



EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE

SERVICE AREA:	Children's Services
SUBJECT MATTER:	DIGITAL DEVICES AND SUPPORT TO PROVIDE REMOTE EDUCATION DURING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK
DECISION:	<p>To consider a report received by the Council's Covid-19 Executive Board and the executive decision made by the Executive Member and Chair of the Education Attainment Board that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Council will receive delivery of digital devices and that they will be safely stored until delivery.2. Option 4 (subject to a signed agreement, schools will own digital devices for children with a social worker) is agreed.3. The Council will deliver these devices to schools.4. As outlined in Government guidance Secondary schools will own digital devices for pupils in Year 10 and will be responsible for their allocation.5. The Head of Service, Looked after Children and Head of Service, Child Protection & Children in Need will agree with schools and named social workers a list of eligible children, to be approved by the Assistant Director for Children's Social Care.6. Should the allocation of devices from the DfE be insufficient to meet demand a further request will be made to the DfE noting that if there is excess demand an eligibility criteria will need to be determined by the Director of Childrens' in consultation with the schools.
DECISION TAKER(S):	Councillor Leanne Feeley
DESIGNATION OF DECISION TAKER (S):	Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage)
DATE OF DECISION:	3 June 2020
REASON FOR DECISION:	<p>On 19 April this year the Department for Education launched a scheme which would provide digital devices (laptops and tablets) for disadvantaged families, children and young people who do not currently have access to them through another source, such as their school. Digital devices can be requested for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• care leavers.• children and young people aged 0 to 19 with a social worker.• disadvantaged year 10 pupils. <p>A decision is required to determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the process by which eligible children will be identified.• how devices will be delivered to eligible children.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who will own the devices and be responsible for the associated risks. • how children will be safeguarded when using the devices.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS REJECTED (if any):	<p>Option 1 - TMBC retains ownership of all devices and maintains them as part of the managed service.</p> <p>Option 2 - TMBC provides devices directly to families who own them.</p> <p>Option 3 - TMBC does not accept its allocation of devices from the DfE.</p> <p>None of these options are regarded as optimal in the interests of pupils and residents.</p>
CONSULTEES:	<p>Various colleagues from IT Services, Risk and Insurance Services, Financial Management, a headteacher representative, Schools IT support. Children's Services teams including the Looked after Children Team, Child Protection and Children in Need Team, Virtual School and School Improvement Colleagues.</p>
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: (Authorised by Section 151 Officer)	<p>Option 4 presents financial implications.</p> <p>Distribution of laptops will be managed by the Humanitarian Hub that has been established for supporting residents during the Covid-19 period.</p> <p>The delivery of laptops to schools will be managed from within existing contracts. The only additional known cost of the process is the insuring the laptops, which are valued at approximately £300k, insurers have quoted £525 to cover the risk for 2 weeks only. Once in the schools, the individual school insurance will cover the risks and liabilities associated with the ownership and operation of the laptops.</p> <p>This premium will have to be funded from the covid funding provided by Government and to self-insure the risk if we suffer a transit claim or to cover any excess imposed.</p>
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: (Authorised by Borough Solicitor)	<p>The Council has had to move at pace in order to be able to take advantage of this central Government scheme.</p> <p>The appendix sets out a number of different options that have been considered in relation to how best to deal with these devices and option 4 has been chosen as the best option.</p> <p>As option 4 means that the ownership and related liabilities will rest with the schools the risk does not rest with the Council once the devices have been delivered to the schools.</p> <p>However there is a risk to the Council in relation to the initial storing and distribution of the laptops, which is intended to be mitigated by insurance and there will need to be some robust processes in place.</p> <p>As set out in this report the Council will also be supporting the schools with regards safeguarding pupils from any inappropriate use if the devices.</p>

	The Council is only passporting the digital devices through to the schools for allocation. In the event that demand is greater than the supply and the DfE is unwilling to provide any further the Director will need to agree a discretionary allocation criteria with school to deal with greatest need.
CONFLICT OF INTEREST:	None
DISPENSATION GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE ATTACHED:	Not Applicable
ACCESS TO INFORMATION:	Background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting: Tim Bowman, Assistant Director, Education  Telephone: 0161 342 2050  E-mail: tim.bowman@tameside.gov.uk

Signed **Dated:**
Councillor Leanne Feeley, Executive Member – Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage

EXECUTIVE DECISION REPORT

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DATE OF DECISION:	3 June 2020
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DESIGNATION OF DECISION TAKER (S):	Executive Member – Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage
REPORTING OFFICER:	Tim Bowman, Assistant Director Education
REPORT SUMMARY:	<p>As a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic schools in England have been closed to the majority of pupils since 23 March this year. Since this closure and the subsequent "lockdown" between 2-3% of pupils nationally have attended. These pupils are the children of key workers and those considered vulnerable.</p> <p>Therefore most children have been learning remotely, with work supplied by their school. The majority of this work is provided online. Pupils therefore required some access to a digital device to access it.</p> <p>To support schools to deliver a remotely accessible offer, on 19 April this year the Department for Education launched a scheme which would provide digital devices (laptops and tablets) for disadvantaged families, children and young people who do not currently have access to them through another source, such as their school. Digital devices can be requested for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• care leavers.• children and young people aged 0 to 19 with a social worker.• disadvantaged year 10 pupils. <p>The DfE have allocated Tameside:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 144 devices for pupils in maintained schools in Year 10 (Academy schools have been provided their own allocation), this is inclusive of mainstream, special and PRU.• 964 devices for pupils with a social worker.• 184 4G wireless routers. <p>Government guidance states that:</p> <p><i>Local authorities are responsible for ordering and distributing laptops and tablets to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>care leavers and children with a social worker.</i>• <i>year 10 pupils in maintained schools, including</i>

voluntary aided schools, who do not have a social worker.

Local authorities should work with schools to assess which pupils require a laptop or tablet.

Academy trusts are responsible for ordering and distributing laptops and tablets to year 10 pupils who:

- do not have a social worker.*
- are not a care leaver.*
- do not have access to a laptop or tablet through another source.*

Local authorities and academy trusts will own the laptops and tablets they receive, and loan them to children and young people.

Officers (social workers and school link officers) have been working with schools since this announcement to identify those children and families most in need of support. It should be noted that the total number of devices allocated to the Local Authority is fewer than the number of eligible children without access to a device.

Children without access to a device will be the highest priority, those sharing access and those accessing via a smartphone only the next highest priority. Those young people who already have access to a device will not be eligible to receive one from the DfE allocation. The Heads of Service LAC and CP/CIN are finalising this list.

Once allocated if any vulnerable children still do not have access the Assistant Director, Education will raise this directly with the DfE.



The LA has placed its order. We have order 144 windows laptops for Year 10 pupils. 300 windows tablets for children under 7 with a social workers and 664 windows laptops for children 7-19 with a social worker. These devices are due to delivered to the Local Authority before the end of May 2020.

Devices will be delivered to a secure Council site. Distribution of laptops will be managed by the Humanitarian Hub that has been established for supporting residents during the Covid-19 period. Insurers have granted a window of 2 weeks cover. Therefore hardware needs to be swiftly delivered to schools. There will likely be no insurance for the transit risk to schools. There are excess implications should the items be stolen from site, these are dependent on security arrangements and range from £100 - £30,000.

Officers from Children's Services have held discussions with colleagues from Risk and Insurance, Finance and IT and with headteachers about how we should manage this process. We have appraised four options against 6 key criterion:

1. we are able to act swiftly.
2. those most in need receive support first.
3. safeguarding risks to children must be minimised.

	<p>4. a proportionate response to risk is in place.</p> <p>5. schools are able to take a lead on learning, uploading software to support their own systems and processes (this will be different in each school).</p> <p>6. we are cognisant of the LA's capacity to manage and maintain and additional 1000+ devices on its managed IT estate.</p> <p>A table detailing this appraisal is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.</p>
RECOMMENDATION:	It is recommended that Option 4, subject to a signed agreement, schools will own digital devices for children with a social worker are agreed.
JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DECISION:	<p>The primary reason for the device allocation is to enable disadvantaged pupils to access education remotely during the Covid period, when they cannot attend school. The pupils using these devices need to use compatible software in line with the individual school setting.</p> <p>The schools are able to access free software to support the pupils learning.</p> <p>Each school may have slightly different IT solutions and software to support learning so schools are best placed to support pupils on line and advice of use.</p> <p>Schools are already best placed to ensure appropriate IT safeguards are put into place and support online safety and have existing expertise in this area.</p>
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS REJECTED (if any):	<p>Option 1 - TMBC retains ownership of all devices and maintains them as part of the managed service.</p> <p>Option 2 - TMBC provides devices directly to families who own them.</p> <p>Option 3 - TMBC does not accept its allocation of devices from DfE.</p>
CONSULTEES:	Various colleagues from IT Services, Risk and Insurance Services, Financial Management, a headteacher representative, Schools IT support. Children's Services teams including the Looked after Children Team, Child Protection and Children in Need Team, Virtual School and School Improvement Colleagues.
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: (Authorised by Section 151 Officer)	<p>Option 4 presents financial implications.</p> <p>Distribution of laptops will be managed by the Humanitarian Hub that has been established for supporting residents during the Covid-19 period.</p> <p>The delivery of laptops to schools will be managed from within existing contracts. The only additional known cost of the process is the insuring the laptops, which are valued at approximately £300k, insurers have quoted £525 to cover the risk for 2 weeks only. Once in the schools, the individual school insurance will cover the risks and liabilities associated</p>

	<p>with the ownership and operation of the laptops.</p> <p>This premium will have to be funded from the Covid funding provided by Government and to self-insure the risk if we suffer a transit claim or to cover any excess imposed.</p>
<p>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS: (Authorised by Borough Solicitor)</p>	<p>The Council has had to move at pace in order to be able to take advantage of this central government scheme.</p> <p>The appendix sets out a number of different options that have been considered in relation to how best to deal with these devices and option 4 has been chosen as the best option.</p> <p>As option 4 means that the ownership and related liabilities will rest with the schools the risk does not rest with the Council once the devices have been delivered to the schools.</p> <p>However there is a risk to the Council in relation the initial storing and distribution of the lap tops, which is intended to be mitigated by insurance and there will need to be some robust processes in place..</p> <p>As set out in this report the Council will also be supporting the schools with regards safeguarding pupils from any inappropriate use if the devices.</p> <p>The Council is only passporting the digital devices through to the schools for allocation. In the event that demand is greater than the supply and the DfE is unwilling to provide any further the Director will need to agree a discretionary allocation criteria with school to deal with greatest need.</p>
<p>CONFLICT OF INTEREST:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>DISPENSATION GRANTED BY STANDARDS COMMITTEE ATTACHED:</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>
<p>ACCESS TO INFORMATION:</p>	<p>The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the Tim Bowman by:</p> <p> Telephone: 0161 342 2050</p> <p> E-mail: Tim.bowman@tameside.gov.uk</p>