

## EXECUTIVE CABINET

30 August 2023

Commenced: 1pm

Terminated: 1.20pm

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

<b>In Attendance:</b>	<b>Sandra Stewart</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>
	<b>Ashley Hughes</b>	<b>Director of Resources (s151)</b>
	<b>Allison Parkinson</b>	<b>Interim 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>David Wilcock</b>	<b>Assistant Director, Legal Services (MO)</b>
	<b>Ben Middleton</b>	<b>Assistant Director for Strategic Property</b>
	<b>Tracey Harrison</b>	<b>Assistant Director for Adult Services</b>
	<b>Simon Brunet</b>	<b>Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence</b>
	<b>Karen Milner</b>	<b>Service Unit Manager</b>

### 31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 32 EXECUTIVE CABINET MINUTES

#### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 26 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

### 33 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting held on 17 August 2023. Approval was sought of recommendations of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel arising from the meeting.

#### PERIOD 3 2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

#### RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Notes the forecast outturn position set out in table 2.
- (ii) Approves the £12.909m reprofiling set out in table 2.
- (iii) Notes the financing position set out in table 3.

#### CAPITAL PROGRAMMES FOR GROWTH DEPARTMENTS

#### RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve:

- (i) £19.9m capital funding for Stalybridge Town Centre to be added to the Council's capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 26 April 2023.
- (ii) £0.730m capital funding for UKSPF as agreed with GMCA to be added to the Council's capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 08 February 2023.

## **CAPITAL PROGRAMME – OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (PLACE)**

### **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) To note and approve the proposed Highways Maintenance programme for 2023 – 2024 as outlined in Appendix 1, subject to confirmation of the 2023/24 Highways maintenance grant.
- (iii) Approve the drawdown of funds for Engineers and Operations and Greenspace in respect of the S106 agreements detailed in Section 3 of this report and add to the council's Capital Programme to allow the detailed design, procurement and installation of the various works.
- (iv) Approve that £0.350m capital funding for UKSPF be added to the Council's capital programme. The grant was accepted by Executive Cabinet on 08 February 2023.

## **ADULTS CAPITAL PLAN 2022/2023 AND 2023/2024 UPDATE**

### **RECOMMENDED**

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the progress updates of the Adult Services Capital Programme.

## **EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE**

### **RECOMMENDED**

That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to APPROVE:

- (i) The Section 106 contributions totalling £0.101m as detailed in paragraph 2.13 are approved to finance Education Capital Schemes.
- (ii) A joint bid to the Football Foundation for St Thomas More sports pitch as detailed in paragraph 3.8.
- (iii) Additional funding of £0.150m to create extra teaching spaces at Oakdale Primary from the High Needs Provision Fund as detailed in paragraph 5.4.

That the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel recommend to Executive Cabinet to NOTE:

- (i) The removal of (£0.074m) DFC funding from the capital programme in relation to Academy conversions as detailed in paragraph 2.9.
- (ii) Micklehurst All Saints – Roof Replacement (£0.050m) to be returned to the unallocated School Condition fund as detailed in paragraph 4.14.
- (iii) No further funding to be allocated to Rayner Stephens as detailed in paragraph 3.7.

## **CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE & EARLY HELP CAPITAL Q1 MONITORING REPORT**

### **RECOMMENDED**

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Note the progress as set out in the report and approve the reforecasting of £1.641m of spend on the Boyds Walk project from 2023-24 to 2024-25.
- (ii) Add the capital funding from the Department for Education Family Hubs Grant for financial years 2023-24 (£100,100) and 2024-25 (£69,600) to the capital programme.

## **35 BUDGET MONITORING MONTH 3**

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources. The report detailed the forecast outturn as at period 3 of the current financial year. The report reviewed the financial position for the General Fund revenue budget, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Capital budget.

It was reported that the underlying revenue position of £12.264m pressure was an adverse movement of £3.167m from Period 2 (where it was £9.097m) with compensatory management actions to deliver a forecast balanced position. The adverse movement was primarily driven by changes in placement mix, with more high cost placements than budgeted for, in Adults and Children's Services reflecting greater complexity of need in our residents in receipt of care and support.

There was a forecast deficit on the Dedicated Schools Grant of £2.540m, driven by High Needs Block costs forecast above the grant resources.

It was highlighted that the capital programme was forecasting an underspend in-year, with subsequent reprofiling of budgets to future years, of £12.193m. This was due to programme rephasing at major projects including Godley Green and Hawthorn's Special School.

## **RESOLVED**

### **That Executive Cabinet notes:**

- (i) The forecast General Fund revenue budget position of an underlying pressure of £12.264m, which is an adverse movement of £3.167m from Period 2 reporting.**
- (ii) The management actions being taken of £12.300m, which will be monitored for delivery and reported back to Cabinet on a regular basis.**
- (iii) That there is a projected overall underspend of £0.036m, following the application of management actions, as outlined in Table 2.**
- (iv) The forecast deficit on the DSG of £2.540m, primarily arising from the High Need Block.**
- (v) The forecast of £12.193m budget reprofiling to future years on the Capital Programme for 2023/24, and that the decision to reprofile the budgets will be recommended to the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel (SPCMP).**

## **35 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME REVIEW 2023**

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services. The report examined the operation of the Council Tax Support Scheme over the period 01 April 2013 to 31 March 2023 and also detailed the procedural requirement to decide if changes were required to the scheme. If any changes were required, then consultation should take place for the scheme to become effective from 01 April 2024.

It was reported that Council Tax Support claimant numbers had reduced, and scheme costs had increased from April 2021. Claimant numbers and costs fluctuated daily however costs increased as the Council Tax level set increases each year. The highest number of claimants were those of working age. The scheme continues to operate as expected. Claimants of pension age continued to be fully protected within the scheme. The scheme in terms of equalities monitoring was operating as expected and this will continue to be monitored every quarter.

Consideration had been given to comparing the scheme with some Greater Manchester and geographically close local authorities, however no direct comparisons could be made as schemes were individual to each local authority and based on the demographic data for that area, and each local authority's budget provision for the scheme. Tameside's scheme had been designed to provide the maximum possible support to residents whilst staying within the budget allocation.

Support would remain in place for all claimants in respect of the Section 13A legislation and Policy and advice available from both the Council and partner agencies remains in place. No Tribunal directions had been received in respect of having to change the scheme and no legislative changes from DLUHC were expected. The Local Government Ombudsman had not issued any recommendations with regard to Council Tax Support schemes.

In view of the above comparisons and consideration of the scheme operation, the budget allocation and demand, it was proposed that no changes are made to the scheme for 2024/2025 save for the annual uprating of welfare benefit amounts set by central government.

## **RESOLVED**

**That Executive Cabinet agree that the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 in principle remains the same scheme as that set effective from April 2023, subject to:**

- (i) annual benefit uprating as detailed in the scheme**
- (ii) further guidance which may be issued by Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.**

## **36 POPULATION HEALTH COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Population Health and Wellbeing / Director of Population Health. The report described population health activity that would take place during 2024-25 thus ensuring effective resource planning. The report set out specific details on areas of spend and commissioning.

It was reported that to improve the testing offer for young men and to better meet the increased demand for STI testing via the digital route within Locala, it was proposed that £0.020m one-off in-year funding was provided to Locala to increase the number of test kits available. This would enable increased access and will also produce more robust data around who is using these kits and what future budget setting should look like. This would be funded within the current Population Health budget, from the in-year underspend in out of area charges via the established GM cross charging arrangements between different local authorities.

Age UK were commissioned to deliver a falls prevention service which forms part of the Tameside Falls Prevention Pathway that supports older people following a fall. The aim was to reduce falls amongst Tameside residents aged 65 and over, to support them to stay at home, in good mental and physical health, and remain independent for as long as possible. This would reduce demand on residential, hospital care and intensive care at home and maximise the quality of life for older people. Performance monitoring had highlighted the value in the work Age UK carry out for our Tameside residents. The contract for this service forms part of a wider Age UK contract led by Tameside Adult Services. The proposal was to work with STAR to seek an exemption to Procurement Standing Orders and issue a direct award to Age UK for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 whilst a review of the falls prevention commissioned programme across community and the acute trust takes place. Population Health contributed £0.036m per annum in funding to commission the Falls Prevention element of the service. The contract was due to expire on 31 March 2024.

Adults Services, as Lead Commissioner, and Population Health were reviewing the arrangements for this contract and working closely with STAR Procurement to undertake an appraisal of the different procurement options available.

Permission was sought to;

- Continue to fund the Falls Prevention service at a cost of £0.036m pa for a further period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- Work with STAR to seek an exemption to issue a Direct Award to Age UK for a duration of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

In 2021/22 Operations and Neighbourhoods coordinated a GM-wide bid to the Home Office via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to introduce a variety of perpetrator programmes, improving the availability of support targeted at perpetrators of domestic abuse. The programmes were evidence-based and aim to address known issues in relation to domestic abuse offending through a mixture of approaches.

The total amount of grants funding awarded to Tameside, via GMCA, was £0.490m over two years. There had been challenges with the existing Roots programme, and as further expansion was not possible during 2021/2022 the funding was allowed to be carried forward. This gave an opportunity to align the programme objectives to the recently completed perpetrator needs assessment. It was proposed that some of this funding was used to fund two pilots in Tameside, the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pilot and the Caring Dad's Pilot, for a period of two years at a total cost of £0.290m, see table below for breakdown of cost. The remainder of the grant would be used to support activities specifically linked to the delivery of the recommendations arising from the perpetrator needs assessment.

<b>Discretionary Grant Fund</b>	<b>£0.490 m</b>
Cost of Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pilot	£0.248m
Cost of Caring Dad's Pilot	£0.046 m
<b>TOTAL REMAINING</b>	<b>£0.196 m</b>

All activity would be agreed by the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and would be commissioned in line with procurement regulations and in consultation with STAR procurement.

In regards to the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Pilot, the original project had faced challenges in relation to the engagement of perpetrators and therefore GMCA had agreed to amend the project allowing Tameside to work with a specialist perpetrator organisation to deliver the pilot

The report sought approval to proceed with the pilot project for a period of two years from 1 September 2023 at cost of:

- £0.094m for the engagement worker (including on costs)
- £0.150m spot purchase of an initial 40 places on the behaviour change programme (enabling a course to be delivered locally)
- £0.004m for training of the homelessness teams (up to maximum of 45 people).

## **RESOLVED**

**That the Executive Cabinet approve the following:**

- (i) **Award a contract variation to provide non recurrent funding in the financial year 2023/2024 of £0.020m to Locala, the provider of specialist Sexual and Reproductive Health services in Tameside, to increase the number of Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) test kits available to Tameside residents.**
- (ii) **To extend the current falls prevention programme with Age UK as part of the wider contract held by Adult Services for a further 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 at a cost of £0.036m.**
- (iii) **To award a contract to LEAP to deliver the Caring Dad's Pilot for a period of 2 years from 1 September 2023 at a cost of £0.046m.**
- (iv) **To award a contract to Talk, Listen, Change (TLC) to deliver a Domestic Abuse Perpetrator pilot for a duration of two years from 1 September 2023 at a cost of £0.248m.**

## **37 TAMESIDE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2023/26**

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families) / Director of Children's Services. The report outlined the establishment of the new Children and Young People's plan that would be overseen by the Starting Well Partnership (Tameside's multi-agency children and young people's partnership).

The Plan set out Tameside's approach across the partnership to working with and to support children and young people and their families. The Plan had been development and agreed by Tameside's Starting Well Partnership.

To help design the framework and agree the priorities behind the strategy a number of sessions had been held with the statutory partners and other stakeholders. These sessions reviewed a variety of

datasets and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The partnership also sought views from the voluntary, community and faith sector, using softer intelligence to reach conclusions about where the partnership's focus needed to be.

Through existing networks such as the Children in Care Council and the Youth Parliament, the voice of children and young people was sought, again to inform the development of priorities within the plan.

Key statutory and non-statutory partners had also gained insight from users of their services and ensured that priorities were aligned to those of their organisations to ensure a commitment to this Plan and to ensure resources were available to assist in its delivery.

The Starting Well Partnership, would further develop and drive a delivery plan for the Children and Young People's Plan and the partnership will oversee full implementation. Additionally, a shorter, young person and family focussed guide to the Plan will be developed. The Children's Communications Officer would also develop a communications plan to ensure a wider distribution once it is endorsed.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the contents of the report be noted and the Plan is endorsed.**

### **38 AUTHORITY'S MONITORING REPORT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Connectivity / Director of Place. The report sought approval to publish an updated Authority's Monitoring Report (AMR) for 2022/23 to satisfy the requirements of Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. The AMR monitored implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS), local planning policies, and activities under the duty to cooperate as set out by Section 34 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) England Regulations 2012.

This report covered the monitoring period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and data gaps of previous years where this information was available.

In addition, the report sought authority to publish an updated Statement of Community involvement as a result of monitoring processes identifying a need for review. The updated Statement of Community Involvement seeks to be clearer around consultation methods and presents information in plainer English.

## **RESOLVED**

**That Executive Cabinet agree:**

- (i) to publication of those documents which comprise the 2022/23 AMR as at Appendix 1; and**
- (ii) to publish and bring into immediate effect the updated Statement of Community involvement as at Appendix 2.**

### **39 UKSPF PEOPLE & SKILLS FUNDING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (NEET)**

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy for Finance, Resources & Transformation / Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment / Interim Assistant Director for Investment, Development & Housing. The report provided an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) People & Skills funding for Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), with approval being sought to accept the funding as detailed in this report and outlining the project proposals to achieve the outcomes set by GMCA.

It was explained that the grant would be provided to deliver a hyper place based programme of activities that would support priority groups through key transition groups to:

- Decrease levels of young people identified as at risk of NEET transitioning into NEET,
- Reduce NEET levels for priority groups,
- Reduce the disparity in NEET levels for priority groups against whole age cohort,
- Reduce levels of young people whose situation is not known and increase participation levels of priority groups.

The support provided must include a personal support fund to remove barriers and identified mental health support.

Specific outcomes and outputs had been set by Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and monitoring with evidence would be required to show that they had been achieved. These were set out in the report.

GMCA had advised that the minimum expectation for Tameside was for 258 young people to be engaged with during the lifetime of this project, from September 2023 to 31 March 2025. Whilst the cohort in scope for this support would change in September 2023 when young people decide if they were engaging with the education, employment or training (EET) outcomes initially planned, the current known cohort was as follows:

- 280 NEET (not in education, employment or training)
- 110 'unknown' (not known if NEET or EET)
- 104 care experienced young people

A task group had been formed with officers from Economy, Employment & Skills, Childrens Services (including Leaving Care, SEND and Virtual School) and Population Health to develop the proposal in the short time frame available with advice taken from Director of Childrens Service.

A summary of the proposal was set out in the report and the full proposal submitted to GMCA was attached as Appendix 1.

The grant funding agreement for this element of UKSPF is expected to be provided in mid/late August to all local authorities in Greater Manchester.

## **RESOLVED**

**That Executive Cabinet approve:**

- (i) The acceptance of a grant totalling £0.618m from the GMCA as part of the UKSPF funding to support Young People considered as NEET, of which:**
  - a. £0.490m will support the delivery of the proposed programme of work from September 2023 – August 2025.**
  - b. £0.128m will support the recruitment and retention of additional resource to manage the programme.**
- (ii) The delivery of a cross Directorate project that will achieve the outcomes set by GMCA, in accordance with the grant conditions, and provide positive progression for young people in the Borough.**

## **EXEMPT ITEM**

**40**

## **RESOLVED**

**That under Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that:**

- (i) they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Part 7&9 of Schedule 12A of the act specified below; and**
- (ii) in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information for reasons specified below:**

Item	Paragraphs	Justification
Item 11	7&9	This report contains exempt information relating to paragraph 7 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) in that it relates to private financial and business affairs of the Council and a series of residential developers active within the Borough.

#### **41 DISPOSAL - FORMER LIBRARY, UNION STREET, HYDE, SK14 1AL**

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Assistant Director for Strategic Property. The report provided an update in respect of the former Hyde Library following a previous report considered by Executive Cabinet on 23 March 2022 and agree a way forward.

The former Hyde Library property (as shown edged red in **Appendix 1**) was included in a second batch of assets that were declared surplus by Executive Cabinet on 29 September 2021. Following on from this, Executive Cabinet approved a marketing strategy in accordance with the Council's disposal policy, on 23 March 2022.

It was agreed that the Council would progress to market the subject site immediately via informal tender, using the services of a specialist agent. Marketing commenced on 28 June 2022 using the services of Knight Frank.

Marketing continued with the Council requesting sealed bids to be submitted to the Authority prior to 12.00pm noon on 18 August 2022. The marketing period resulted in the Council receiving a total of 13 offers, however after lengthy consideration and undertaking due diligence on a number of proposals, which would have required the Council indemnifying voids or future loses - none of the offers received were acceptable, either in financial terms, acceptable uses or deliverability. We would now instruct Frank Knight to advise all the bidders of the same

It was therefore proposed that the previously circulated planning brief be amended and updated to seek a retention of the existing library building if possible, including giving consideration to a new development behind the existing façade, with any replacement building needing to reflect the character and quality of the existing building. The preference would be for the site to be redeveloped to support the construction of larger, family town houses to suit the needs of the local community. Previous bidders would be offered the opportunity to re-bid for the site in accordance with the updated planning brief.

#### **RESOLVED**

##### **That Executive Cabinet:**

- (i) **Note the update provided following on from a previous report considered by Executive Cabinet on 23 March 2022.**
- (ii) **Agree that Place will re-market the site with an updated planning brief setting out the Council's preference for:**
  - (a) **retention of the former Library building where possible and/or any replacement reflecting the character and quality of the existing building;**
  - (b) **a residential scheme including larger, family townhouses serving the needs of the local community.**
- (iii) **That Frank Knight are instructed to advise all the previous bidders of the position and offer them the opportunity to re-bid for the site in accordance with the updated planning brief.**



**42 URGENT ITEMS**

There were no urgent items.

**CHAIR**