

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	25 March 2020
Executive Member:	Cllr Oliver Ryan, Finance and Economic Growth
Reporting Officer:	Jayne Traverse Director of Growth David Berry Head of Economy, Employment and Skills
Subject:	INCLUSIVE GROWTH – DIGITAL INCLUSION OFFICER AND PROSPEROUS BOARD REVIEW
Report Summary:	This reports sets out Tameside Council’s successful bid to Greater Manchester Combined Authority to fund the programme of Digital Inclusion Officer and how this will support delivery of the emerging Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy. The report also provides outcomes from the recent Prosperous Board review.
Recommendations:	Cabinet are recommended to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the Digital Inclusion Officer programme and entering into the necessary Grant Agreement. 2. Note the outcomes of the Prosperous Board Review.
Corporate Plan:	This Digital Inclusion programme supports activity and outcomes across all priorities in the Corporate Plan.
Policy Implications:	Effective Inclusive Growth for Tameside’s economy is cross cutting and supports delivery of the Corporate Plan.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	There are no direct Financial implications as a result of this report. It must be noted that any costs incurred to deliver the inclusive growth strategy must be kept within the budget.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	There are no direct legal implications arising from this report save for the ongoing need to ensure that the delivery of the Inclusive Growth vision is prudent, and considered, taking into account public sector equality duty considerations. Any grant agreement will need to be considered to ensure no additional liability for the Authority, which this report doesn’t address.
Risk Management:	The delivery of the Strategy will require the Council in particular to manage high level risks effectively in transforming our economy through an inclusive growth approach.
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting David Berry Head of Economy, Employment and Skills:
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	 e-mail: david.berry@tameside.gov.uk

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Tameside Council (TMBC) is developing an Inclusive Growth Strategy 2020-25 that will set the vision, aims, priorities and delivery plans to transform Tameside with a focus on digital inclusion and connectivity. Inclusive Growth for Tameside's economy will deliver economic growth for all by enabling all Tameside's residents to access opportunities. As part of the emerging Inclusive Growth Strategy TMBC has been successful in a bid to Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) for an 18 month Digital Inclusion Officer programme. TMBC has also worked with the Tameside Prosperous Board to review business networking structures to support the delivery of inclusive growth.

2. DIGITAL INCLUSION PROGRAMME

- 2.1 TMBC submitted a bid to GMCA in December 2019 to support our work on digital skills and specifically inclusion. The bid was successful and Tameside Council will enter into a grant agreement with GMCA for the delivery of an 18 month programme to support communities and businesses with digital inclusion. The value of the Grant is £50,000 and includes the salary with on-costs for a Digital Inclusion Officer (£45,000) and a small discretionary budget (£5,000). This work supports the wider delivery of the Inclusive Growth Strategy and is an example of leveraging external funding to increase capacity and delivery.
- 2.2 Each stage of the Digital Inclusion Officer's work stream will have deliver outcomes to link to the GM digital inclusion framework.

Discovery: The outcome of this would be as follows:

- Residents to be able to find digital inclusion support where they're not looking for it, therefore capturing residents who "don't want computer skills"
- Community groups and services to be able to support users to overcome digital exclusion
- New activities to be delivered efficiently and without unnecessary duplication due to asset-based approach to community development

Design: The outcome of this would be as follows:

- Locally produced activities and resources that will be widely shared to ensure good practice is followed, leaving legacy of DIO after funding for post is spent
- Developing a bank of resources for wider local digital skills ecosystem to use
- Longer term sustainability through design of digital infrastructure and services to remove barriers to inclusion

Delivery: The outcome of this would be as follows:

- A number of digitally excluded individuals will gain 'Foundation Digital Skills'
- A legacy of local leaders who can deliver digital skills and inclusion

- 2.3 The GMCA Grant Agreement is required to be sealed on approval from Cabinet.

3. BUSINESS INVOLVEMENT AND DELIVERY

- 3.1 The private sector will drive inclusive growth through the creation of new businesses, jobs and increased productivity. The building blocks of the inclusive growth are provided by private enterprise and other sectors working together to evolve current practices and approaches. The Tameside Prosperous Board has recently been reviewed and refreshed with the creation of the Tameside Prosperous Network. **Appendix A** sets out a summary of the new model for business networking and growth through the Prosperous Network.

- 3.2 In setting up the new Prosperous Network the Council will also lead in the creation of a new Inclusive Growth Board. This Board will be chaired by the Executive Member Finance and Growth and lead on the implementation of the emerging Inclusive Growth Strategy and associated cross cutting Public Service Reform projects.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As set out at the front of the report.