

EXECUTIVE CABINET

24 January 2024

Commenced: 1.00pm

Terminated: 1.50pm

Present: Councillors Cooney (Chair), Choksi, Fairfoull, 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 Population Health
Tracey Harrison	Assistant Director of Adult Services
Ilys Cookson	Assistant Director of Exchequer Services

Apologies: Councillors Feeley and Kitchen

103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

104 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 20 December 2023 be approved as a correct record.

105 PERIOD 8 2023/24 FORECAST OUTTURN – REVENUE AND CAPITAL.

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy (Finance, Resources & Transformation) / Director of Resources. This was the Period 8 monitoring report for the current financial year, showing the forecast outturn position. The report reviewed the financial position for the General Fund revenue budget, the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) and the Capital budget.

The underlying Month 8 position is an overspend of £11.997m, which represents a favourable movement on the month 7 underlying position of £1.010m due to the inclusion of delivered recovery plan actions into the underlying position.

Work has continued on the development and delivery of recovery plans by service areas, in conjunction with Finance, in the period between Month 7 and Month 8 reporting. To date, plans totalling £9.334m have been received, reducing the residual unmitigated overspend to £3.824m.

The total figure of planned actions within the recovery plans is £9.334m, an increase of £0.600m on the month 7 position, where management actions of £8.734m were estimated. Taking into account these recovery plan actions, the residual overspend at month 8 is projected to be £3.824m.

In regards to recovery plans it was reported that All Directors have submitted draft recovery plans. Each recovery plan requires sign off from the Director of Resources in line with the Financial Regulations and work is continuing to develop plans to meet the shortfall. Education has now developed a recovery plan which balances the pressures within the Service. Although Adult Social Care was previously balanced, additional pressures at month 8 have resulted in requiring further mitigations.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet approve:

- (i) The allocation of £0.024m to the Resources Directorate revenue budget from Contingency to support the in-year non-recovery of income towards a previous jointly funded post with a Greater Manchester local authority within the Assurance Service. This joint funding arrangement is no longer in place as the post now supports Council priorities only.
- (ii) The acceptance of, and signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), by the Director of Resources and Director of Place for, the non-recurrent High Street Accelerator Programme RDEL Seed Funding of £0.237m. £0.050m of this is to be received and spent in 2023/24 with the remaining £0.187m to be received in 2024/25. This funding aims to bring together local stakeholders to support the long-term revival and regeneration of Hyde town centre. By entering into the MoU, the Council also confirms it will act as treasurer for the Accelerator Partnership.
- (iii) The acceptance of the non-recurrent Delivery Support Funding of £0.062m in 2023/24. This is to support local authorities meet programme and delivery costs associated with rolling out the expanded EY entitlements. This was subject to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed by the Director of Resources in their capacity as the S151 officer, which was completed by the deadline of 26 October 2023.
- (iv) The acceptance of Wraparound Childcare Programme Costs of £0.020m in 2023/24; £1.316m (up to a maximum of) in 2024/25 and £0.613m (provisional up to a maximum of) in 2025/26 - this is to support local authorities in England to increase the supply of wraparound places, to ensure or guarantee provision for all parents who may need it, meeting current demand and building further demand. This is a 3-year grant and was subject to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed by the Director of Resources in their capacity as S151 officer, which was completed by the deadline of 30 October 2023.

That Executive Cabinet note:

- (i) The forecast General Fund revenue budget position of an overspend of £11.997m if the Council did nothing, which is a favourable movement of £1.010m from Period 7 as a result of delivered mitigating actions.
- (ii) The update on the production of recovery plans to mitigate the shortfall in budgets, with mitigations of £9.334m identified, £1.010m of which is included in the underlying overspend above.
- (iii) That there is a projected General Fund overspend for the Council of £3.824m, following the application of actions within draft recovery plans.
- (iv) The forecast deficit on the DSG of £4.718m, which is an improved position of £0.599m on the month 7 position.
- (v) The Capital programme position of projected spend of £46.946m, following Cabinet approval to reprofile project spend of £1.024m from 2024/25.

106 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2024/25

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Director of Resources. The report detailed the Council Tax base calculation which was a key part of the annual budget cycle. The calculated tax base was used by Financial Management to determine the level of Council Tax income that the Council could raise in the upcoming financial year, subject to agreement of the amount of Council Tax to be charged for each dwelling.

The law required that the calculation of the Council Tax base for tax setting must be made between 1 December 2023 and 31 January 2024. The calculated tax base was used to determine the level of Council Tax income that the Council can raise in the upcoming financial year, subject to agreement of the amount of Council Tax to be charged for each dwelling. Failure to set the Council Tax base for 2024/25 would prevent the Council from setting its budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

The calculation of the authority tax base for Council Tax setting purposes gave an estimated Band D equivalent of 66,382.0 properties. There were no Ministry of Defence properties in Tameside. An estimated collection rate of 97.5% gives a Council Tax base of 64,722.5 properties.

The calculation of the Mossley Parish tax base for Council Tax setting purposes gives an estimated

Band D equivalent of 3,576.5 properties. There were no Ministry of Defence properties in Mossley. An estimated collection rate of 97.5% gave a Council tax base of 3,487.1 properties.

RESOLVED

That pursuant to the figures set out in the Report of the Director of Resources, and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax base) (England) Regulations 2012

- (i) the amount calculated by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council as its Council Tax base for the year 2024/2025 shall be 64,722.5 properties.**
- (ii) the amount calculated by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council as the Tax base for the Town Council of Mossley for the year 2024/2025 shall be 3,487.1 properties.**

107 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2024/2025

Consideration was given to a report of the First Deputy, Finance, Resources and Transformation / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services. The report sought approval to continue the Council Tax Reduction Scheme adapted for 2023/24 and a hardship fund to assist severe cases of hardship.

In setting a Council Tax Support scheme for 2024/2025 it had been important to consider the current operation of the scheme in terms of demand, costs, equalities, support and risks. The scheme was operating as expected and therefore no changes were proposed to the scheme other than a change of wording in respect of the way the scheme is administered. Appendix 3 detailed Tameside's Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/2025.

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 increase 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. The procedural requirements had been adhered to as the scheme would be adopted before 11 March 2024 before the start of the financial year to which the scheme applies. The prescribed requirements continued to be contained within the scheme and claimants of pension age continued to be fully protected within the scheme.

The scheme, when drafted, was designed to be as fair as possible and support would continue to be provided with a Hardship Fund of £50k to be administered by Exchequer Services as part of the Section 13A legislation and policy. 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. Council Tax collection rates had been monitored throughout the year. Additional support would continue to be provided via the Hardship Fund, continuing to provide the on-line calculator, up to date web pages and self-service account access.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given to continue the Council Tax Reduction Scheme adapted for 2023/2024, known as the Council Tax Support Scheme, as set out in Appendix Three; save for the following:**
 - annual benefit uprating which are not yet released by Department of Work and Pensions;**
 - further guidance which may be issued by Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.**
 - the amendment to the wording in the scheme as detailed at section 4 of the report**
- (ii) That approval be given for a £50,000 hardship fund be in place to assist severe cases of hardship funded from existing budgets, to be administered by Exchequer Services under the existing Section 13A Policy.**

108 TAMESIDE VIOLENCE REDUCTION STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Towns and Communities / Director of Public Health. This report provides an outline of the Serious Violence Strategy for Tameside.

It was explained that this was a five year strategy in response to the new Serious Violence Duty which came into effect in January 2023 across England. This required a range of local 'specified authorities' to set out a strategy for how they would reduce and prevent serious violence in the local area. The strategy for Tameside was based on the findings and recommendations from the Tameside Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment which was completed in the Autumn of 2023.

This strategy aligned to wider priorities across the council including the Health & Wellbeing Strategy; Building Resilience, Tackling Poverty Strategy; and the Community Safety Strategy. This also reflected close working with the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit and aligns to work done at a Greater Manchester level.

This strategy would be delivered by, and have oversight from, the Tameside Community Safety Partnership Board, which had representation from each of the specified authorities with responsibility for delivering the duty. This report sought approval for the final public version of the Tameside Serious Violence Strategy to be published as per the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty. Ongoing delivery and monitoring of the priorities within the strategy will take place at the Tameside Community Safety Partnership Board, including the development of an action plan.

RESOLVED

That approval be given for the five-year Tameside Serious Violence Strategy for publication to ensure the council, along with other specified authorities, meets the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty.

109 LOCALLY COMMISSIONED SERVICES - PHARMACY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Population Health & Wellbeing / Director of Public Health. The report sought approval for a direct award to local pharmacies in Tameside to deliver the locally commissioned services.

It was explained that Public Health commissioned services from local pharmacies located in Tameside, which provided additional services for residents and preventative interventions under a standard NHS Contract. In July 2022 the GM NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) took over the management of this contract when Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) ceased to exist. More recently, following notification from the ICB of an issue with the transfer of this contract during the merger from the CCG to the ICB the contract was novated back to the council for a temporary period whilst the ICB undertake a review of locally commissioned service (LCS) provision. The proposal was that the contracts for these services in pharmacies would revert back to the previous arrangements aligned with the ICBs wider commissioning of LCSs in community pharmacies from April 2025 onwards.

The current contract was due to expire on 31 March 2024 and this report sought permission to issue a direct award to the relevant pharmacies in Tameside for a contract for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 at an estimated cost of £0.095m (dependent on activity) whilst the review of LCS provision is undertaken. The LCS provision in community pharmacies was crucial as part of the mandated public health functions of the local authority. A direct award route for this was being sought due to the specialist and localised nature of community pharmacy providers across Tameside.

RESOLVED

That approval be given for the direct award to local pharmacies in Tameside to deliver the locally commissioned services under this contract for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

110 STALYBRIDGE TOWN CENTRE DELIVERY FRAMEWORK

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment / Director of Place / Assistant Director Investment, Development and Housing. The report provided an update on the preparation of a Development Framework for Stalybridge Town Centre and the ongoing work to facilitate the delivery of its regeneration.

It was explained that the Framework provided a strategic approach to the transformation of Stalybridge Town Centre, building on development activity undertaken to date and representing a significant acceleration in its scope and delivery. It set out the key actions identified for the period to March 2026 to progress the delivery of the Stalybridge Regeneration Programme against the principles of the Framework utilising the secured Capital Regeneration Projects funding whilst supporting further investment and development.

In order to ensure effective delivery, the Stalybridge Regeneration Programme Dashboard had been established and was monitored at meetings of the Stalybridge Strategic Project Board. The current status of project delivery in the Town Centre was as follows:

- Work to the Civic Hall building started on site in August 2023 and delivery is progressing as planned with completion scheduled by Summer 2024.
- Further survey and design work is being completed on the proposed works to the Ashley Cheetham Art Gallery and Library to enable works to start on this building in July 2024.
- Delivery of the Phase 1 public realm works on Market Street are on site. The first stage between Melbourne Street and the bus station opened to traffic in November 2023. The final stage between Melbourne Street and Trinity Street will complete by February 2024.
- The public realm strategy for future phases has been commissioned and is due to be completed in Spring 2024.
- A Development Prospectus has been prepared for the Council owned Stalybridge West sites. A strategy for delivery of the enabling infrastructure and procurement of a partner for future residential development is being prepared and will be subject to a future report in 2024.

The interventions supported by the Framework and the Stalybridge Regeneration Programme would support delivery of the Council's strategic priorities as set out in the Tameside Corporate Plan, the Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy, Places for Everyone, Unitary Development Plan and the emerging Homes, Spaces, Places, Plan.

RESOLVED

- (i) Approval be given for the Stalybridge Town Centre Delivery Framework to support implementation of the Stalybridge Regeneration Programme and act as a material consideration when consulting on planning applications in the area to guide proposals for development in accordance with the principles within the Framework.**
- (ii) To note the ongoing work in relation to delivery of the Stalybridge Regeneration Programme.**

111 PERMISSION TO CONSULT ON ADULT SOCIAL CARE CHARGES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness and Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report set out a request for approval to consult on a second phase of alignment of charges to the fee paid by the Council for care and support provided, the adoption of a revised Transport and Travel Policy along with the introduction of charges for some areas that were currently not charged for.

The proposed consultation would focus on a number of key areas:

- The further alignment of charges to people who use services, with the fee paid by the Council for care and support provided, within the context of the national means test
- The removal of a maximum weekly charge for non-residential services
- Introduction of new charges for discretionary non-eligible services

In addition, the public would be asked for general feedback on the draft Transport and Travel Policy and the simplified format that makes it easier for the public to access information relevant to them.

It should be stressed that any changes to charges were subject to the national means test and people would not be asked to pay for care that they cannot afford. Regardless of any charges, people would undergo a financial assessment to establish their financial contribution to the total cost of their care. As a result, some people may be required to:

- Pay the full cost of their care (self-funders)
- Pay a partial contribution
- Not pay at all.

The consultation would run for four weeks, commencing on Monday 29 January 2024 and closing on Sunday 25 February 2024. Every effort had been made to ensure people that could potentially be impacted by these proposals have had the opportunity to feed into the consultation during 2024.

It was estimated that the proposed would generate a moderate increase in income for the Council. In addition, it would simplify the Adult Social Care Charging Policy and explain more clearly, the way the service charges for care.

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 will ensure consultation during 2024 to bring forward recommendations for subsequent changes at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet approve:

- (i) **Consultation with the public on a second phase of alignment of charges in relation to:**
 - **Day Service**
 - **Supported Living**
 - **Respite Care – Learning Disability**
 - **Payroll and Managed Accounts for Direct Payments**
- (ii) **Consultation on a revised Transport and Travel Policy including proposed charges.**
- (iii) **Consultation on the introduction of charges for discretionary services that are currently not charged for.**
 - **Pet Care**
 - **Key Safes**
 - **Replacement costs for pre-payment cards**
- (iii) **Consultation on the removal of the maximum weekly charge for non-residential services.**

112 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF A RESPITE SERVICE FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

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 to award a contract for the provision of a respite service for adults with a learning disability.

Members were reminded that on 24 August 2022, approval was given by Executive Cabinet to tender a Respite Service for Adults with a Learning Disability to commence 1 October 2023 for a period of five years up to 30 September 2028. Further to this, on 27 September 2023 approval was given by Executive Cabinet to extend the current provision for 18 months from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2025 to allow time for a complete review of supported accommodation for people with learning disabilities which included a number of other Adults contracts together with the Respite Service.

It was explained that the incumbent provider of the Respite Service for People with a Learning Disability contract had since confirmed its intention not to continue with the contract once it ended on

1 October 2023 but had agreed to continue with a six month extension only from 1 October 2023 to 31 March 2024.

To align with the previous governance obtained on 24 August 2022 by Executive Cabinet, the intention was to award a contract for a duration of four years and six months from 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2028, with no option to extend.

The Council had therefore completed a comprehensive competitive procurement process and the highest-ranking provider had been identified. This report sought approval by Executive Cabinet to award the contract as detailed in the report to Company H namely, Icare Solutions Stockport LTD.

That the award of the contract to the highest ranking and most economically advantageous provider namely: Icare Solutions Stockport LTD be approved

113 CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR THE PROVISION OF INTEGRATED ELECTRONIC HOME CARE MONITORING

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 extension for the provision of integrated electronic homecare monitoring and scheduling solution.

Members were reminded that on 27 September 2023, approval was given by Executive Cabinet to tender for the Provision of an Integrated Electronic Staff Monitoring and Scheduling Solution for a contract period of five years and 24 days to commence 7 March 2024 to 31 March 2029.

It had since been identified, that the solution should be linked to an electronic care management system for the Councils in house registered providers. The Government 10 year Strategy - People at the Heart of Care states - Technologies could complement and enhance the quality of care delivered by the workforce, while digitisation of care records would ensure care staff and multidisciplinary teams have the information they need to provide holistic, person-centred care in any setting. Following the Government 10 year Strategy recommendation for digitalisation the Council's external registered providers had been required to move to electronic care management systems. Therefore, there was a need to ensure the Councils internal provision were also adopting this change.

In order to carry out full market research, establish the correct route to market and seek governance for the electronic care management system to be procured in conjunction with the electronic staff monitoring and scheduling solution, this report sought an extension to the current Electronic Staff Monitoring and Scheduling Solution contract for a period of 12 months from 7 March 2024 to 6 March 2025.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given for the extension of the current contract for the Provision of Integrated Electronic Home Care Monitoring and Scheduling Solution with HAS Technology for 12 months to commence 7 March 2024 to 6 March 2025.**
- (ii) That approval be given for the commencement of a soft market test early 2024, to establish the market interest and the correct route to market to procure the required electronic social care management and staff monitoring and scheduling solution.**

114 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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 to award a contract for the provision of mental health services.

Members were advised that on 24 August 2022, approval was given by Executive Cabinet to extend the current contract for the period of 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023 for a period of 12 months to allow

for an options appraisal of the different procurement options available to be considered with the support of STAR Procurement.

Following the appraisal and the completion of a Soft Market Test process, this report sought approval by Executive Cabinet to direct award the contract to the current provider namely; Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED

That approval be given for the direct award of the contract for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027 with an option to extend for 12 months to the incumbent provider namely: Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind.

115 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF HEALTHWATCH

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. The report sought approval to award a contract for the provision of the Healthwatch Service.

The core legislation for Healthwatch was the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act (2007) and Health and Social Care Act (2012). The Council had a duty to make provisions for the delivery of Local Healthwatch statutory activity in Tameside. NHS complaints was included in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Council were required to make arrangements, as it considered appropriate, for the provision of services in relation to its area, providing assistance to individuals in connection with complaints relating to the provision of services as part of the Health Service.

The Council is provided with Central Government funding to provide both services. On 24 August 2022, Executive Cabinet approved a tender process for a contract commencement date of 1 April 2024 for a Healthwatch Service for a contract period of six years to 31 March 2030.

This report sought to gain permission to award the provision of Healthwatch contract to commence 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2030 and to modify the current Independent Advocacy contract dated 1 September 2022 to 6 July 2027 to include NHS complaints Levels 1 to 4 from 1 April 2024 to 6 July 2027.

RESOLVED

- (i) Approval be given to the recommended Option 4 for the delivery of the Healthwatch and NHS Levels 1 to 4 complaints contract from 1 April 2024.**
- (ii) To direct award the provision of Healthwatch contract to Action Together to commence 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2030.**
- (iii) To modify the existing Independent Advocacy contract dated 1 September 2022 to 6 July 2027 to include NHS Level 1 to 4 complaints to commence 1 April 2024 to 6 July 2027.**

116 CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY SAFEGUARDS ASSESSMENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity / Director of Adult Services. This report sought approval to procure a new Flexible Purchasing System (FPS) of DoLS Assessments carried out by Best Interest Assessors and Section 12 Doctors.

Members were advised that the Council had a duty to act as a supervisory body for the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) which imposed upon it a more general duty to act as a Human Rights Champion for those adults who might lack capacity to agree to actions taken by others. The role of the Human Rights Champion entailed the active promotion of the human rights of citizens. The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards were an amendment to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and apply in England and Wales only. The Mental Capacity Act allowed some restraint and restrictions to be used

– but only if they were in a person's best interests and necessary and proportionate. The FPS would include:

- Lot 1 - Best Interest Assessors to select for both with and without a Mental Capacity Assessment, and select Council areas where the provider is able to deliver assessments;
- Lot 2 - Mental Health Assessors to selected for both with and without a Mental Capacity Assessment, and Council areas where the provider is able deliver assessments;
- Lot 3 – Court of Protection DoLS renewals.

On 27 October 2021 approval was given by Strategic Commissioning Board, to tender for a framework of DoLS Assessors to commence no later than 31 March 2023. The delays in the implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) had unfortunately impacted on the procurement timescales and delayed the Councils ability to meet the tender requirements approved at Strategic Commissioning Board on 27 October 2021.

Given the notification on 1 April 2023 confirming the indefinite delay of the implementation of LPS it was now necessary to complete a further review of current provision to ensure that statutory responsibilities of the Council were met.

Therefore, permission was sought to continue with the current procurement arrangements to 30 September 2024, which would allow a full review and tender process to take place with a view to entering into a new five year contract commencing on 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2029.

RESOLVED

- (i) Approval be given for the continuation of the current procurement arrangements until 30 September 2024.**
- (ii) Approval be given to procure a new FPS containing 3 lots via STAR Procurement, to deliver Best Interest Assessments, Mental Health Assessments, and Mental Capacity Assessments, and CoPDoLS renewals to commence 1 October 2024 to 31 September 2029 for a period of 5 years.**
- (iii) That on each occasion the FPS is opened, any recommendations for contract award would be authorised and signed off by the Executive Member for Adult Social Care Homelessness & Inclusivity and the Director of Adult Services.**

117 CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF SUPPORT FOR OLDER PEOPLE

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 a contract for the provision of support for older people.

The current service was delivered by Age UK Tameside at their premises at 131 Katherine Street Ashton – under- Lyne, in the community and on the telephone. The aim of the commissioned service was to support both the promotion of independence and maintenance of services and also the development of new initiatives in furtherance of agreed preventive principles. Central to this approach was reducing the development of a range of social problems, improving the quality of life for older people in Tameside and relieving pressure on statutory services.

It was explained that the support and advice offered to older people in Tameside by Age UK reduces demand into core services such as adult's social care and the hospital, and also mitigated other challenges such as financial difficulty, which was particularly important in the light of the current cost of living crisis.

Following the appraisal and the completion of a soft market test process, this report sought approval by Executive Cabinet to direct award the contract to the current provider namely; Age UK Tameside as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED

That the direct award of the contract for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2027 with an option

to extend for 12 months to the incumbent provider namely: Age UK Tameside be approved.

118 URGENT ITEM - MEADOW STREET HYDE – STATEMENT ON MAJOR INCIDENT

The Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment delivered an update and made a statement in respect to the fire which occurred on Markey Street Hyde on the 22 January 2023.

The Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment thanked emergency services for their swift action in controlling the incident and shared relief that there were no reported casualties or injuries as a consequence of the fire.

It was reported that the fire had destroyed the business premises of Visual Architects, a vibrant and growing local business specialising in immersive decor and set design with a national and international profile. It was explained that they had a track record of supporting the local economy and residents through employment and event sponsorship as well as being passionate advocates of the future plans surrounding Hyde Town Centre. The team in Economy, Employment and Skills had been working with the business in the aftermath of Monday's devastating news and were providing a range of support to the team both immediate term but also looking at their longer term disaster recovery. Tameside were proud to be the home of Visual Architects and the Council was committed to providing business support to their team as they navigated through this difficult time.

RESOLVED

That the information provided be noted.

CHAIR