

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL
17 August 2023

Commenced: 14:00

Terminated: 14:20

Present: Councillors Cooney (Chair), Fairfoull (Deputy Chair), North, McNally and McLaren

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Chief Executive
Ashley Hughes	Director of Resources
Julian Jackson	Director of Place
Tracey Harrison	Assistant Director of Adults
Jane Sowerby	Assistant Director of Education
Catherine Moseley	Head of Access Services
Ben Middleton	Assistant Director of Strategic Property

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Feeley, Bray, L Boyle and Dickinson

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13 MINUTES

The minutes of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting held on the 22 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

14 PERIOD 3 2023/24 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources. The report detailed the forecasted outturn position for period 3 of the current financial year.

This was the first capital monitoring report for 2023/24, summarising the forecast outturn position at 31 March 2024. The detail of this monitoring report was focused on the budget and forecast expenditure for fully approved projects in the 2023/24 financial year. In addition to fully approved projects the Programme also included earmarked schemes which had been added to the programme but not specifically allocated yet, for example contingency budgets.

The Council's Capital Programme for 2023/24 to 2025/26 contained £96.939m of schemes, of which £92.062m were fully approved and £4.877m were earmarked. A major risk facing the programme was the ongoing inflationary and supply pressures in the construction sector, which limited the affordability of projects. This had worsened where projects are delayed into future years, which means the effects of inflation were further magnified.

RECOMMENDED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

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

15 CAPITAL PROGRAMMES FOR GROWTH DEPARTMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Executive Member for Climate Emergency & Environmental Services / Executive Member for

Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment / Executive Member for Towns & Communities / Executive Member for Planning Transport and Connectivity / Director of Place/ Assistant Director for Strategic Property. The report provided an update on the delivery of capital projects in the Place Directorate in relation to Growth.

The Panel were advised that Stalybridge Town Centre was awarded capital funding of £19.9m from the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in the March 2023 UK Budget. The Council signed the Memorandum of Understanding with DLUHC for this funding on 16 June 2023 and a delivery programme was now being prepared for the period to 31 March 2026.

It was reported that the Council had secured £730,000 of capital funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) under the SME Workspace investment priority (Intervention E22) to support SME Workspace at the Grade II* Listed Ashton Old Baths. The capital funding would deliver improvement works to the roof and brickwork of the historic building and create additional SME workspace within the building through repurposing of existing spaces.

Overall, this capital funding would ensure that Ashton Old Baths was futureproofed as an important incubation space for the DCT sector. The building sat within the recently adopted Future St Petersfield Masterplan, an important location for new commercial, leisure and residential development.

The Council was currently finalising the relevant grant funding agreement with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to enable the Council to deliver the UKSPF SME Workplace Place Programme for Tameside and drawdown associated funding.

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.**

16 CAPITAL PROGRAMME – OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (PLACE)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Planning, Transport & Connectivity / Executive Member for Climate Emergency & Environmental Services / Assistant Director of Operations & Neighbourhoods.

Members were advised that the footway refurbishment scheme scheduled for Huddersfield Road, Stalybridge had now been completed, following removal of the scaffolding. The previous report set out details of the proposed Highway Maintenance Programme for 2022 - 2023 Phase 2. The programme presented, at this time, was subject to affordability following the completion of a procurement exercise which is now complete. An Executive Decision would now be taken to secure approval to award a contract to the successful contractor. Based on the tender submissions, and subject to approval, the programme presented in the previous report is deliverable.

Delivery of the programme was anticipated to start in summer 2023. Exact dates, for each location, will be confirmed once the contractor is formally appointed. These dates would be communicated to residents and businesses adjacent to the schemes, ward councillors and the general public.

Work had started on the development of this year's Highway Maintenance programme 2023 - 2024. The proposed programme could be found at Appendix 1. The estimated cost of delivering this programme is £1.050m, which, in principle, was affordable from the anticipated Highway's Maintenance budget for 2023 – 2024.

The report detailed the developments and proposed Section 106 works. The report sought approval for the works listed in the report and to be added to the Council's Capital Programme to allow the

detailed design, procurement and installation of the works.

The Council had been awarded UK Shared Prosperity Funding for projects in Tameside, £350,041 had been granted for improvements to Greenspace including more inclusive play equipment; greenspace infrastructure improvements and funding for litter bins and litter pickers. Officers had recommended various projects across Greenspace to the UKSPF Board and the Executive Member for UKSPF – all the projects were approved. Officers were requesting that the £350,041 UKSPF funding be included in the Capital Programme.

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.**

17 ADULTS CAPITAL PLAN 2022/2023 AND 2023/2024 UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity and Director of Adult Services. This report provided an update of the developments in relation to the Adults Capital Programme.

It was reported that the replacement of equipment continues on a reactive basis pending the planned changes to the Housing Adaptations service. Since the beginning of April 2023, requests to replace 3 ceiling track hoists, 2 stairlifts and 2 through floor lifts were received due to the inability to repair them or the excessive cost to revenue. The new procurement tender process for lifting and hoisting equipment that was led by Oldham Council had completed the moderation of bids received and would now progress to the contract award stage. The Council would be a partner on this contract.

In regards to Disabled Facilities Grant and Other Related Adaptations Funding, delivery of adaptations was continuing and the rate of delivery and expenditure was slowly increasing as post pandemic issues recede. The number of contractors available was still an issue. The new framework for adaptations contractors was progressing through governance and this should see the new builders begin to take effect in early 2024. As noted in the previous report the cost of extensions to properties remained a problem for homeowner applicants. However, most of the current extensions under development were with social landlords, primarily Jigsaw.

The number of requests for extensions continued to rise, as did the number of complex cases. There were 10 extensions at various stages of development/ completion and 7 complex cases including 3 where the grant limit could be exceeded.

The number of people making enquiries about personal application for DFG had risen sharply. 8 enquiries had been received since beginning of April. Some of these would likely not submit or would fail due to the nature of the works not meeting the criteria. This meant there were currently 23 active enquiries.

The report provided an update on the Changing Place Toilets. Due to issues with design costs and timescale considerations STaR Procurement was carrying out an expression of interest on the Chest for a design and build process. Muscular Dystrophy UK had approved the design for the

Changing Place Toilets for 4C at Christ Church in Ashton-Under-Lyne. The design could now progress to procurement.

The most important change related to the Hyde Bangladeshi Welfare Association (HBWA). The HBWA had changed the location of the scheme within the existing building and due to the issues it created a discussion was held with MDUK. They had expressed strong concerns about the viability of the Changing Place Toilets in the building and have said they cannot agree to the scheme. HBWA had been informed of this decision. A modification request had been submitted to DLUHC requesting this scheme be changed for the scheme at St George's in Denton. The loss of the HBWA meant that there were now only 3 schemes in the program. Due to the costs associated with this type of work it was still possible that the majority of the budget will be taken up. It was not considered suitable to search for a replacement venue due to the time constraints. As noted in the previous report the costs associated with Changing Place Toilets are high. The estimated costs of each Changing Place Toilets was expected to be in the region of £0.070m including design fees.

RECOMMENDED

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

18 EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Education Achievement and Equalities / Assistant Director of Education / Director of Place. The report provided members of the Panel with an overview and updated position on the Council's Education Capital Programme and sought approval of the recommendations to Cabinet as set out in the report.

The report detailed the Section 106 Developer contributions which provided additional income intended to contribute towards the provision of additional school places. The report proposed to allocate Section 106 monies from the £0.232m received from developers to current schemes in year. The report detailed allocating contributions totalling £0.101m towards the works at Gee Cross Holy Trinity and at Mickle Hurst All Saints.

In regards to Basic Needs Funded Schemes, an update was provided for St Thomas More, it was highlighted that the school were progressing with a sporting facilities bid with the Football Foundation to obtain further funding towards the project. It was recommended that a joint bid be entered to the Football Foundation between the Council and the school as the LA had a joint ownership interest. The allocation from the Council would be used by the school as part of the match funding for this bid. The funds would not be released to the school until there was an approved grant from the Football Foundation.

An update was provided on the High Needs Provision Funded Schemes. In regards to Oakdale Primary, since the high level budget was approved, design works were undertaken and tender packages sent out. These had now been returned and the project cost had exceeded the original approved budget. The increase in cost was mainly due to additional toilets required and structural works that needed to be incorporated within the scheme, which came to light during the design and specification process. The works could be phased in line with current governance and upon approval of the additional funding, would be totally complete by middle of October 2023 as the second phase could be undertaken whilst school was operational. Panel was asked to recommend to Executive Cabinet that a further allocation of £0.150m was approved from the High Needs Provision Fund to enable the works to be completed. This would provide a total budget of £0.300m.

Members were advised that two schools have converted to Academy status in the 2023/24 financial year. As a result of this any DFC funding held by the authority must be transferred as part of the academy conversion. A total of £0.074m needed to be removed from the capital programme to reflect the transfer of funding.

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.**

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

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Assistant Director for Children's Services / Assistant Director for Early Help and Partnerships. The report provided an update on the Children's Social Care and Early Help property capital schemes and set out details of the major approved schemes in this area of Children's Services.

In regards to Boyds Walk RIBA Stage 2 had recently been completed and at this early stage, the project was anticipated to be approx. £0.200m over budget. The main reasons for this were a small increase in the gross internal floor area, soft market testing of market of the mechanical and electrical works required coming back significantly higher than first estimated and the requirement to have a sub-station to accommodate the new capacity brought by the scheme. Early value engineering had been undertaken during stage 2 and the current cost of the project included risk and inflation contingencies, which could be taken out as the project moves through its RIBA stages. Further value engineering would also be considered, especially for mechanical and electrical works, in order to manage cost within the original funding envelope.

A £0.700m capital bid to the NHSE was being drafted and would be submitted in August. If successful, this bid would reduce the Council's 50% contribution to the scheme and / or provide a contingency for the scheme. The success, or otherwise, of this bid would be reported in future monitoring reports.

In May 2022, Tameside Council was one of seventy-five local authorities identified to receive a £169,700 share of the £301.750 million to implement the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme in the years 2022-25.

The Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme was a jointly overseen by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) with funding allocated for October 2022 to March 2025. There was an expectation that local authorities meet all the requirements of the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme by 31 March 2025.

The Tameside Family Hub model was well under way utilising revenue grant funding from the Department for Education to provide a new updated model of providing support to Tameside families. The new capital investment in the Family Hubs and Best Start for Life Programme would be used to support Family Hubs to have stable IT infrastructure so that our workforce and partners are able to have good reliable connectivity. The capital spending would also enable bringing in IT equipment into Family Hubs for families to use to access websites such as the Local Offer or Children's services pages. Some capital funding would be used to repair our outdoor areas to support with the delivery of early years sessions externally. In addition, family hubs would be re-branded with new signs at the hub and spoke locations.

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.**

20 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR