

## **BOARD**

**15 July 2020**

**Present:** Elected Members Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Bray, Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Kitchen, Ryan and Wills.  
Chief Executive Steven Pleasant  
Borough Solicitor Sandra Stewart  
Section 151 Officer Kathy Roe

**Also In Attendance:** Steph Butterworth, Richard Hancock, James Mallion, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Ian Saxon, Jayne Traverse and Tom Wilkinson

**Apologies for Absence** Dr Asad Ali and Kathy Roe

### **42. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **43. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of meeting on 8 July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

### **44. GROWTH PRIORITIES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth)/Director of Growth which provided an overview of the Growth Directorate work programme relating to the priorities previously agreed by Members. The current profile of the programme delivery was summarised in Appendices A and B to the report. It was stated that with projects of this nature progress is often dependent on securing external funding. Therefore these projects will also be subject to their own oversight and decision making as set out in section 3 of the report.

The report stated that the Covid-19 pandemic has and would continue to present a number of challenges and opportunities relating to each project within the programme; these were described in Appendix C to the report.

It was explained that the Growth Directorate was responsible for delivering a programme focusing on the following sites, areas and strategies to achieve the priorities outlined above and which ultimately trace back and support the Council's Corporate Plan and the GM Strategy:

#### **Developing Strategic Sites:**

- Godley Green;
- Ashton Moss;
- St Petersfield;
- Hattersley;

#### **Town Centre Regeneration:**

- Vision Tameside, Ashton-under-Lyne;
- Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge;
- Droylsden;
- Hyde; and
- Denton

**Strategic Connectivity:**

- Mottram Bypass and Glossop Spur

**Employment & Skills projects**

- Various projects/ plans linking into the various town centre and strategic site development

**Strategies and Plans**

- Inclusive Growth Strategy;
- Housing Strategy/Delivery Plan;
- Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP);
- GMSF/Local Plan; and
- Environment & Sustainability Plan

Other key workstreams on a planning and strategic level will also feed in to and support the above programme such as the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), SOAHP Funding Bids.

Appendices A and B to the report provided a 12 month forward view in light of the Growth and Covid work programmes based upon the current assessment of timescales, urgent matters, and secured funding. It should be noted that in order to fully and completely deliver the whole programme, additional funding would need to be sourced through the capital programme, the private sector or external funding. As each project developed, funding requirements would be defined, together with funding sources being identified and delivery models and procurement routes determined. Decisions required throughout each project will be brought for consideration and approval at the appropriate point within each project programme.

The development of the 12 month programme has been based on several criteria, including:

- Covid-19 – Several work programmes had arisen in response to Covid-19 which required immediate and short term responses.
- Secured Funding – There were several workstreams with associated external funding, all of which had varying funding agreement milestones.
- Physical Asset or Operational Considerations – Decisions were required regarding some Council owned assets either as standalone buildings as part of a wider strategy or town centre impact.
- Strategy - Relationship and impact with other strategies and services areas such as the Housing Strategy and Delivery Programme.

**AGREED**

**It is recommended that Executive Cabinet:**

- (i) Agrees to the progression of projects as timetabled in Appendices A and B;**
- (ii) Note the Covid-19 pandemic opportunities and challenges as identified within the body of the report and Appendix C;**
- (iii) Note that further reports will be submitted for consideration in due course in respect of funding opportunities to align with the work programme.**

**45. TAMESIDE DISCRETIONARY GRANT ROUND 3 OUTCOME**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth)/Director of Growth which explained that 132 applications, of which 117 may be eligible, totalling a maximum award of £911,000 had been received to the Tameside Discretionary Grant Fund in Round 2. This added to the ring fenced £581,000 of Round 1. This left £853,250 remaining for Round 3. The report recommended that those eligible for payment be approved to enable Round 3 to commence with an identified minimum budget which may be increased following successful processing of all Round 1 and 2 applicants. It was proposed that Round 3 be opened to all business sectors with any remaining unallocated funding following the completion of Round 3 being utilised as a top up grant for awards of £1,000 and £5,000 in rounds 1, 2 and 3.

The report provided details of the allocated funding which left £853,250 for Round 3. It was explained that the allocated funding included those applicants where eligibility had yet to be finalised due to the application being submitted towards the end of the application period and further evidence being required and requested for processing and compliance checks. Therefore the Total Remaining Spend for Round 3 of £853,250 may increase as Round 1 and 2 applications are finalised.

A further report would be submitted to the next Board meeting setting out a qualitative analysis of the businesses that had been successful to date and those which had not together with the nature of the businesses that have applied against the criteria for rounds 1 and 2. This would enable a determination of how successful the schemes had been in the aims of achieving the outcome of the grant scheme and the best way to proceed with round 3 to maximise the scheme for the benefit of businesses in Tameside.

Members were informed that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had requested all local authorities to submit information on the number and value of business rates reliefs and grants awarded by parliamentary constituency. This information submitted on Monday 13 July 2020 was set out in the report as follows:

<b>ASHTON UNDER LYNE CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>Value £ million</b>	<b>Number of businesses</b>
Nursery Relief	£0.153m	17
Retail, Hotel and Leisure Relief	£14.018m	439
Small Business Rates Grant	£11.590m	1,159
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant	£3.775m	196
<b>Discretionary Grant Fund</b>	<b>£0.255m</b>	<b>39</b>

<b>DENTON AND REDDISH CONSITUENCY</b>	<b>Value £ million</b>	<b>Number of businesses</b>
Nursery Relief	£0.126m	15
Retail, Hotel and Leisure Relief	£6.931m	216
Small Business Rates Grant	£8.550m	855
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant	£1.890m	99
<b>Discretionary Grant Fund</b>	<b>£0.60m</b>	<b>8</b>

<b>STALYBRIDGE AND HYDE CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>Value £ million</b>	<b>Number of businesses</b>
Nursery Relief	£0.216m	20
Retail, Hotel and Leisure Relief	£7.315m	378
Small Business Rates Grant	£13.280m	1,328
Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant	£3.556m	210
<b>Discretionary Grant Fund</b>	<b>£0.142m</b>	<b>21</b>

#### **AGREED**

That the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth be recommended to agree that it be **DETERMINED** that:

- (i) The 32 applications which have been processed as being eligible for award of grant are approved for payment, subject to receipt of satisfactory State Aid declarations from the applicants.
- (ii) That the 85 applicants identified as requiring more evidence before eligibility established continue to be processed and being approved for payment subject to receipt of such necessary evidence and evidence of satisfactory State Aid declarations from the applicants.
- (iii) Any unspent ring fenced budget from Round 1 and 2 will only be released to Round 3 when all the eligible awards under recommendation 2 are approved and paid. Ring

fenced budget from Round 1 and 2 being retained from Round 3 until eligibility established and approved or rejected for payment as per recommendation 1 above.

- (iv) That a list of businesses paid under the discretionary scheme will be published under the transparency data together with a summary as to the reasoning for those bids that have been rejected.
- (v) That a further report will be brought forward next week proposing criteria for Round 3.

#### **46. SCHOOL TRANSPORT FROM SEPTEMBER**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage) / Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment)/Director of Children's Services/Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, which outlined the impact that Coronavirus social distancing requirements had on the provision of transport to eligible children. The report set out the Council's statutory duty to assess eligibility for home to school transport and how the Council discharged that duty. There had been no changes to that statutory duty during the pandemic. The report contained an analysis of the impact that the current risk assessment of home to school transport assistance may have on the cost of the service as schools reopened in September for all pupils.

Members were informed of current government guidance and that the Council was working with TfGM on what the school bus will look like in September. The report highlighted the following risks and mitigations for the direct and indirect transmission of the virus, some of the considerations the assessment deals with were:

- Social distancing
- Personal hand cleaning regimes
- Vehicle cleaning regimes
- Vehicle allocation and reduced passenger capacities
- High risk persons
- PPE Requirements

It was stated that guidance and rules for dealing with Covid19 were changing on a regular basis and the likely situation in September was not yet clear. Further reports would be submitted to Members providing updates on the situation.

#### **AGREED**

**That the report be noted and an update report be submitted at appropriate time.**

#### **47. COVID-19 URGENT EYECARE SERVICES - CUES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Adult Social Care and Health)/CCG Chair / Director of Commissioning which explained that on 17 April 2020 a new service specification was released by NHS England (approved by Royal College of Ophthalmologists) for COVID-19 Urgent Eyecare Service (CUES). The specification suggested that to support whole system management of urgent eye conditions during the current COVID phase and recovery phase CCGs should commission a CUES service. Across Greater Manchester CCGs were commissioning the CUES either as a development of their Minor Eye Conditions Service (MECS) or as a new service from Primary EyeCare Services.

Tameside and Glossop had commissioned MECS from Primary Eyecare Services for several years and developing this as CUES would improve access and reduce the risk that patients with urgent eye health issues would find it difficult to access care, with potential implications for their sight and long term eye health.

Members were informed that over the last two years waiting lists for Ophthalmology had grown significantly in Tameside and Glossop with issues in services across the main NHS providers. The

onset of COVID has compounded the situation with a rise of circa 100 people waiting more than 18 weeks in April 2020.

National guidance has been followed during COVID with reduction in hospital activity and changes in access for community services. For MECS this involved:

- Suspension of walk in service
- All referrals being triaged via telephone
- Patients being assessed using telemedicine, telephone and video calls. Advice and guidance is given to patient where appropriate with telephone follow-ups where required
- If needed, patients are seen for a face-to-face appointment at the optometry practice following appropriate safety measures

It was recognised that delays in Ophthalmology treatment could result in poorer outcomes for some patients and Ophthalmology is one of the areas highlighted for elective reform with increased access to services out of hospital and streamlined pathways key expectations.

Commissioning the proposed CUES service would bring Tameside and Glossop in line with other commissioners in Greater Manchester and provide an opportunity for improved patient care by reducing the risk of long waits for urgent eye care causing harm, increasing access to neighbourhood based care and freeing up access in GP and hospital services to manage other people. The service would reduce the risk of growth in the Ophthalmology waiting list by treating people in the community where possible.

The service aligned with the GM elective reform ambition to reduce avoidable patient attendance at secondary care and by commissioning this year it provided an opportunity to test system wide change at a time when it will have limited financial impact and it will support organisation wide efforts in managing demand during COVID.

Commissioning as a service enhancement within the existing contract with Primary EyeCare Services enabled rapid deployment of a service seen nationally as a key improvement whilst living with the impact of COVID.

**AGREED:**

**That Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to approve the commissioning of the CUES service from Primary EyeCare Services in line with National and Greater Manchester expectations with a review scheduled for January 2021 to inform ongoing commissioning in 2021/22.**

#### **48. FORMAL EXTENSION OF THE CURRENT NHS111 CONTRACT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Adult Social Care and Health) / CCG Chair / Director of Commissioning which provided an updated position in relation to the contract for the future NHS 111 Integrated Care Service. Members were informed that Tameside and Glossop CCG was an associate commissioner to the NHS Blackpool CCG contract.

Following a number of discussions supported by NHSE/I North, the Strategic Partnership Board (SPB) regional commissioning leads had agreed to extend the current North West NHS 111 contract for a further three year period from 1 October 2020 (utilising the vehicle of a formal Blackpool CCG tender waiver, under the Public Procurement Regulations provisions that can be used in the pandemic scenario and current command & control arrangements) with an annual maximum non-recurring uplift of £4.7m

The report stated that ordinarily these proposals would go through the usual CCG governance prior to a decision being taken by the Strategic Commissioning Board. However, this exceptional decision for support was being proposed during the period of a pandemic and in order to ensure

the stability of transport services and to provide some medium term certainty against which NWAS could plan.

The suggested contract extension was set out for a period of 3 years on the understanding that resources were only released when a plan was shared and agreed with associate commissioners and which set out the detail of the service improvements that would be delivered and the associated timescales.

The contract extension would be subject to an annual maximum non-recurring uplift of £4.7m, with the exact costs to be agreed following further discussions with NWAS. These discussions would follow the principles of “open book” with transparency from both parties and would be reviewed annually. The additional resources required reflected the additional costs of delivering the service in future and the additional staffing requirements needed to support progress against the national performance standards, costs which were not anticipated when the service was originally procured in 2015. An annual review process would enable commissioners and NWAS to review the actual costs and progress made in delivering key agreed roadmap deliverables. This would provide a level of surety on both sides as the current landscape was likely to change significantly following resumption of full activity and this approach will mitigate risk on both sides going forward during the lifetime of the contract.

During the lifetime of the contract extension the two parties (commissioners and NWAS) would progressively move towards the original agreed joint aim of an integrated 999 and NHS 111 delivery model, ultimately achieving the direct award of an integrated contract no later than the expiry of the extension but earlier where possible if the parties mutually agree. This latter service transformation would require a whole system approach across multiple partners and stakeholders, with the option for future elements of sub-regional variation, where it was safe, effective and financially viable to do so. This would require a jointly agreed transformation roadmap setting out key deliverables and expected milestones to be achieved over the lifetime of the extension. .

The decision to extend the current NHS 111 contract was not taken lightly but in the context of the ongoing and continuing threat posed by Covid-19, it was essential to safeguard the continued delivery of the North West NHS 111 service beyond 1 October 2020 whilst, at the same time, continuing progress towards an integrated 999 and NHS 111 service.

Board considered the appropriateness of the length of the contract and discussed whether there was any discretion in relation to the length of the contract as previous contracts had been for one year.

#### **AGREED**

**That Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to note the decision to extend the current North West NHS 111 contract for a further three year period from the 1 October 2020 subject to further clarification being provided at the next Board meeting about whether the contract must be for three years or if one year remained an option for the Strategic Commissioning Board.**

#### **49. FORWARD PLAN OF ITEMS FOR BOARD**

Members considered the forward plan of items for future meetings of the Board.

**CHAIR**