**EXECUTIVE CABINET**

**20 December 2023**

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| **Commenced:** 1.30pm | | **Terminated:** 1.40pm |
| **Present:** | Councillors Cooney (Chair), Choksi, Fairfoull, Feeley, Kitchen, Naylor, North, Jackson, Taylor, Ward and Wills | |
| **In Attendance:** | Sandra Stewart | Chief Executive |
| | Ashley Hughes | Director of Resources (S151) |
| | Stephanie Butterworth | Director of Adult Services |
| | Julian Jackson | Director of Place |
| | Debbie Watson | Director of Public Health |
| | Tracey Harrison | Assistant Director of Adult Services |
| | Ilys Cookson | Assistant Director of Exchequer Services |
| | Alison Montgomery | Assistant Director of Social Care |
| | Emma Varnam | Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods |
| | Ben Middleton | Assistant Director of Strategic Property |
| **Apologies:** | Councillors Fairfoull and Kitchen | |

## 84 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 85 EXECUTIVE CABINET

**RESOLVED**
**That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 22 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.**

## 86 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP

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

## 87 PERIOD 7 2023/24 FORECAST OUTTURN – REVENUE AND CAPITAL.

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources. 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 overall, there were significant overspends on expenditure of £13.007m on the underlying position within the General Fund. This represented an improvement in position of £0.894m from month 6. This underlying position showed the total potential overspend, should management action not be taken to bring the expenditure down to within budget.

At Month 6 reporting, the forecast overspend of £13.901m was driven by a 3% forecast overspend on gross budgets in Adult Social Care, 5% on gross budgets in Place, 2% on gross budgets in Education and 9% on gross budgets in Children's Social Care. A recommendation was included that recovery plans, signed off by the Section 151 Officer, be presented to Executive Cabinet. Work had been undertaken by service areas in conjunction with Finance in the period between Month 6 and Month 7 reporting. To date, plans totalling £8.734m had been received reducing the overspend to £4.274m.

Only Adult Social Care had been able to present a recovery plan that balances for the year at Month 7, and even then it carried a level of risk on delivery.

It was stated that all members of the Senior Leadership Team recognise the needed to grip of their budgets and were working through their budgets line-by-line again to determine where there was more possibility to control their expenditure and improve their income generation. Recovery Plans were a standing agenda item at Senior Leadership Team meetings, and would remain so for the duration of the financial year to ensure corporate oversight.

Any pressures or undelivered savings within Directorates by the end of the financial year would need to be resolved in the next financial year, in addition to delivering MTFS proposals to meet the budget gap for 2024/25.

**RESOLVED**
**That Executive Cabinet APPROVES:**

**(i) The release of £1.344m contingency budget into Adults Social Care to reflect the impact of the cost of transitions on Service budgets.**
**(ii) The release of a further £0.602m from contingency on a one-off basis to reflect modelling undertaken on the costs of transitions and complexity of need in residential settings, which are included within the MTFS to ensure budget available on an ongoing basis.**
**(iii) The allocation of £0.186m to the Resources Directorate revenue budget from Contingency to support the in-year overspend on the Council's annual insurance premiums that include employee, buildings and contents and transport related policies.**
**(iv) The release of £0.642m contingency budget into Place budgets to resolve inflationary pressures on the Facilities Management contract.**
**(v) The transfer of £0.495m contingency budget to offset the budget reductions targets for the council tax single person discount review (£0.450m) and salary sacrifice schemes (£0.045m). The targets were budgeted in contingency to allow for performance reporting, however as the reductions will materialise in increased council tax income and directorate budgets respectively a transfer is required to offset budgets within Contingency. Both budget reductions have been achieved.**
**(vi) The acceptance of the non-recurrent £0.541m grant sum awarded to the Council from the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to support urgent and emergency care during the 2023/24 winter period and that the grant is allocated to the 2023/24 Adult Services revenue budget. The acceptance of the grant award is supported by a Memorandum Of Understanding that was formally signed by the Director Of Adult Services on behalf of the Council and returned to the DHSC by the required deadline of 29 November 2023.**

**That Executive Cabinet NOTES**

**(i) The forecast General Fund revenue budget position of an underlying pressure of £13.007m, which is a favourable movement of £0.894m from Period 6 reporting.**
**(ii) The update on the production of recovery plans to mitigate the shortfall in budgets, with mitigations of £8.743m identified.**
**(iii) That there is a projected overall overspend for the Council of £4.274m, following the application of actions within draft recovery plans.**
**(iv) The forecast deficit on the DSG of £5.317m, which has not changed from Period 6 reporting.**
**(v) The Capital programme position of projected spend of £46.946m, following Cabinet approval to reprofile project spend of £1.024m from 2024/25.**

## 88 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY (MTFS)

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources. The report presented a proposed budget for 2024/25 and an update to the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

It was reported that the position has improved since the previous MTFS update in October 2023 due to the increase in budget reduction proposals from all service areas, a 2% reduction in employee pay award assumption, increases in general grants, council tax and business rates and a 2.1% reduction in the prevailing rate of Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation. The rate of CPI released in November 2023 was 4.6%.

The current MTFS had an imbalance of resources to expenditure of £39.817m to 2028/29, with a balanced budget for 2024/25. In the last update, the MTFS imbalance was £33.819m to 2028/29, with £9.651m required to be found for 2024/25. The "budget gap" in the MTFS as a percentage of the 2023/24 net expenditure requirement of £221.397m was 6.0% for 2025/26 and 18% to 2028/29.

The assumptions for future years were in line with the recent update from the Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR). The OBR was forecasting "unprotected" departments, of which the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) was part of this cohort, would see a 1% planned rise in resources that, after the impact of inflation, would be equal to a 2.6% real terms reduction in resources. As such, since the MTFS was presented to Cabinet in October 2023, future years' gaps had increased from 15% to 18% cumulatively.

The report detailed that in 2023/24, the Council had been facing significant pressures from demand-led services, alongside the sharp increase in costs that had been seen due to inflation rising to a peak of 11.1% in October 2022 and sitting at 4.6% in November 2023. This had been reflected in the forecast positions, with unmanaged overspends rising to £13.007m in quarter 2. The Council had instituted recovery planning, some of which was the escalation of proposals in this MTFS. At Month 7, the Council was still forecasting an overspend, however, it had much reduced due to the presence of recovery plans owned by officers at the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). They were still works in progress, as the Section 151 Officer continued to work with SLT members on closing their respective budget gaps. The worst case scenario was that the full overspend value of £13.007m would come to fruition, requiring the use of unearmarked reserves to balance the General Fund position.

**RESOLVED**
**That Executive Cabinet APPROVE:**
**(i) The updated MTFS for 2024/25 to 2028/29.**
**(ii) The budget reductions and income increases proposed for 2024/25 for consultation.**
**(iii) The creation of a Parking Strategy to identify future financial options from 2025/26 to be brought to an Executive Cabinet before July 2024.**
**That Executive Cabinet is recommended to NOTE:**
**(i) The impact of changes to the inflationary and demand pressures on the MTFS from 2024/25 to 2028/29.**
**(ii) The impact of the proposed new funding on the MTFS from 2024/25 to 2028/29.**
**(iii) The impact of the proposed budget reductions on the MTFS from 2024/25 to 2028/29.**
**(iv) The impact of the proposed council tax and business rates assumptions on the MTFS from 2024/25 to 2028/29**
**(v) The consultation period opened 14 December 2023 and shall run for a period of no less than 7 weeks. Therefore the earliest date to close consultation is 1 February 2024.**

## 89 INCOME COLLECTION PERFORMANCE, RECOVERY AND DEBT

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) / Director of Resources / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services.

Members were advised that Tameside's collection and recovery performance over the last 5 years was comparable to its Greater Manchester neighbours at 93.80% average in year Council Tax collection against a Greater Manchester average of 94.57%, and 95.88% in year Business Rates collection against a Greater Manchester average of 95.12%.

It was explained that even with an in-depth and strong recovery process for debt, there were occasions when debts become irrecoverable and recommended to be written off. As part of good financial management, debt that was deemed to be irrecoverable should be written off the balance sheet periodically. The Councils' Risk Management and Audit service recommendations accords with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice which confirms that debts should be written off at the point they were judged to be uncollectible.

Whilst small scale debt write offs had been actioned across Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debtors, there remained a significant balance of debt that was now deemed irrecoverable. This position is based on an analytical review of all aged debt as at 30 September 2023.

Timely write off of debt deemed to be irrecoverable also allowed the Council to focus its finite staffing and financial resources towards collection of debt with the greatest chance of recovery. This was not to say that debt would be written off, as there was a full recovery process, inclusive of legal proceedings, before a write off was recommended.

The totals being recommended to be written off across three debt classes of Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debt is £10.905m. The Council did hold provisions for bad debt for all three debt classes and these were currently greater than the values proposed for write off.

**RESOLVED**
**That Executive Cabinet APPROVE:**

**(i) The write off of irrecoverable debts totalling £10.905m analysed as:**
  **a. £8.742m of Council Tax debt between the period of 2000/01 and 2017/18;**
  **b. £0.382m of Business Rates debts and;**
  **c. £1.781m Sundry debts.**

**(ii) As of December 2023, debt write offs are processed quarterly under the following circumstances:**
  **a. The age of the debt is more than 6 years old, and;**
  **b. The debt is deemed irrecoverable, and;**
  **c. no payment has been received within 90 days, and recovery has been exhausted.**

**(iii) Bad debt less than 6 years old that can be deemed irrecoverable due to extenuating circumstances also be written off on a quarterly basis, from December 2023, as part of good financial management and outlined in the CIPFA Code of Practice.**

**(iv) Section 28 of the Council Financial Regulations be amended for the proposed debt write off amendments.**

**(v) The proposed quarterly write offs to form part of the financial monitoring reports to Executive Cabinet as part of streamlining the reporting process with details captured in relevant appendices to the monitoring reports.**

## 90 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY & STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Head of Assurance. The report presented the Council's refreshed Risk Management Policy & Strategy.

It was explained that The Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations required local authorities to have arrangements in place for the management of risk. The purpose of risk management was to effectively manage potential opportunities and threats to the Council achieving its objectives. Part of the remit of the Audit Panel is to 'monitor the effective development and operation of risk management'. Current best practice integrated the disciplines of risk management and internal audit into a model of assurance. This model was intended to give assurance to those 'charged with governance' that the Council's major / significant risks were being effectively managed as well as providing early 'red flags' where attention was needed. The report detailed the Institute of Internal Audits 'Three lines' model.

The report summarised the progress made against the action plan reported to the Audit Panel n August 2023. The key changes to the Risk Management Policy & Strategy were highlighted to the Board. These included:

- Update of role titles e.g., Head of Assurance, Assurance Team and complete refresh of roles and responsibilities at Appendix A in line with best practice.
- Inclusion of new governance arrangements now in place e.g., Assistant Directors Delivery Group, Strategic Risk Management Group.
- Update of risk management arrangements at 3.2 of the document to include the four T's (tolerate, treat, transfer, terminate) and a working description of the 'Three Lines approach'.
- A new risk appetite statement at Appendix 3.

**RESOLVED**
**That Executive Cabinet approve the Risk Management Policy & Strategy attached at Appendix 1.**

## 91 CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE PLEDGE

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director for People and Workforce Development. The report detailed the introduction of the GM Pledge, which set out a series of commitments relating to the use of agency children's Social Workers across Greater Manchester with the ultimate aim of providing stability for vulnerable children and young people and tackling the high use of agency workers.

The report explained that Senior leaders across all 10 Greater Manchester boroughs including Chief Executives, Directors of Children's Services, HR Directors and the GM Children's Board had agreed to introduce a GM Pledge in Children's Social Care from 1 November 2023.

It was further explained that Local government was facing significant recruitment challenges across all areas, with a particular challenge relating to the recruitment and retention of Social Workers. This had led to a buoyant agency market which allowed agency workers to demand higher pay rates, and to move easily between organisations. The result was instability for children and families, instability within the workforce, and rising cost pressures.

The GM Pledge set out a series of commitments related to the use of agency social workers across Greater Manchester with the ultimate aim of providing stability for vulnerable children and young people through a reduction in the use of agency workers.

Members were advised that Across the region there was significant numbers of children who were experiencing changes of Social Worker. Local authorities across Greater Manchester had come together to realise a collective ambition to improve the experience and lives of children and families through the provision of a stable workforce.

This, in turn, would support Tameside Council to reduce the costs associated with employee turnover and high numbers of agency workers. The GM Pledge also contributed towards tackling children's social care budget pressures caused by the high cost of agency staff. The GM Pledge recognised the need to respond to these challenges collectively and in co-operation, providing clear protocols and mechanism of control.

The commitments within the pledge were as follows:

- Agency social workers would be paid in line with agreed maximum rates of pay (set out in the report )
- A common referencing standard would be adopted ensuring that a reference was completed on termination of engagement for each agency worker
- Candidates leaving a permanent contract in any GM authority would not be able to take up an agency role within another GM authority for a minimum of 6 months
- Each authority would refrain from headhunting employees from other GM authorities, unless for promotional opportunities
- Authorities would work closely with the agency supply chain to better enable their support of permanent recruitment activities across GM

- Authorities would hold one another to account and provide mutual support and assistance to other GM local authorities e.g. short term provision of staff or leadership advice and support in specific areas
- Provide accurate and complete data to the GMCA's HR metrics service on a quarterly basis
- In order to qualify for agency appointments, candidates must demonstrate a minimum of 2 years' post-qualified experience within Children's Services Social Work (irrespective of their pathway to the profession). Authorities would not engage agency workers with less than 2 years' post-qualifying experience (Tameside did not currently engage any agency workers in this category)

**RESOLVED**

**(i) That all commitments contained within the GM Pledge (Appendix 1) are adhered to and implemented in the timeframes set out within this report.**

**(ii) That the organisation continues to engage with the requirements and agreements set out within the GM Pledge for an initial 12 month period with review at that time.**

## 92 LEVELLING UP FUND ROUND 3

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment / Director of Place / Assistant Director of Development and Housing. The report provided an update on the selection of Denton Town Centre as one of the projects nationally to be funded via Levelling Up Fund, Round Three. The report sought approval to progress delivery of the Denton 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 will be required once the full terms of the Grant Funding Agreement was available.

On 20 November 2023 it was announced that for Round Three of the Fund, the Government had undertaken an assessment of the highest scoring bids that did not receive funding in Round Two. Following an assessment process the Denton Town Centre bid had been selected as one of the projects nationally to be funded through Round Three of the Fund and therefore Council had been provisionally awarded £16.8m, subject to project validation, subsidy control checks, and departmental sign-off.

The bid for Denton was focused on public realm and active travel improvements to further strengthen the links across the Town Centre. This would also ensure all of the benefits from the significant new investment and development that was taking place in Denton such as new residential development at Crown Point and the new Denton Wellness Centre were fully captured. Further capital investment was also sought at the Festival Hall site and Denton Town Hall to make best use of the Council's estate. This would help the Town Centre to reach its full potential and deliver further comprehensive regeneration, attracting additional footfall and investment.

The bid was supported by match funding that the Council had been successful in securing from TfGM of £1,950,000 via the Active Travel Fund (ATF) for the Crown Point A57 Mayors Challenge Fund (MCF) scheme, providing an improved environment for walking and cycling.

Members were advised that due to the time that had passed since the application was submitted there was a need to review the scope of the interventions to take account of changes since the original bid. DLUHC would require a short project validation check to confirm that the original bid had not changed significantly, is still deliverable by March 2026, and still represented value for money.
It was explained that there is a need to revisit the scope of intervention at the Festival Hall site to ensure it provided a long term sustainable future for this location that supports the wider neighbourhood. This could ultimately result in the site being repurposed for an alternative use with the LUF funding utilised for enabling works that bring a new development forward, potentially working with a partner willing to bring forward a residential scheme that addresses identified housing needs. This would require initial discussion with DLUHC as part of the project validation process.

It was further explained that the specific scope of works for Denton Town Hall will needed careful consideration to ensure that the funding available supports the best long term use of the space as a civic and cultural anchor, including the provision of community space with more flexibility. As the detailed design work for public realm improvements and the Denton MCF Crown Point scheme was progressed it would need to be mindful of any lessons learnt through the delivery of recent walking and cycling schemes in the Borough.

**RESOLVED**

**(i) The provisional award of £16.8m from the Levelling Up Fund, Round Three for Denton Town Centre be noted;**

**(ii) Approval be given to enter into the formal agreements for the receipt of funding and inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme, subject to satisfactory complete of project validation checks; and**

**(iii) Approval be given that the Director of Place be enabled to progress the project validation checks and manage the programme of works associated with the Levelling Up Fund allocation for Denton and to drawdown and incur all Levelling Up Fund expenditure related to delivery. On-going performance and reporting will be provided to Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring.**

**(iv) To approve the use of £1.95m from the Active Travel Fund (ATF) associated with the Crown Point Mayors Challenge Fund (MCF) project as match funding to the Levelling Up Fund programme.**

## 93 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY AMENDMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Climate Emergency and Environmental Services / Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods. The report proposes amendments to the implementation date for the hackney carriage and private hire age and emissions standards for existing Tameside licensed vehicles.

The current policy in relation to vehicle emissions stated:

- All new to licence vehicles to be emissions compliant.
- For existing licensed vehicles – to begin transitioning as soon as the policy is in place and to complete transitioning by 1 April 2024.

The original date of compliance by 1 April 2024 for existing fleets was proposed in anticipation of the Clean Taxi Fund being opened in February 2022. This fund would allow vehicle proprietors to apply for funding which would subsidise the cost of upgrading to a compliant vehicle.

The Clean Air Plan was paused in February 2022 and a revised plan was yet to be agreed with government. As such, there was no clarity on if, and when any funding provision would be available to the trade as part of a revised Clean Air Plan, but is unlikely that any funding scheme would be available in 2023.

In February 2023 data produced by Transport for Greater Manchester showed that in Tameside, 67% (89 out of 133) of the Hackney Carriage fleet and 18% (111 out of 630) of the Private Hire fleet, were not compliant with the emission standards.

Therefore, without a change to the compliance date for these standards in Tameside, a significant proportion of the fleet will be unable to renew their vehicle licences from April 2024. Therefore the report proposed that the date requiring existing licensed vehicles to be emissions compliant be extended to 31 December 2025.

In addition, the Prior to the approval of Stage 2 of the Minimum Licensing Standards in October 2021, the maximum age limit for non-wheelchair accessible Private Hire Vehicles was 12 years. The amendment in 2021 allowed for a transitional period for existing vehicles to comply until 1 April 2024 and continue to renew licences of vehicles until they reach 12 years of age, until 1 April 2024. The report proposed that Private Hire Vehicles which were not wheelchair accessible be allowed to stay on the fleet until they reached 12 years of age, until 31 December 2025.

**RESOLVED**
**That Council be recommended to approve the following:**

**(i) Extend the current emissions compliance date for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles to 31 December 2025.**

**(ii) Delay the implementation of the maximum age limit for non-wheelchair accessible Private Hire Vehicles to 31 December 2025.**

## 94 GRANT EXTENSION TO SUPPORT THE EXTENDED DUTIES OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEAD TEACHER TO INCLUDE CHILDREN WITH A SOCIAL WORKER 2023-25.

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Education, Achievement and Equalities / Assistant Director for Education. The report sought to summarise the details of two recently announced grant extensions by the DfE.

In September 2021 Local Authorities began receiving grant funding to extend the role of Virtual School Headteacher to include strategic responsibility for all children with a social worker. In spring 2023 it was confirmed by the DfE that all Local Authorities would continue to be eligible to receive grant funding to support Virtual School Headteacher in delivering this responsibility; and that this funding was confirmed until 2025. A grant determination letter detailing this and Memorandum of Understanding **(Appendix one and two)** was published on 19 June 2023.

The grant determination letter had confirmed that Tameside would receive £100,000 in financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25. This would be paid in three instalments per financial year; September, December and March. It was expected that a Memorandum of Understanding was read, signed and returned for each financial year. This outlined how the grant could be spent. It was expected that the LA provided an annual financial progress report on total receipt, expenditure of funding, and planned expenditure within the grant period. This was completed and returned for the period 2022-23.

The Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) grant for cared for children aged 4-15 is well established and was used to provide both individualised educational support and support for the cohort as a whole. However, historically this funding had ceased when a child reaches the age of 16, although the Virtual Headteacher duties and need for support continues for as long as a child is in care.

The Post-16 PP+ grant was to provide additional funding to support cared for children and care leavers at post-16. A pilot for this grant had been underway in 58 local authorities since 2021 and in the spring it was confirmed by the DfE that the pilot would be extended across all eligible Local Authorities. Grant determination letters were published on 27 June 2023 which have confirmed that Tameside will receive £67,770 for the period April 2023-March 2024. Unlike the 4-15 PP+, the funding formula was not calculated on a per head basis, but was calculated on a percentage rate basis. The grant would be paid in two instalments per year in September and January.

**RESOLVED**
**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to APPROVE:**

**(i) That the Council accepts the grant extension for extended duties of the Headteacher of the Virtual School for children with a social worker 2023-2025.**

**(ii) That the Council accepts the grant extension for Pupil Premium Plus for post-16 2023-2024.**

**(iii) That the grant agreements are entered into subject to the necessary due diligence having been undertaken.**

## 95 APPROVAL OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE CHARGING POLICY AND REVISED CHARGING SCHEDULE 2024/25 ONWARDS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report sought approval of the revised Adult Social Care Charging Policy and associated charging schedule for 2024/25. This updated the previous policy agreed February 2022 to simplify and explain more clearly, the charges for care in a single policy document.

The report recommended alignment of the cost of delivery to the current charges, in line with the fees currently paid. It also made clear the requirements to inform the Client Finance Team of any change of circumstances and how charges will be applied thereafter. The following proposed changes were set out in the report:

- **Change 1** – to have a single policy which simplified and explained more clearly all charging related to Adult Social Care, this would supersede the current non-residential and residential charging polices. A copy of the proposed policy could be found at Appendix 1 of this report.
- **Change 2** – to align charges to people who used services with the cost of care and support provided within the context of the national means test. A full copy of the proposed charges (alongside the current charges) could be found at Appendix 2.
- **Change 3** – It was proposed that the policy be subject to an annual review in conjunction with the annual care fee setting process. An annual schedule of charges would be published as an appendix to the annual fees report.
- **Change 4 –** Service users or their representative must tell the Client Finance Team about any change within one month of the change happening and the service would then complete a new financial assessment from the date of the change. If people did not tell the Client Finance Team about any change within a month and the change meant that they had been paying too much for their care the service will only complete the financial assessment from the week they were told about the change. If people did not tell the Client Finance Team about any change within a month and the change meant they haven't been charged enough they would have to pay the extra charges going back to when the change happened.

It was estimated that the proposed changes outlined in section 5 of this report would generate a moderate increase in income for the council by up to £0.350m annually. In addition, it would simplify the Adult Social Care Charging Policy and explain more clearly, the way care was charged.

Furthermore if approved, this report made provision for a further phase of consultation where it had been determined that changes could have a more significant impact on individuals for the charges referenced in section 3.3 of this report. Should it be approved, adult services would ensure consultation during 2024 to bring forward recommendations for subsequent changes at the earliest opportunity.

**RESOLVED**

**(i) That approval is given to the revised ASC Charging Policy, and the associated charging schedule for 2024/25**

**(ii) That approval is given to implement the alignment of charges (Appendix 2) with fees paid for all people who use our services with effect from 1 February 2024 (Option 1)**

**(iii) To note and approve the need for public consultation on the charges referenced in section 3.3 of this report.**

## 96 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report sought approval for the award of the contract to the highest ranking and most economically advantageous provider for the Mental Health Supported

Accommodation service the contract to commence 1 April 2024 for a period of five years up to 31 March 2029.

On 24 August 2022 Executive Cabinet approved a tender process to commence in October 2023 and complete in November 2023 for the provision of a Mental Health Supported Accommodation service. The current contract was due to expire on 31 March 2024.

An open tendering exercise commenced 4 October 2023 and closed 3 November 2023. The tender was completed fully in accordance with Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council Procurement Standing Orders and in conjunction with public procurement requirements via the CHEST (North West procurement portal).

It was explained that responses were received from ten organisations. The tender submission was weighted, in terms of significance, based on a 70% Quality (including 20% Social Value) and 30% Cost split. The requirement to weight tender submissions ensures compliance with European Union Regulations 2006. The Summary of Moderation Scores was included within the report and the report sought approval to approve the highest ranking company.

**RESOLVED**
**That following the evaluation of tender submissions, Cabinet approve the award of the contract to the highest ranking and most economically advantageous provider namely: Company C - Creative Support.**

## 97 HAWTHORN NEW SEND SCHOOL – PITCH SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources and Transformation) / Director of Place. This report provided a scheme update, a summary of the Football Foundations support including their standard Terms and Conditions for acceptance/approval, the operational proposals for the site and impact on the approved Hawthorns scheme capital budget.

A grant offer letter received by the Council on the 26 September 2023, confirmed the offer of grant to support the development of the facilities set out in the report. A copy of the letter was attached as Appendix 1. In order to accept the grant offer the Council must confirm that it was willing to abide by the Football Foundations standard terms and conditions of grant for awards over £0.100m. A copy of the terms and conditions was attached at Appendix 2. In addition to the standard terms and conditions the Council was required to accept a legal charge or restriction on the freehold title. A copy of the legal pack is attached at Appendix 3. The requirement for a legal charge or restriction stems from the Football Foundations need to protect its investment preventing the applicant from using the land for any other purpose without the written consent of the Foundation.

The delivery of the synthetic turf pitch element of the scheme was to be delivered through the Football Foundations Framework Agreement. A copy of the framework process and associated guidance was provided at Appendix 4 & 5. The framework was fully compliant with the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) procurement rules. The process required the Council to enter in to a JCT form of contract for the synthetic turf pitch and Form of Joining Agreement attached as Appendix 6.

The estimated cost of the new school and associated pitch scheme was set out in the 26 April 2023 Executive Cabinet report. In relation to the pitch element the total cost of the scheme was estimated to be £1.100m with 70% contribution provided as grant funding from the Football Foundation of £0.770m which required match funding of 30% of £0.330m from the Council. The total estimated cost of the new Hawthorns school project was £22.762m. This included the additionality of the football pitches development into the overall cost including an estimate of additional funding of £0.770m from the Football Foundation and the s106 funding of £0.075m from the redevelopment of the former ‘Organ Inn’ public house in Hollingworth.

The development of facilities such as this required the involvement of an “anchor” football club, which in this case was Hollingworth Juniors FC, they had been based in the area for circa 35 years.

Hollingworth Juniors FC is an FA Charter Standard Club. They had been proposed as the 'anchor' club by Manchester FA, who recognise them as a progressive and developmentally minded organisation providing a range of opportunities for local young people in the Hollingworth, Longdendale and Hattersley areas of the Borough. The requirement for an anchor club was key to a successful bid to the Football Foundation. Hollingworth Juniors were a joint applicant and will manage the facilities upon completion.

It was proposed that Hollingworth Juniors FC will occupy and manage the two pitches and changing pavilion by way of a lease in a form to be approved the head of legal services taking in to consideration the terms and conditions of the Football Foundation. The Football Foundations lease requirements were set out in the legal pack attached to the report as Appendix 3.

**RESOLVED**
**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve:**

**(i) That the Council accepts the Football Foundation grant funding and notes the terms and conditions of the award subject to the Section 151 Officer and Borough Solicitor being satisfied that the terms and conditions of the grant do not create any additional risk for the Council.**
**(ii) That the Council accepts the contribution of £0.020m from Hollingworth Juniors Football Club as the 'anchor' club on the site.**
**(iii) That the Council accepts a legal charge or title restriction as outlined in the grant terms and conditions.**
**(iv) That the Council provides a lease to Hollingworth Juniors FC.**
**(v) That the Council enters into the Football Foundation Framework Agreement to deliver the synthetic turf pitch element of the scheme as a condition of accepting the grant from the Football Foundation.**
**(vi) That the £0.020m contribution from Hollingworth Juniors is added into the Education Capital Programme.**
**(vii) That the £0.727m Football Foundation grant is added into the Education Capital Programme.**

## 98 PARKING ENFORCEMENT AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES FOR ON AND OFF STREET PARKING (INCLUDING CASH COLLECTION)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Connectivity / Assistant Director for Operations and Neighbourhoods. The report sought approval to award the contract for the provision of Parking Enforcement and Associated Services following the results of the joint procurement exercise undertaken with Trafford, Rochdale and Bolton Council.

Tameside, Trafford, Bolton and Rochdale Councils have undertaken a fully compliant Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) joint procurement process to establish four separate new contracts for Parking Enforcement and Associated Services. Tameside, Trafford, Bolton and Rochdale Councils are required to enter into individual contracts with the winning bidder.

The baseline service volume for Tameside Council is 90 enforcement hours per day, Monday to Saturday. As part of the negotiation process for the current extension it was determined that 90 enforcement hours per day delivered the best value for the Council. This was an increase from 76 hours per day that was provided 1 June 2022 – 31 March 2023.

It was explained that outsourcing to an Enforcement Contractor allows the Authority to draw on the flexibility this provided. The majority of Enforcement organisations also work in partnership with other Councils across the North West and they had the ability to draw resources from these areas to assist when required.

**RESOLVED**
**That Executive Cabinet approve the award of the contract for the provision of Parking Enforcement and Associated services for Tameside Council, following the results of the joint**

**procurement exercise undertaken with Trafford, Rochdale and Bolton Council.**

## 99 ASHTON OLD BATHS MANAGEMENT PROCUREMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth Business & Employment / Assistant Director for Investment, Development and Housing. The report provided an update for Ashton Old Baths Innovation Centre. The existing management agreement with Oxford Innovation Space expires in February 2024. The report sought approval to extend the partnership arrangement with Oxford Innovation Space by 2 years to allow a full business case review to be undertaken to determine the future of the centre.

It was reported that the Council remained committed to futureproofing and building on the successes of Ashton Old Baths and its role as a catalyst in regenerating the deprived area within the Future St Petersfield masterplan. The role of Ashton Old Baths as an incubation hub for businesses had become even more pivotal to the future economic prosperity of Ashton and the wider Tameside area following the recent establishment of the Ashton Mayoral Development Zone where further growth was proposed to fulfil the potential of St Petersfield and the wider Ashton town centre area as a destination for investment and regeneration.

The UK Shared Prosperity Funding would provide the required investment to repair and futureproof this important heritage asset whilst creating new SME floorspace inside the building to support inward investment, creation of new jobs for the local economy, and provide essential revenue to the Council to help to balance the expenditure relating to the operation of the centre.

It was explained that due to the existing contract ending in February 2024 and the requirement for a wider review of Council assets, an extension to the existing contract with Oxford Innovation was proposed. As outlined in the report, Oxford Innovation provided a good service with positive feedback from businesses that operate from there. Whilst Ashton Old Baths had not yet generated an annual surplus as previously forecast, there had been influences outside of the Council's or Oxford Innovation's control as to the reasons for the financial performance of the centre to date. There was an acceptance that the centre was not likely to generate significant revenue for the Council, even if occupancy was at 100% all the year round. However, in recent months, there had been some positive signs of recovery that Ashton Old Baths was performing well and had recovered from the Covid-19 pandemic. In the last six consecutive months, the centre had generated a surplus for the first time since opening its doors in 2017 following an upward trajectory in the financial position over the last 18 months. Occupancy was steadily increasing, deficits were reducing month on month, more jobs were being created, and new SME floorpspace using UKSPF was to be introduced that would generate further income and future proof the building.

The regeneration and economic benefits were outlined in the report as well as the Council's ambition to deliver development, investment, and regeneration in St Petersfield as identified in the approved masterplan for the area. The centre also supported the Council's profile as a place to do business within the GMCA Ashton Innovation Corridor Growth Location and recently established Ashton Mayoral Development Zone.

**RESOLVED**

**(i) That the latest position of Ashton Old Baths Innovation Centre in respect of financial and economic performance be Noted;**

**(ii) Approval be given to a further contract extension to the existing agreement with Oxford Innovation for a period of 1 year with the option to extend by +1 year to enable a wider review of Council assets, whilst a full business case appraisal is undertaken by the Council;**

**(iii) Approval be given to review the ongoing management arrangement for the centre;**

**(iv) The update in respect of the recent successful bid for UK Shared Prosperity Funding and the projects within the centre that the funding will be utilised for be noted.**

## 100 PROPOSAL TO DECLARE ASSETS SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS (BATCH 4)

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy for Finance, Resources & Transformation / Assistant Director for Strategic Property. The report sought approval for proposed sites detailed in the report be declared surplus to the Council's operational requirements.

Officers were seeking approval from Executive Cabinet to declare the assets, detailed in the report at section 2 as being surplus to Council requirements.

It was explained that all Ward Members, who had an asset in their Ward which was proposed to be declared surplus, had been consulted week commencing 27 November 2023. Apart from some Members who sought clarification on the process or on details of the Council's ownership, no objections had been received to the proposed disposal of the assets.

**RESOLVED**
**In accordance with the Disposal Policy, approval be given to declare the schedule of assets set out in Section 2 of this report surplus to the Council's operational requirements.**

## 101 GODLEY GREEN: HOMES ENGLAND GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT – REMEDIATION PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth Business & Employment / First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Place / Assistant Director of Investment, Development and Housing.

It was reported that Homes England's flexibility in agreeing to an early draw down of grant funding had significantly helped the Council to facilitate and deliver a full pre and post-planning submission process, that included 12 public and statutory consultation sessions, during the challenging COVID lockdown period.

In addition, this funding, aligned with the Council's significant investment of financial resources and political leadership, had helped to create a development platform that had seen the majority of the site now optioned for development. Meanwhile, the Council's controlling interest in the site also placed it in a strong strategic and commercial position when it came to selecting a delivery partner. The Council continued to remain fully committed to the delivery of the site and promotion of the allocation through the Places for Everyone process to remove it from the Green Belt and had made positive responses to the recent Main Modifications consultation accordingly.

It was explained that unfortunately the Council and Homes England had not been able to agree further extensions to the HIF Programme. However, Homes England had made an ongoing commitment to continue to work with the Council and GMCA to explore further funding and partnership opportunities as they arise and should they be needed, that would support the delivery of this key, strategic site.

**RESOLVED**
**(i) Approval be given to enter into the Deed of Termination Notice (targeted for before 31 December 2023, to avoid the risk of clawback of the £0.720m grant funding already drawn down).**
**(ii) That a resolution to grant outline planning consent was confirmed on 1 November 2023 and that the Secretary of State confirmed on 9 November 2023 that the application will not be subject to call in be Noted.**
**(iii) That the ongoing cooperation between the Council, Homes England and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to identify alternative sources of grant funding (if required) be Noted.**
**(iv) Approval be given to the promotion of the project to Homes England's Brownfield Land and Infrastructure (BIL) fund via GMCA.**

## 102 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

**CHAIR**