

EXECUTIVE CABINET

18 December 2019

Present: Councillors Warrington (Chair), Bray, Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Ryan and Wills

In Attendance:

Councillor Ricci	Chief Executive
Councillor J Homer	Director of Governance and Pensions
Steven Pleasant	Director of Finance
Sandra Stewart	Director of Operations & Neighbourhoods
Kathy Roe	Director of Children's Services
Ian Saxon	Director of Adult Services
Richard Hancock	Director of Growth
Stephanie Butterworth	Director of Commissioning
Jayne Traverse	Assistant Director of Finance
Jess Williams	Assistant Director, Operations & Neighbourhoods
Tom Wilkinson	Head of Access Services
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director, Exchequer Services
Catherine Moseley	Consultant, Population Health
Ilys Cookson	Co-Chair of NHS CCG Tameside & Glossop
Sarah Exall	
Asad Ali	

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Gwynne and Kitchen

74 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members of Executive Cabinet.

75 EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet meeting held on 27 November 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

76 STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 27 November 2019 be noted.

77 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting held on 25 November 2019. Approval was sought of recommendations of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel arising from the meeting.

RESOLVED

(a) The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 25 November 2019, be noted.

(b) That the following recommendations be approved:

EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- (i) The proposed changes to the Education Capital Programme, as outlined in Appendix 1 (Basic Need Funding Schemes) and Appendix 2 (School Condition Allocation Funding Schemes); and**
- (ii) The allocation of budget from the Special Provision Fund for post 16 development at Cromwell High School.**
- (iii) That the risk relating to the delayed allocation of Basic Need Funding in future years (Section 2 of the report) be noted;**
- (iv) That the risks highlighted in Section 5 of the report be noted;**
- (v) That approval is given to work identified in the report; and**
- (vi) £547,648.39 be approved for S106 drawdown.**

GROWTH CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- (i) That the following be added to the Council Capital Programme:**
 - **The corporate landlord capital expenditure associated with statutory compliance work for the period identified of £0.115 million; and**
 - **S106 education contributions totalling £0.453 million, as detailed above.**

OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- (i) That CCAG2 budgets be amended to reflect the revised figures as detailed above; and**
- (ii) The cost of the replacement of 4 x 4 fleet vehicle, which would be funded from revenue through RCCO as detailed in above.**

78 GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

RESOVLED

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held on: 27 September and 25 October 2019, be noted.

79 CORE FUNDING – VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, FAITH AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SECTOR (VCFSE)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member Adult Social Care and Population Health / CCG Chair / Director of Adult Services, which explained that, further to funding of the VCFSE sector in previous years to support the sector to grow and develop community services to support the work of the Strategic Commission, authorisation for the continuation of previous arrangements for the core funding for the period 2019-2022, was sought.

The report set out the case for funding arrangements with Age UK, Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind and Action Together. The justification for continuing the agreements reflected the close working relationship that had developed with each organisation over many years and the mutual benefits this close working had brought to the citizens of Tameside.

It was explained that with each of the three proposed agreements, the central theme was the confirmation of the Council providing some core funding which would afford each organisation a level of security in terms of longer term planning as the funding underpinned their core infrastructure operating costs. The funding would be provided on the basis of delivery of the core activity, as set out in Section 3 of the report. These three organisations, as representatives of the local VCFSE sector were key organisations in supporting the Council in delivering its responsibilities in relation to the Care Act and in particular the changes introduced from April 2015, specifically their significant contribution to:

- **The duty of prevention and wellbeing to prevent or delay the need for care;**

- The duty to provide information and advice, including about paying for care;
- The extension of eligibility criteria to include carers; and
- The duty to shape the local care and support market.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the Executive Cabinet approve funding with Age UK (Tameside and Tameside, Oldham and Glossop MIND is continued for one year from 1 April 2019;**
- (ii) **That an additional sum of £100,565 non recurrent grant funding be awarded to Age UK for 2019/20 only;**
- (iii) **That funding with Action Together be continued for a further three years from 1 April 2019;**
- (iv) **That the level of funding identified in Section 6.1 (Table 1) of the report be agreed for the specified period form 1 April 2019 in line with the standard conditions of the Council; and**
- (v) **That market testing be undertaken during 2019/20 to inform future funding decisions with a view to awarding funding for three years. On completion of the market tests, delegated authority be given to the Director of Adult Services to award the core funding.**

80 PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Adult Social Care and Population Health / CCG Clinical Lead / Director of Commissioning presenting the Tameside and Glossop Primary Care Workforce Plan 2020-2025 (a copy of which was appended to the report). The Plan provided a comprehensive overview of the key priorities across Tameside and Glossop in terms of the Primary Care Workforce, in the context of the current position and ambitions to make Tameside and Glossop a place that people come to stay and work.

It was explained that the strategy had been developed using a collaborative integrated system approach. The respective detailed Delivery Plan would be formulated in the same way to ensure a consistent and effective programme of workstreams for the workforce. This also ensured that the Primary Care Workforce Strategy aligned to the Locality Workforce Plan that was already in place and which encompassed the wider workforce, including the delivery of the Care Together transformation programme.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the Tameside and Glossop Primary Care Workforce Strategy 2020-2025, including the key principles and priorities set out, be approved;**
- (ii) **That the Academy construct as the accountable vehicle for co-ordination and management of the Delivery Plan, be approved; and**
- (iii) **That regular progress updates and assurance be provided to the Primary Care Committee.**

81 20/21 PROVIDER COMMISSIONING INTENTIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Adult Social Care and Health)/CCG Chair/Director of Commissioning which set out the CCG's Commissioning Intentions for all partners in 2020-21. It was explained that commissioning intentions provided a basis for constructive dialogue between Commissioners and Providers of Health and Social Care services to inform business planning and contracting. They were intended to set the strategic context to drive improved outcomes for patients and guide the design and delivery of care within available resources.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted and the distribution of the Commissioning Intentions to Partners, be approved.

82 MONTH 7 INTEGRATED FINANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / CCG Chair / Director of Finance providing an overview on the financial position of the Tameside and Glossop economy in 2019/20. For the year to 31 March 2020 the report forecast that service expenditure would exceed the approved budget in a number of areas, due to a combination of cost pressures, shortfalls in income and non-delivery of savings.

It was explained that for the 2019/20 financial year the Integrated Commissioning Fund was forecast to spend £620 million, against an approved net budget of £619 million. The forecast overspend of £0.514 million was primarily driven by Children's Services, Growth, Operations and Neighbourhoods and CCG TEP shortfall, offset by contingency and capital financing. The overall position was relatively stable this month with minimal movements across all service areas. Further detail on the economy wide position was included in an Appendix to the report.

The forecast had deteriorated slightly from last month by £25k. This movement related to an increase in the shortfall of TEP of £25k, which was due to the recent review of the Star Chambers schemes.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the significant level of savings required during 2019/20 and beyond to deliver a balanced recurrent economy budget together with the related risks, which are contributing to the overall adverse forecast, be acknowledged; and**
- (ii) That the significant financial pressures facing the Strategic Commission, particularly in respect of Children's Social Care and Operations & Neighbourhoods, and Growth, be acknowledged.**

83 TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW 2019/20

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Director of Finance setting out the Treasury Management activities for the financial year 2019/20, including the borrowing strategy and investment strategy.

Members were informed the Council held £118.750m of investments as at 30 September 2019 and the investment portfolio yield to date is 1.06% against the London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) benchmark of 0.57%. This represented An actual cash return of £0.251m in excess of the benchmark. As at 30 September 2019 the Council's total borrowing was £141.531m.

RESOLVED:

That the reported treasury activity and performance be noted.

84 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2020-21

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Assistant Director, Exchequer Services, explaining that the law required that the calculation of the Council Tax base for tax setting must be made between 1 December and 31 January. The Calculated Tax Base was used to estimate the value of Council tax income.

It was reported that the calculation of the authority tax base for Council Tax setting purposes gave an estimated Band D equivalent of 64599.9. There were no Ministry of Defence properties in Tameside. An estimated collection rate of 98% gave a Council Tax base of 63307.9.

The calculation of the Mossley Parish tax base for Council Tax setting purposes gave an estimated Band D equivalent of 3563.3, as there were no Ministry of Defence properties in Mossley, an estimated collection rate of 98% was used and this gave a Council Tax base of 3492.

RESOLVED

That, pursuant to the figures set out in the report 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 2020/21 shall be 63307.9; and**
- (ii) The amount calculated by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council as the tax base for the Town Council for Mossley for the year 2020/21 shall be 3492.**

85 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Director of Finance seeking a recommendation to Council for the approval of the Council Tax Support scheme for 2020/21.

It was reported that, in setting a Council Tax Support scheme for 2020/21 it had been important to consider the current operation of the scheme.

Demand for the Council Tax Support scheme had steadily reduced throughout the year to date and the cost of the scheme had continued to reduce. The scheme, when drafted, was designed to be as fair as possible and it appeared sensible to continue to provide a Hardship Fund of £50k currently administered via the Tameside Resettlement Scheme.

The public sector equality duty had been considered in relation to the live operation of the scheme. There would be no anticipated specific impacts negative or positive on the following protected characteristic areas as a result of the council tax support scheme – ethnicity, marriage/civil partnership, sexual orientation, religion and belief and gender re-assignment, disability, age and gender. There had been a reduction in overall caseload and categories of claimant as evidenced via the quarterly monitoring that had taken place.

The procedural requirements had been adhered to as the scheme would be adopted before 11 March before the start of the financial year to which the scheme applied. The prescribed requirements continued to be contained within the scheme and claimants of state pension credit age would continue to receive the same support as they received under Council Tax Benefit.

Additional wording had been incorporated into the scheme for 2020/21 to clarify the position of the Local Authority regarding adjustments to a claimant's entitlement to Council Tax Support in line with guidance provided in August 2019 by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

As it was not intended to change the basis of the scheme, no consultation other than that required to precepting bodies and the general public consultation of the Forward Plan for a Key Decision, no further consultation was believed to be required under the legislation. Precepting bodies had been notified and the same scheme was proposed to be adapted in 2020/21 as that set in 2013/14, and as revised in April 2016.

Council Tax collection rates had been monitored throughout the year and support and advice had been made available to all CTS claimants. Additional support would continue to be provided via the hardship Fund, continuing to provide the on-line calculator, up to date web pages, self service account access, advice and summons surgeries.

RESOLVED

That Executive Cabinet recommends to Council:

- (i) That the scheme introduced in 2013/14 as amended in 2016/17 be continued; and the council tax reduction scheme for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be adopted.
- (ii) That approval be given for a £50,000 hardship fund in order to assist severe cases of hardship funded from existing budgets and currently administered via the Tameside Resettlement Scheme.

86 COLLECTION, RECOVERY AND IRRECOVERABLE MONIES

The Deputy Executive Leader / Assistant Director, Exchequer Services, submitted a report detailing the collection and recovery processes for Council Tax, Business Rates and Sundry Debts, compared levels of irrecoverable debts in Greater Manchester, identified debt which could not, by law be recovered, in addition to recommending new processes to assist in the recovery of sundry debts.

RESOLVED

- (i) That goods and services will only be provided after receipt of payment (subject to any legislation providing otherwise) with effect from 1 April 2020;
- (ii) That good and services cease to be provided where payment for those goods or services is in arrears, (subject to any legislation providing otherwise), with effect from 1 April 2020;
- (iii) That Services should consider if interest can be added to late payment charges with effect from 1 April 2020;
- (iv) That approval of irrecoverable monies by law to be written off with immediate effect (as detailed in Appendix 4 of the report); and
- (v) That a corporate charging, income and collection policy be drafted.

87 VISION TAMESIDE – ASHTON TOWN HALL PHASE

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Director of Growth, which explained that works to Ashton Town Hall formed the next phase of the Vision Tameside flagship development.

It was reported that the condition of Ashton Town hall continued to give cause for concern and if significant work was not undertaken to the 'envelope' in the short term then this significant heritage asset may be put at risk, and the cost of work required to restore and redevelop the building was likely to increase significantly. In order to arrest any further deterioration of the building, which would inevitably occur whilst alternative development options were explored, it was proposed that governance be sought to undertake an 'envelope' refurbishment/restoration scheme procured through the LEP as the first stage of a two stage approach to the redevelopment of the building.

In order to establish a high level cost and programme the LEP would require a budget of £0.050m. In advance of the proposed envelope scheme, emergency repair works were required to the building parapet and roof. The cost of the emergency repair was estimated to be £0.120m. In addition, a further £1.100m was requested as a contingent budget which would mitigate any further delays if the costs of the emergency repairs increased beyond the projected budget.

RESOLVED

That a further £0.270m be released from the remaining Ashton Town Hall earmarked budget of £9.990m, as set out in the report.

88 CYCLING EVENTS IN TAMESIDE MBC

A report of the Executive Member, Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods was submitted, setting out a proposal to secure a televised cycling event within the Borough in May 2020 and for the following 2 years. Should the Council take this forward, the report outlined the potential costs and benefits to hosting a high profile cycle race in the Borough.

It was reported that, following the successful delivery, including extensive community engagement, when the Tour of Britain 2019 raced through Tameside in Stage 8 of the competition, an exclusive offer of hosting the elite men's and women's 1km cycling race of the OVO energy Tour Series for a 3 year period, had been extended to Tameside. This offer had not been extended to any of the other Greater Manchester Authorities.

Whilst there was a cost of £75,000 per annum over a 3 year period from 2020, the event was very high profile, televised internationally and brought significant economic and social impact, promoted health and wellbeing, participation and inclusion, and made effective use of existing infrastructure and showcased tourism. It may be possible to offset some of the costs with sponsorship from local businesses.

RESOLVED

- (i) **That the Council underwrite an investment of £75k per annum for 3 years to host the OVO Energy Tour Series Race in Tameside with additional funding of £75k per annum for support costs and a Community Cycling Festival subject to the Council seeking external sponsorship to hold the Council neutral; and**
- (ii) **That the Community Cycling Festival to accompany the event is developed, costed and presented to Executive Cabinet for consideration.**

89 IMPROVING STANDARDS IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

Consideration was given to a report of Executive Member, Housing, Planning and Employment / Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods / Director of Growth, which informed Members that the Private Rented Sector was growing in Tameside. More families and older people were now renting privately, in part due to a lack of affordable housing and the difficulty of acquiring mortgage finance.

Most homes in the private rented sector in Tameside were of a good quality, however, at the lower end of the market there was growing evidence that poor quality standards were having a significant impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of residents.

The report outlined:

- the scale and significance of poor quality private rented sector housing in Tameside;
- the impact of poor quality private rented sector housing on population health, community safety and homelessness;
- the criteria, benefits, limitations, cost and processes involved in selective licensing; and
- the potential introduction of selective licensing in Tameside.

It was explained that, in developing proposals for improving standards in the Private Rented Sector, the Place and External Relations Scrutiny Panel had been an effective forum for developing and debating ideas and work to date was detailed in the report.

It was further explained that presentations detailing conditions in the Private Rented Sector and the potential for introducing selective licensing were given to each of the four Neighbourhood Forums during October 2019. Feedback on the initial exercise was positive, with many residents approving of the decision to improve standards in the Private Rented Sector. As with Scrutiny, it was vital that any consideration of the potential introduction of selective licensing was co-produced as much

as possible with the input and advice of residents, tenants, landowners, local business interests and community groups.

With regard to next steps, the report sought approval for £80k to initiate a package of works and consultation exercise in order to assess the feasibility and suitability of introducing selective licensing in Tameside.

RESOLVED

- (i) That a whole-system approach to the Private Rented Sector be adopted, incorporating a range of community-based measures as outlined in Section 4 of the report;**
- (ii) That approval be given for £80k to support the project initiation stage; and**
- (iii) That delegated authority be granted to the Director of Growth in consultation with the Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods to incur and spend said funds.**

90 ELECTIVE HOME EDUCATION POLICY REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Assistant Director, Education outlining the policy and procedures to be observed when a parent elected to home educate their child, who was of compulsory school age.

The Policy (as appended to the report) set out parents' rights to educate their child at home, together with the legal duties and responsibilities of Head Teachers and Tameside Council. It also set out the arrangements Tameside Council would make in order to carry out its legal duties.

RESOLVED

That the Elective Home Education Policy for Tameside, as appended to the report, be approved.

91 DOING BUSES DIFFERENTLY – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED BUS FRANCHISING SCHEME

The Executive Member, Transport and Connectivity / Director of Growth submitted a report, which provided a summary of the proposed Bus Franchising initiative for Greater Manchester.

It was explained that the GMCA was proposing a franchising scheme for the whole of the conurbation. This would mean that bus services would be under Greater Manchester's control and Greater Manchester would decide which services would be provided. The GMCA would be able to set the routes, timetables, tickets and standards, while the bus operators would be contracted to run the services.

Details of the consultation process were given. All responses would be independently assessed as part of the consultation process. The Greater Manchester Mayor would also take the responses into account when taking any decision on whether to introduce the proposed franchising scheme. This decision was currently expected in March 2020 but subject to change depending on the progress and outcome of the consultation and any subsequent.

It was further reported that there were two versions of the questionnaire. A short version which contained 9 questions and a long version which contained 64 questions. A copy of the long version was appended to the report.

The report concluded that the GMCA had fully endorsed the move to explore the options of future bus franchising across the Greater Manchester Conurbation. Services were provided by commercial companies with little regard to the issues of integrated services either between bus providers themselves or with other sustainable modes such as rail and the Metrolink.

Tameside had a multitude of operators running services in the Borough with the big two providers traditionally splitting the area into two distinct geographical zones with little competition or overlap of services. Profits were retained by the operators which could be used to subsidise other unviable operations.

In order to support the proposed franchising of services and achieve a service level required for a fully integrated service to support the wider needs of GM, it was proposed that the letter appended to the report, be approved, signed by the Leader of the Council and forwarded to the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given to the letter from the Leader of the Council (as appended to the report), in response to the Mayor of GMCA 'Doing Buses Differently: Proposed Franchising Scheme for Greater Manchester'; and**
- (ii) That delegation be given to the Director of Growth, in consultation with the Executive Member for Transport and Connectivity, to formally respond to all 64 questions contained in the long consultation questionnaire (as appended to the report) before the close of the formal consultation at midnight Wednesday 8 January 2020, in support of the proposed bus franchising initiative.**

CHAIR