired spaces (the LEP);**
- (iv) Approve entering into a Deed of Appointment with the LEP and Currie & Brown for the appointment of an Independent Certifier for the new school scheme;**
- (v) It be agreed that any variations to the project that involve an increased cost for the scheme implication will be approved by the S151 officer in the first instance and the S151 will be the Council's authorised officer for executing any project variations;**
- (vi) Approve entering into an agreement for lease and thereafter a lease with the Academy on the terms set out in the report including a surrender of their existing lease;**
- (vii) Approve entering into any incidental agreements to facilitate the project subject to agreement by the S151 Officer and the Head of Legal;**
- (viii) Approve the advertisement of any proposed loss of open space due to the lease to the academy (in accordance with the provisions of Section (2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Open Spaces Act 1906);**
- (ix) Approve the submission of a grant funding application to the Football Foundation as set out in section 6 of this report including the appointment of a grant bid specialist to make this application at an estimated cost of £6k;**
- (x) That a further report be received to advise on the delivery of the football pitches and resolve any funding for the football pitches following the outcome of the application to the Football Foundation for the grant in recommendation (ix);**
- (xi) It be noted that a further report will follow in relation to the use/occupation of the former Hawthorns school, subject to a sufficiency review referred to in paragraph 2.6; and**
- (xii) It be noted that the progress of this project will be reported through Strategic Planning & Capital Monitoring Panel.**

#### **160. URGENT ITEMS**

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

**161. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED**

**It be noted that the next meeting of Executive Cabinet is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 28 June 2023.**

**CHAIR**