

BOARD

1 July 2020

Present:	Elected Members	Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Kitchen, Ryan and Wills
	Chief Executive	Stephen Pleasant
	Borough Solicitor	Sandra Stewart
	Kathy Roe	Section 151 Officer
Also In Attendance:	Dr Asad Ali, Tim Bowman, Steph Butterworth, Jeanelle De Gruchy, Tracy Morris, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Sarah Threlfall, Emma Varnam, Debbie Watson	
Apologies for Absence:	Councillor Bray	

18 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 1 July 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Assistant Director, Policy, Performance and Communications, which outlined the approach to communication on living with Covid19, restarting economic and social lives while protecting public health.

It was explained that it had never been more important to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders: from residents and businesses to at risk groups and employees. Situations were changing day by day, hour by hour, and with each change came a new demand for complex communications. Clear and consistent messaging would be needed to provide reassurance and build confidence in the local response and safe and sensible decision making.

Since national lockdown was mandated on March 23, messages had been heavily influenced by government guidelines and messages to support compliance and the importance of following the guidelines. In addition, covering messages of support and reassurance around the wider health and economic ramifications of lockdown. Members received a detailed list of the topics covered in response to the outbreak.

Communications had primarily focussed on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic for over 11 weeks and were beginning to shift into a recovery phase of communications. Restrictions were being eased, businesses were opening and people were looking towards what a 'new normal' might look like. However, it would still remain critical that the primary focus of communications continued to be the protection of public health and preventative communications.

It stated that the objectives of the communications strategy would be to:

- Raise public awareness of ongoing and new/revised government guidelines as restrictions eased
- Raise public awareness of the importance, especially in Tameside, to wash hands, socially distance, self-isolate and to wear face coverings.
- To actively encourage local communities and specific groups at risk of coronavirus to play their part in helping to control coronavirus by acting appropriately and taking action.
- Ensure businesses, schools and services across the borough feel supported, and employees, parents and customers feel confident that it was safe to reopen
- Build confidence in a 'safe Tameside' that would enable work towards the ethos of building back better

- To actively strive to promote equality and fairness, and minimise the creation of further inequalities by targeting communications at and actively involving those most affected, vulnerable and at greatest risk,
- Manage expectation and promote new ways of life as they become the 'new normal'.
- To harness the positive within the innovation of service delivery and improved behaviours seen as a direct result of the pandemic. And to build on that moving forwards, creating and encouraging new ways of working, accessing services and utilising new infrastructure that support active travel and a healthier environment for all.

The Audience would vary and different strands of work and activity would be targeted at individuals or groups using appropriate techniques and channels.

Response and recovery communications would be focussed within three key themes, lifting lockdown, living with Covid, building back better.

The lifting lockdown theme would be focused on safely reopening Tameside and Tameside is open, safe streets, good health and wellbeing, proud of Tameside, health and safety and our work force staff campaign.

Living with Covid would focus on the new normal, the campaign would be focussed on the following: Cultural events, youth services officer, changes and improvements to services, safe streets walking and cycling, test and trace and the Council workforce.

Building back better a principle which would build hope and would be applied to all elements of recovery with campaigns focussed on the following, safely reopening Tameside, proud Tameside campaign, outdoor destination marketing and growth opportunities and our workforce.

Members were advised of the short term priorities which would cover the three areas of focus alongside the core Proud Tameside communications.

It was explained that communications for the coming weeks would cover the three areas of focus as follows alongside core 'Proud Tameside' communications:

Lifting lockdown

- High Street/Business reopening
- Markets reopening
- HWRCs reopening
- Schools wider opening
- Domestic Abuse
- Compliance with Test and Trace
- Social distancing
- Handwashing
- Face coverings

Living with COVID

- Compliance with Test and Trace
- Social distancing
- Handwashing
- Face coverings
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Business Resilience Clinic
- Discretionary Grant Fund
- GM Care Records
- NHS Health at Home
- Parks and greenspace

- Healthy Start Vouchers
- Cultural offer – story makers, music service, libraries and local studies activities
- Youth services and support – Paper bag play scheme and detached work

Building back better

- Walking and Cycling
- Tackling Homelessness- St Ann's provision for the homeless opening
- Educational Attainment/ Literacy- school readiness, transitions, transition to adulthood, Tameside loves reading, closing the gap,
- Complex Vulnerability- learnt that by helping people some real practical examples, adult social care, humanitarian hub, very complex,
- Digital Delivery
- Destination Tameside- Marketing Tameside as a place to do business. Covid Economic Plan
 - Before end of furlough. Pipeline projects. Support for those being made redundant
 - Town Centre- Investment
 - Strategic sites
- Environmental Strategy
- Addressing inequalities- including digital disadvantage
- Integrated Neighbourhoods- models- children's health and social care, communities
- Next Stage of Health and Care Living Well at Home Model
- Preparing for Winter- Flu
- Hattersley Development inc New playground in Hattersley
- Accessing primary and urgent care
- Fostering
- The Local Offer
- Godley green
- Tameside as an outdoor destination

Member considered the implications of the recent announcement about the 'lockdown' in Leicester and the management of news and information about possible 'lockdowns' elsewhere. It was clear the infection rates were significantly above figures for any other areas and there were no other 'lockdowns' imminent yet media continued to speculate where was next.

AGREED

- (i) **To note and approve the approach to communications as outlined in the strategy**
- (ii) **To note that this is an evolving situation and the strategy is therefore a fluid document that can be fed into and updated on an ongoing basis**
- (iii) **To agree a local campaign from the three options in Appendix C and provide any further feedback and insight to support the rollout**

23 MINISTRY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITIES & LOCAL GOVERNMENT - RE-OPENING THE HIGH STREET SAFELY ALLOCATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Growth/Director of Growth which provided details of the Government's Reopening Highstreets Safely fund and the draft action plan.

The Council would be able to spend its allocation of £200,741 on eligible activities from 1 June 2020 and claim it back from CLGU in arrears once the funding agreement had been signed. The default position was that claims would be paid quarterly for eligible expenditure under the guidelines and would be claimed monthly in arrears. The guidance and the latest FAQ's were included with the report.

It was explained that funding would cover four areas of eligible activity:

- (i) Support to develop an action plan for how the local authority may begin to safely reopen their local economies;
- (ii) Communications and public information activity to ensure that reopening of local economies could be managed successfully and safely;
- (iii) Business-facing awareness raising activities to ensure that reopening of local economies could be managed successfully and safely;
- (iv) Temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening of local economies can be managed successfully and safely.

Members were advised that there were also three main categories where activities could not be supported:

- (i) Activity that provided no additionality - This funding was intended to be additional funding on top of that existing activity;
- (ii) Capital expenditure – The funding was intended to help local authorities address the short-term issue of re-opening their local economies. It could support some temporary changes to the physical environment, but those changes should not be anticipated to last beyond 12 months, or until no longer required for social distancing;
- (iii) Grants to businesses – Funding could not provide direct financial support to businesses to make adaptations to premises, purchase PPE, purchase goods or equipment or offset wages or other operating costs.

A standard claims template would be provided and all claims were expected to contain the following information: a summary of expenditure; details of every transaction, record of the outputs, details of procurements included in the claim, a progress report for the claim period. Spend from the allocation would need to be closely monitored in order to ensure that the allocation was able to cope with the likely changes throughout the release from lockdown and changes in government guidelines.

With regards to reporting requirements of the funding, it was explained that given the bespoke nature of this project there would be a need to provide some additional reporting requirements to evidence the outputs and outcomes of the investments being made. Before beginning to spend the grant, a baseline should be set for future measurement in particular relating to the current footfall in the high streets. The costs of incurring these baselines, assuming they were not already available, could be covered as part of the costs associated with developing an action plan.

The task and finish group set up to manage the fund were preparing an action plan to prioritise works in line with the themes contained in the guidance that was attached to this report together with costings. The works were centred around a communications plan and small physical works programme that would be identified by site surveys that were currently being undertaken. As the allocation was until the end of 2020 and a number of updates and re-issues of information may be required in line with government guidelines a contingency sum would be built into the action plan and be regularly monitored.

AGREED

That the Board note:

- (i) the details of the Government's Reopening Highstreets Safely fund;**
- (ii) the draft action plan drafted by the Economic & Business Impacts Task & Finish Group;**
- (iii) that the Government will be issuing a Funding Agreement, to be entered into by the Council and any such agreement will be the subject of a Cabinet decision.**

23 CAPITAL PROGRAMME OUTTURN REPORT 2019/20

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Finance, which summarised the outturn position on capital expenditure at 31 March 2020. The report focused on the budget and forecast expenditure for fully approved projects in the 2019/20 financial year. The approved budget for 2019/20 was £42.013m after re-profiling approved at Period 10 and outturn for the financial year was £37.341m. There were additional schemes that had been identified as a priority for the Council, and, where available, capital resource had been earmarked against these schemes, which would be added to the Capital Programme and future detailed monitoring reports once satisfactory business cases had been approved by Executive Cabinet.

It was stated that the approved Capital Programme budget for 2019/20 was £42.013m. Service areas had spent £37.341m on capital investment in 2019/20, which was £4.672m less than the capital budget for the year. This variation was spread across a number of areas, and was made up of a number of over/underspends on a number of specific schemes (£0.673m) less the re-phasing of expenditure in some other areas (£5.344m).

Members were advised that the Capital Programme for 2020/21 and beyond was summarised in **Appendix 1** to the report. After the financing of expenditure in 2019/20 the Council was holding a balance of £14.593m in the Capital Investment Reserve to fund the £18.792m of budgeted schemes that required corporate funding. Delivery of the Capital Programme was now therefore highly dependent on the realisation of planned Capital Receipts. The current COVID-19 pandemic had increased the risk that Capital receipts would either not be achievable or that values would be diminished, putting the delivery of Capital Investment objectives at risk.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to note the Capital outturn position and financing for 2019/20, and the capital financing risks for 20/21 and beyond as set out in appendix 1 to the report and to note that Executive Cabinet on 27 May 2020 had approved:

- (i) **The re-profiling of £5.344m of Capital Budgets to reflect up to date investment profiles;**
- (ii) **The updated Prudential Indicator position which was approved by Council in February 2019**
- (iii) **Budget virement of £178k to Vision Tameside from Vision Tameside Public Realm; and**
- (iv) **Reprioritisation of corporate funded capital budget of £110k for Godley Green to be returned to the funding pot following approval of the £10m from Homes England.**

24 CAPITAL PROGRAMME – OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (2020/21)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) / Assistant Director (Operations & Neighbourhoods) which, provided information on the Operations and Neighbourhoods 2020/21 Capital Programme and impacts of the Covid19 pandemic on a number of projects.

The Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) for 2017/2021 identified proposals to invest £20m in the Council's highways (carriageway & footway surfaces) over a four year period: 2017/2018 - 2020/2021. Some funding had been drawn down from the Department of Transport to underpin the improvement and maintenance of this critical infrastructure. Corporate funding of £13.250m was approved to support the TAMP in the four year plan from 2017/18 to 2020/21. As at 31 March 2020, the Council's capital programme shows £0.773m of TAMP funding remaining and was scheduled to spent in 2020/21

A programme of works for the financial year 2020/21 had been developed which would be funded by TAMP, the 2020/21 Department for Transport (DfT) District Highway Maintenance Funding Allocation and rolled forward 1920/20 DFT. District Highway Maintenance Funding Allocation were included in **Appendix 1** to the report. A high level summary of the available funding in 2020/21 for the Highway maintenance programme was set out to Members. This included 2020-21 highway

Maintenance grant of £2.550m, Brought forward 2019-20 Maintenance grant £0.614m and TAMP funding of £0.773m, together these totaled £3.937m of confirmed funding.

The indicative 2020-21 Highway Maintenance grant included in the capital programme was £2.258m. The final 2020-21 allocation was £2.550m, an increase of £0.292m.

The DfT allocation was based on each local Highway Authority's network length and made up of Maintenance Needs, Incentive Fund, Pothole & Challenge Fund elements. The Greater Manchester allocations totaling £4.050m were shown in Appendix 2 to the report. For Tameside, £1.5m was in respect of pothole repair and prevention, this would form part of the revenue budget funding. The remaining £2.550m had been allocated to the 2020/21 capital programme for highway resurfacing, bridges and structures upkeep and for street lighting works, the allocation was apportioned using a national formula. The 2020/21 highway resurfacing programme was detailed in **Appendix 3** to the report.

Following flooding in late 2016 and again in 2017, statutory 'Section 19' reports were produced as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. These highlighted a number of flood and drainage assets that were substandard from a maintenance, access and performance point of view and required improvement to help increase resilience across the borough.

From 2019 works had been completed at Cartwright Street, Hyde, Ney Street and Store Street, Ashton-under-Lyne and Halton Street, Hyde. It was stated that works were currently on site at Demesne Drive, Stalybridge. Works were progressing well and were on programme. The remaining sites previously identified were due for completion in 2020/21. This would add much needed resilience to Tamesides drainage assets.

With regards to Slope Stability works, the works at Fairlea Denton were nearly complete with only the planting aspect of the landscaping works still outstanding. The contractor returned to site in early June 2020 to complete the regrading of the embankment and to place topsoil in the area between the wall and rear garden fences. The former compound area had been reinstated. The embankment planting works would be carried out shortly. The works were scheduled to be completed within the budget of £0.350m.

The Greenside Lane, Droylsden works had been delayed due to the 'Covid19' outbreak. Further additional costs had been identified by the contractor to ensure social distancing methods of working were adhered to. The contractor originally quoted a figure of £0.120m additional costs. The Council carried out a value engineering exercise and was able to remove some elements of the works, but despite this, there would be additional costs to complete the works of a further £0.070m. The risk assessment would continue to be closely monitored. However it should be noted that any costs associated with Covid19 would not be met by the Council where there was not a contractual obligation to do so.

Due to the topography of the site, the difficult ground conditions and complexity of the scheme, the Council had sought advice from the specialist contractor that delivered the Fairlea scheme. Now that the scheme had been designed in detail, and the method of construction reviewed, it was envisaged that the scheme costs would be of the order of £0.900m. The shortfall in funding provided for the two original schemes, was therefore envisaged to be in the region of £0.600m. Additional funding of £0.600m was approved by Executive Cabinet in March 2020. Making the total council investment £0.900m.

Repair and restoration of Cemetery Boundary walls of £0.260m continued to progress with further works being completed at Dukinfield Cemetery, the fifth of the five earmarked for the more urgent wall repairs. The total spend on the boundary walls as at 31 March 2020 was £0.135m leaving a budget in 2020/21 of £0.125m. This funding was being channelled into the completion of additional repairs to medium and low priority wall repairs that still remained on all the sites. Additional minor repairs to fences and gates would also have to be included in the boundary wall repairs at the remaining sites.

£2.500m was earmarked in the capital programme to fund Replacement of Cremators and Mercury Abatement, Filtration Plant and Heat Recovery Facilities. This scheme was marked as business critical and was approved by Executive Cabinet on the 24 October 2018.

Following a successful procurement exercise, a Project Manager, Clerk of Works and Quantity Surveyors had now been appointed. In addition, the asbestos survey had been completed and Listed Building consent was expected imminently.

Whilst works were scheduled to commence in March 2020, the COVID 19 pandemic clearly affected Bereavement Services across Greater Manchester. The cremator contractors were inundated with providing help and critical support to deal with breakdowns (etc) across other sites around the country to enable other crematoria to cope with the demand of cremations. As a result, the project to start removing existing cremators was a part of the capital project that was not tenable. An additional stand-alone cremator was sourced to deal with the effects of the pandemic and this additional cremator would now be kept on site to assist with any downtime that may occur when the project recommences. The proposal for the additional cremator was discussed at the Covid Response Board on the 8 April 2020 and then approved in an Executive Decision, 'Additional Cremator Capacity in Response to the Covid-19 Outbreak', on the same date. Due to the pandemic, works on the project would be starting shortly but this would mean the expected time of completion for the refurbishment of the cremator and equipment would now be approximately March 2021. The works were expected to be completed within the allocated budget.

Children's playgrounds across Tameside would be improved to help youngsters stay active and healthy. The Capital investment of £0.600m would improve play areas across the borough and ensure they were good quality and safe facilities for children to enjoy. Council officers had audited each play area, including an assessment of equipment, safety surfacing and infrastructure, and the funding would be spent on those playgrounds which needed it most. The priorities were based on health and safety assessments. The next stage would be to package up the various groups of the work required for procurement within the remaining available funding of £0.592m, with the intention to start this programme from September 2020.

With regards to the Ashton Town Centre Public Realm project which was originally approved in February 2015. The overall objectives of the project remained valid. The project area was split into 10 zones in order to effectively manage and co-ordinate project development, delivery and phasing and significant progress had been made with the completion of works to 5 of these zones.

Since the last report presented, to the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel in March 2020, detailed designs, for the area in front of Clarendon College on Wellington Road, were now complete. Works were being planned to commence in spring, however they were on temporary hold following the outbreak of the Covid-19 virus. Further, in partnership with TfGM, works to accommodate egress from the Interchange were successfully completed on the Transport Interchange junction on Wellington Road in early June 2020.

Schemes continued to be designed to ensure they could be delivered within the current budget envelope and the table below provides a high level summary of the total funding and the remaining available 2020-21 budget:

As a result of Covid-19, the Ashton Town Centre public realm project had been temporarily paused in line with Government guidance. The programme was now under review and was being reassessed to determine which zones, if any, can now be delivered in line with current guidance.

Works comprise a comprehensive programme of replacing all the existing 7,900 main road lanterns with state of the art LED luminaires in order to reduce the Council's energy consumption, CO² emissions and on-going maintenance commitments. Further benefits included a more sustainable highway asset for the residents and businesses of Tameside, thereby contributing to a safer environment and a low carbon economy which were key priorities within the 2012-22 Tameside sustainable community strategy. The Executive Cabinet report on 22 October 2018 outlined the essential evidence and background details in the delivery of the programme. The two year

programme was projected to deliver annual energy savings in the region of £0.274m at a cost of £3.6m. The remaining funding available was £3.5m. The financial profiling of these works was expected to be around £1m in 2020/21 with the remaining £2.5m in year 2021/22.

With regard to the status of external grant programmes Members were informed that the Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF) was established in 2018. The aim of the programme was to kick start the delivery of the Greater Manchester Cycling and Walking Commissioner's Made to Move strategy and to make Greater Manchester a city region where walking and cycling were the natural choices for shorter journeys. £160 million had been made available over four financial years (2018 to 2022) to fund walking and cycling infrastructure schemes. Previous reports, on the MCF Programme, had highlighted that the Council had to date successfully secured Programme Entry Status, from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for schemes, at Tranches 1, 4, 5 and 6 of the programme.

As a result of Covid-19 all construction projects were being assessed to determine if they could be delivered in line with current Government guidelines. Resources were also being reviewed to take account of the additional schemes due to be delivered as part of the new Emergency Active Travel funding. A detailed delivery programme would be presented at a future meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel.

Members were provided with a summary of the combined estimated value of the 12 schemes which had received Programme Entry status to date. The total estimated MCF funding was £11,557,150, total estimated match funding totalled £3,200,734 meaning that the estimated scheme cost Totalled £14,757,884

Since the last report the Council had received Advanced Funding Agreements for Tranches 1, 4 and 5. These Agreements formally approved the development costs submitted as part of the overall scheme costs. Receipt of the Funding Agreements enabled the Council to start to claim the grant funding, in arrears, for defrayed costs associated with the development of the relevant MCF schemes. Members were advised of the Approved Deployment Costs for each scheme, Active Neighbourhoods £264,480, Crown Point £408,480 and Ashton Streetscape, Ashton West Link Bridge, Ashton Town Centre South £906,005.

With regards to Emergency Active Travel Funding work was ongoing, on the Safe Streets Save Lives campaign, with the ten Greater Manchester authorities. The objective was to capitalise upon the c40% increase in cycling and walking during lockdown and to encourage long-term behaviour change.

Guidance on the funding regime was emerging and the Council was ensuring it reacted swiftly in order to maximise the funding opportunities to help make walking and cycling in Tameside an easier and safer way to travel and the natural choice for our residents.

The Greater Manchester Mayor's Office initially committed £0.500m to each local authority from top-slicing funding from the existing MCF allocation to enable fast access to funds based on a Covid-19 emergency response criteria.

On 27 May 2020 the Department of Transport (DfT) provided indicative funding allocations of the Emergency Active Travel fund which had been announced on 9 May 2020. This confirmed £15.872m was being allocated to GMCA for emergency active travel measures and that the £225 million allocated to local authorities will be released in two phases.

Members were advised that the first tranche of £45 million was due to be released as soon as possible so that work could begin at pace on closing roads to through traffic, installing segregated cycle lanes and widening pavements. The main purpose of the initial funding was to promote cycling as a replacement for journeys previously made by public transport. The Government expected that all measures in Tranche 1 would be delivered quickly using temporary materials, such as barriers and planters. Elaborate, costly materials would not be funded at this stage.

It was explained that the DfT reserved the right to claw the funding back by adjusting downwards a future grant payment if work was not started within four weeks of receiving allocation of funding or works have not been completed within eight weeks of starting. Not achieving the eight weeks funding deadline could have a material impact on the ability to secure any funding in Tranche 2.

The second tranche of £180 million would be released later in the summer to enable authorities to install further, more permanent measures to cement walking and cycling habits. Timescales for delivery were yet to be confirmed but it was likely that the expectation would be that these schemes be delivered by the end of the year.

As requested the Council submitted an Emergency Active Travel Funding bid, to TfGM, on the 4 June 2020. This light touch submission included details of schemes that could be delivered in Tranche 1 and 2 bidding rounds. A formal decision was expected.

The Council's current indicative allocation for Tranches 1 and 2 was approximately £3 million subject to approval. A formal decision was expected shortly and would be based on evidencing that there were swift and meaningful plans to reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians including on strategic corridors.

Members were informed that on the 22 May 2020 the Council launched a six weeks Safe Streets consultation programme. The purpose of the consultation was to obtain resident feedback on the temporary measures being considered for implementation. The promotional campaign running alongside the campaign highlighted the importance of obtaining resident feedback particularly because the measures were temporary which provided some flexibility to adjust, refine, remove or make permanent schemes which have support.

In May 2017, Highways England awarded Tameside Council £1.950m to provide an improved safe cycle route running between Hyde Town centre and Mottram / Hollingworth parallel to the M67 and A57. The scheme was reported to the Strategic Capital Monitoring Panel in September 2018 and the recommendation was made to include the £1.950m in the Capital Programme at this time. In line with the grant conditions the scheme was originally due to be completed by March 2020. However due to a protracted approval process the Grant Funding Agreement was not signed by all parties, until January 2019. The outcome of this process was that Highways England agreed to extend the project by one year and therefore the scheme's amended completion date was now March 2021. Since the last reporting period, a successful procurement exercise, utilising the Bloom Framework, resulted in Atkins Consultancy being commissioned to undertake a detailed feasibility study. Good progress had been made in order to complete the feasibility study and a summary of the key activities were outlined to Members. The next steps were to identify a preferred route and develop a construction programme which is acceptable to Highways England.

Discussions were ongoing with Highways England regarding the current programme. These discussions had acknowledged the fact that although the scheme development was now progressing at pace, the March 2021 deadline for completion remained challenging, particularly in light of the current Covid-19 situation. Formal confirmation to extend the scheme beyond the current funding deadline of March 2021 was required but early indications were that a revised programme will be acceptable. Members were advised of the high risks and mitigating actions being taken.

AGREED

Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring note progress and RECOMMEND to Executive Cabinet that:

- (i) That 2020/21 Engineers Capital Budget (Appendix 1) and Department for Transport Highways Maintenance Funding allocations (Appendix 2) are noted.**
- (ii) That additional DfT Highways maintenance funding of £0.292m is added to the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 2.2.**
- (iii) That the annual highway resurfacing programme is approved (Appendix 3).**
- (iv) That the status of the GM Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF) schemes is noted (Appendix 4).**

- (v) That the overall Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital programme outturn for 2019/20 and budget summary for 2020/21 is noted (Appendix 5)
- (vi) That progress and impact of Covid 19 is noted with regards to Cremator Replacement and Mercury Abatement is noted.
- (vii) That GMCA approved development costs of £0.906m for the Mayor's Challenge Fund, as set out in Section 3.10 of this report, be approved and added to the Capital Programme.
- (viii) That Emergency Active Travel Funding of £0.500m from the Greater Manchester Mayor's Office as set out in section 3.17 of this report be approved and added to the Capital Programme.
- (xi) The LED street lighting scheme re-phasing proposal, as set out in section 2.25 report, be noted

25 CHILDREN'S SERVICES - PROPERTY CAPITAL SCHEMES UPDATE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Assistant Director for Children's Social Care, which provided an update on the Children's social care Property Capital Scheme and set out details of the major approved property capital schemes in Children's Social Care.

Members were reminded that on the 27 November 2019 Executive Cabinet had approved a series of 7 projects to stabilise Tameside's Looked After Children (LAC) cohort. The purpose of these projects were to make Tameside's existing cohort of LAC financially sustainable for the local authority, improve outcomes for those children already in care and divert families away from the care system where it was safe and appropriate to do so. The 7 projects were as follows:

- Project 1: Develop a model of core, multi-disciplinary Early Help service in each neighbourhood/ locality
- Project 2: Develop a Family Intervention Service (FIS) across the continuum of need and enable the Family Group Conference services to intervene at an earlier point on the continuum.
- Project 3: Restructure the Duty and Locality Teams
- Project 4: Develop the Team Around the School (TAS) approach
- Project 5: Positive Futures model (Respite/Assessment Units)
- Project 6: Fostering Service Improvement
- Project 7: Placements Review & LAC Sufficiency

The current capital programme as recommended by SPCMP on 9 October 2017 and subsequently approved by Executive Cabinet on 18 October 2017, included funding support Capital Investment in Children's Social Care. The total Capital funding earmarked was £950,000.

It was stated that approval was granted via an Executive Decision on 5 March 2020 to purchase accommodation to provide a residential assessment unit in the borough. A sum of £400,000 had been allocated to facilitate this purchase. A property had been identified and the sale was progressing based on legal requirements in regard to planning permissions. The £400,000 forms part of the original £950,000 capital allocation.

Approval was granted via an Executive Decision on the 29 April 2020 to support the modification of an existing building, St. Lawrence Road, Denton, to provide a residential respite. A sum of £45,250 had been allocated to facilitate this refurbishment. Building work had started on the building with a completion date of 12 June 2020. The £45,250 forms part of the original £950,000 capital allocation.

First pass feasibility work was underway to modify an existing building that had been identified as being potentially suitable to accommodate the Edge of Care and Family Intervention teams and

facilitate the colocation and effective integration of activity. Appropriate governance would be sought once plans were complete and full costs are available.

It was explained that early stage discussions were also on-going to formulate the property requirements associated to other individual projects contained in the Children's sustainability plan. Progress would be reported at the appropriate time.

AGREED

That Members note the following schemes have been approved by Executive Decision on 5 March 2020 and 29 April 2020, and will be added to the Council Capital Programme:

- (i) £400,000 for the purchase of new property to provide in borough residential assessment unit.**
- (ii) £ 45,250 for the modification of existing property to provide in borough residential respite unit.**

26 GROWTH UPDATE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth, which updated Members on the major capital projects within the Capital Programme managed by the Growth Directorate and provided an update on the prioritisation of business cases yet to be approved and formally included in the Capital Programme.

Members were advised that the total grant funding available for adaptations for 2020-2021 was £4.105m. The budget being requested for approval in 20/21 was £2.322m for Adaptations based upon the previous years' expenditure. This included a request for £0.020m for Personal Wheelchair Budget and £0.100m for a pilot to assist in the provision of 2 homes for disabled people with complex needs. The balance of unspent Disabled Facilities grant allocation for 2020/21 would be carried forward to underpin possible future reductions in funds or for new initiatives.

It was explained that there was no provision within the Disabled Facilities Grant to provide wheelchairs to meet the specific needs of people with severe mobility issues. Wheelchair users often required specific and tailor made chairs that current budgets in children's services and adult services were struggling to meet. Often families were not in a position to fund the top-up costs required. By allowing wheelchairs to be specific to the needs of the individual it would assist with independence and assist with reducing other care related costs. An initial £20,000 had been requested by the Wheelchair Service to trial a top-up scheme. Additional funding could be made available through the year.

There were a number of people with severe and complex disabilities living at home with their families where the family takes on the majority of the care provision. This effectively saves the council considerable sums in care costs. For some families the stress of providing this care was becoming an issue that could see the care being moved to the Council. Adult Services and Children's Services would like to investigate the possibility of providing purpose built homes to house these families. In two particular cases the properties in which the families live had been subject to considerable adaptations and could not be adapted further but still don't meet all the assessed needs or allow a reasonable family life for other siblings. The ideal solution was to provide purpose built properties that would meet the needs of these people and be constructed such that they would meet the needs of future occupants with some alterations. The properties would be owned by a Social Housing Provider and they would co-fund the development and build. The footprint of these properties would be larger than a traditional house due to being potentially single storey or two storeys with an extensive ground floor, including useable outside space. Discussions with housing providers in the borough were at an early stage. A sum of £100,000 transferred to Adult Services would be used as a contribution towards the build costs of these two new homes.

With regards to the Disabled Facilities Grants, the Covid19 pandemic had little effect on delivery and completion of adaptations at the end of 2019-20. During the first 2 months of 2020-21 however Covid19 did have a serious effect on delivery of adaptations: residents did not want any council staff

or contractors to attend their home plus contractors were unable to deliver due to supply chain issues resulting in staff being furloughed. The situation had changed following the relaxation of restrictions resulting in residents more willing to allow access; work had now resumed although at a reduced level. There were still some supply issues around specialist toilets, curved stair lifts and through floor lifts. The number of referrals from both Adult and Children's Services had fallen dramatically since early April due to staff being relocated to support other areas and not being able to carry out assessments in person. There was enough work in the service for the next couple of months but if this situation continued it would have a serious effect on delivery of adaptations and on income for the service. The program to replace old stair lifts and hoists currently on the service and maintenance program would continue during 2021 but this too was currently on hold due to factors around Covid19 although emergency replacements were still being actioned where possible. Until lifting and hoisting contractors resume a reasonable level of production only urgent and emergency installs were being carried out. The program of replacements was still expected to reduce revenue costs within Adult Services who fund the maintenance service and reduce care costs when old units do fail and cannot be repaired.

With regard to the Funds transferred to Adults Services in 2019-20 it was explained that the Moving with Dignity scheme had been approved on the 24 July 2019 at Executive Cabinet. The investment of £0.375m to fund this dedicated scheme was transferred to Adult Services during last year. This scheme is now operational.

Further, £0.250m had been allocated to the Disability Assessment Centre (DAC) project last year and had been transferred to Adult Services. A basic layout provision had been prepared for each assessment area identified by Occupational Therapy services and a number of discussions had taken place with Adult Services but no premises had been identified. It had been considered that £0.250m would not be enough to make DAC operational and further funding would be required from the available grant allocation during the financial year.

Members were advised that the total budget for non-adaptation works was £0.999m including repayments from previous capital schemes. The new non-adaptation schemes to assist elderly and vulnerable home owners carry out urgent/ health and safety repairs to their homes had 4 schemes under preparation and a further 4 at the enquiry stage. Discussions with STAR procurement were underway to encourage small builders to bid for these non-adaptation works. This would take place during the summer. An allocation of £200,000 was earmarked for these schemes for 2020/21.

Members were informed that the Hattersley Station Passenger Scheme was fully funded by GMCA and TfGM through Growth Deal 2 grant, which has a value of £750,000. In order to draw down the total value of this grant all works must be completed by the 31 March 2021 A Funding Agreement had been completed for completion of GRIP Stages 1 – 5 and the development of GRIP Stages 4 - Single Option Development and GRIP Stage 5 - Detailed Designs were in progress. These stages would produce the outputs of a detailed design of a preferred option and associated costs estimates, together with a project programme. The construction phase of the project (GRIP Stage 6 to 8) would take place as soon as possible following the completion of GRIP Stages 4 and 5. The required approvals to enter into a new funding agreement to complete the project and its respective GRIP stages were currently under consideration and a report would be submitted in due course. Members were advised of the high level project risks and mitigation that was being taken.

Members received an update on the Ashton Old Baths Phase 3 project. The approved budget for this project was £3.847m which included £0.840m for the Data Centre and DCMS Contribution of £0.250m. The budget for the Data Centre (previously included under Digital Tameside) had been moved and consolidated with the budget for Ashton Old Baths (AOB) Phase 3 because the Data Centre is now part of the AOB project. The AOB phase 3 and Data Centre works had been procured and were being managed as one project, and the budgets had been combined. The Principal Contractor, the Casey Group Limited, took possession of site on Monday 24 February 2020. The original programme identified a completion date of 18 December 2020 however this had now been impacted due to the nationwide lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Casey Group closed the site on 27 March 2020 and returned on 12 May 2020. In addition to the delay, the Contractor had also made an application for COVID-19 Hardship consideration which was under

review. However, the estimated costs applied for was £7,147.31/ week equating to £42,883.86. The Council would only make a hardship payments to contractors where there was a contractual obligation to do so. Members were advised of the high level project risks and mitigation that was being taken.

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, governance had been obtained 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 a budget of £0.050m had been established in the Capital Programme. In advance of the proposed envelope scheme emergency repairs works were required to the building parapet and roof. The cost of the emergency repair was estimated to be £0.120m with works planned to take place as a matter of urgency.

The initial plans drawn up in 2017 developed a model for Ashton Town Hall, which delivered the objectives of the Council but with a significant ongoing revenue cost. In the context of the ongoing financial pressures facing the Council, further market testing was required to consider alternative models which could deliver revenue benefits or reduce the revenue costs to the Council. The cost of market testing, estimate to be £0.100m, was to be funded from the approved Capital Programme. Work on the feasibility study was underway and would be informed by the wider Ashton Town centre Regeneration Strategy. A further £0.270m was approved by Executive Cabinet in December 2019 to fund emergency works.

The next phase included developing a business case and options appraisal for the long term use of the Town Hall within the context of the retail core masterplan. An experienced surveyor had been appointed by the Council to lead the development of the business case and options appraisal for the use of the building. In parallel with developing the Town Hall business case a masterplan was being developed by the two shopping centre owners in consultation with the Council. The masterplan would then inform the Town Hall business case and both were to be completed July 2020. The emergency work and plans for the envelope scheme are being taken forward by the LEP.

With regards to Hartshead Pike, Survey work undertaken by the Council, identified the need for emergency repairs to the 1.35m tall mullioned lantern that sits at the top of the tower some 20m above ground level. The lantern was at risk of falling to the ground posing a significant health and safety risk to passers-by and a risk to the integrity of the heritage asset. In order to address the immediate concerns the lantern had been removed from the top of the tower at a cost of £0.023m. The cost of the removal had been met from existing revenue budgets. Approval had been given to undertake additional work to arrest the pikes deterioration and to reinstate the lantern structure. The cost of the works, estimated to be £0.061m, was to be funded from the Statutory Compliance Budget. Work was due to begin in August subject to Listed Building Consent.

Board was updated on the status of the proposed Garden Village at Godley Green. Working with the Godley Green Landowners, a locally led public sector intervention of this scale had the potential to deliver up to 2,350 new homes. The transformational change that was proposed by this development would help to satisfy the needs of current and future households across the spectrum of housing types and tenures, from affordable to executive homes as well as providing the step change required that would contribute to the re-balancing of the Tameside housing market. The £10m Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) award for the Godley Green Garden Village was approved on 25 March 2019. Executive Cabinet agreed to enter into the Grant Funding Agreement on 23 October 2019 and was officially signed and sealed in December 2019

It was explained that the Council had entered into the Quality Assurance arrangements with Homes England. Homes England had assigned a dedicated Relationship Management Officer to the project. This involved bi-monthly project management meeting to review the £10m Grant Funding Agreement and its associated contract conditions and Milestones.

The new arrangements with Homes England had provided the forum for the Council and Homes England to discuss the project milestones and timescales in absolute detail to attempt to agree a position where the project can advance. The meetings had led to a number of the milestones being re-defined and adjusted or in some cases deleted. There was now far more clarity and certainty on project delivery on both sides.

Following the award of the funding, £0.720m was available for drawdown to fund the design of infrastructure to open up the site for residential development. The first claim for £300,000 had been made and received. A detailed capital programme plan outlining the spending of the £10m grant would need to be developed before adding the remaining £10m to the Council's capital programme. A full business case would be required once the proposals were developed that outlined the planned infrastructure expenditure that would enable the development of the whole site. It was expected that the Council would generate a capital receipt from the eventual sale of its own land interests in the development. The value of the receipt would be subject to the market conditions and the overall success of the scheme, but was expected to be a significant sum that would contribute to funding the Council's wider capital investment programme for the benefit of the borough and its residents.

With regards to Section 106 Agreements and Developer Contributions, as at 31 May 2020 the current position for s106 Agreements was £775,000 in credit, less approved allocations of £197,000, leaving a balance available to drawdown of £578,000, as at 31 May 2020.

The position for Developer Contributions as at 31 May 2020 was £70,000 in credit, less approved allocations of £42,000 leaving a balance of £28,000. There were no requests to draw down funding.

AGREED

That Members note the report and RECOMMEND to Executive Cabinet the following be added to the Council Capital Programme that the budget for adaptations in 2020/21 is approved at £2.322m, funded from the Disabled Facilities grant and £0.100m of other external contributions.

27 LEISURE ASSETS CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adults and Population Health / Director of Population Health, which provided a summary of the progress to date in relation to the delivery of the Council's Capital investment programme to improve sports and leisure facilities.

Members were reminded that on 24 March 2016 Executive Cabinet approved the Council's capital investment programme to improve sports and leisure facilities. The investment programme had led to the provision high quality sports and leisure facilities creating a platform to increase physical activity and supporting the development of a sustainable funding model for Active Tameside.

Additional benefits from the programme included a reduction in dependence on other Council and health related services, increased participation in community life and improved quality of life for all residents including the most vulnerable. Approval for any capital re-phasing highlighted in the report would be dealt with in the Capital Monitoring Report presented to the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel.

It was explained that the Leisure Assets Capital Investment Programme comprised a number of individual projects, the following were reported to of been completed:

- Active Copley heating system replacement (£0.369m).
- Active Copley pitch replacement scheme (£0.177m).
- Active Medlock roof replacement scheme (£0.120m).
- Active Dukinfield development (ITRAIN) – (£1.3m Council investment & £1m repayable loan by Active Tameside).

- Active Longdendale Development (Total Adrenaline) – (£0.600m repayable loan by Active Tameside).
- Active Medlock Synthetic Turf Pitch Replacement (£0.120m).
- East Cheshire Harriers Floodlight Replacement Scheme – (£0.100m)
- Tameside Wellness Centre (£16.374m)

The live schemes were outlined in the report. With regard to the Hyde Pool extension scheme the capital budget for the scheme was approved by Executive Cabinet on the 25 September 2019 and stood at £4.034m, which was in keeping with the projected scheme cost. The LEP had progressed the scheme to a point where the contracts, including the Head Contract with the Council and the Deed of Appointment for the Independent Certifier, had been signed. The scheme commenced on site in February with completion due in March 2021. Progress on site was in keeping with the agreed programme which had been largely unaffected by Covid 19 restrictions. Work to date had been predominantly outdoors including excavation, drainage and foundations. As an all risks project they would continue to manage within the contract.

The Tameside Wellness Centre scheme was approved by Council on 2 May 2017. Construction began in November 2018 with the building officially opened on 2 March 2020 approximately 4 weeks ahead of programme. The scheme value was £16.224m (£13.674m Council investment, £1.5m Sport England grant and a £1.050m grant to Active Tameside).

The building subsequently closed on 23 March 2020 in response to Government guidance on the Covid 19 pandemic. The building would remain closed until the existing restrictions were lifted or modified. The building was in its 12 month defects liability period. The closure period was being utilised to deal with a small list of outstanding defects. The final account for the scheme was currently under review with the Council's independent client advisor, Cushman and Wakefield.

On 27 March 2019, Executive Cabinet agreed to permanently close and clear the Active Denton (Denton Pool) site when the new Tameside Wellness Centre opened on 2 March 2020. The clearance of the site was time critical due to the need to minimise the time between closure and clearance and also minimise the visual impact on the town centre. Based on the March 2019 Executive Cabinet approval the LEP had been commissioned to develop plans for the site clearance including the procurement of surveys, asbestos removal and demolition. A planning application had been submitted and detailed surveys were now under way. The completion of the pre demolition asbestos survey was a key element in determining the overall cost of the site clearance. The survey confirmed that there was significant amount of asbestos within the building, which needed to be safely removed in advance of the demolition. Based on the asbestos survey and other survey information conducted thus far the LEP had produced a high level cost plan and procured a price from the open market. This would need full planning permission to demolish to progress subject to the cost implications and impact on the Capital Programme.

AGREED

That the contents of the report be noted.

28 EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage) / Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Assistant Director Education, which provided an update on the latest position with the Council's Education Capital Programme.

It was stated that on 5 October 2017, the Government announced that the 2019/2020 allocation of Basic Need Funding for Tameside Council would be £4,842,699. On 29 May 2018, the Government announced the 2020/2021 allocation of Basic Need Funding. Tameside Council received no further allocation. On 15 April 2020, the Government announced the 2021/2022 allocation of Basic Need Funding. Following discussion with the DfE over aspects of the formula and its application to Tameside an allocation of £12,231,816 was announced. Basic Need funding available to spend in

2020/21, £12,010,447. Earmarked Schemes for 2020/21 totalled £11,095,000. The amount unallocated as at June 2020 was £915,447.

The balance of the Basic Need funding was profiled to be spent during the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years in order to provide the required additional school places.

With regards to the School Condition Allocation Funding, the funding was part formulaic (based on pupil numbers) and part reflecting recent condition surveys conducted by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). The 2019/20 School Condition Allocation was £1,153,000.

On 15 April 2020 the Government announced School Condition Allocations for 2020/21 and Tameside was awarded £1,168,720.

The School Condition Allocation available to spend in 2020/21 was detailed to Members. The School condition Allocation funding available to spend in 2020/21 was £2,399,149, earmarked schemes for 2020/21 totalled £735,000, the proposed 2020/21 changes was £1,142,000. The amount unallocated as at June 2020 if proposed changes were agreed was £522,149.

Devolved Formula Capital was direct funding for individual schools to maintain their buildings and fund small scale capital projects. It was calculated on a formulaic basis, using the school census data set and schools make their own arrangements for works to be undertaken. DFC funding for Tameside schools in 2020/21 was announced on 15 April 2020 and was £336,339 for Maintained Local Authority and £174,542 for Voluntary Aided schools.

Additional income intended to contribute towards the provision of additional school places was sometimes provided by developers as part of the planning conditions for new housing developments. When housing estates were completed the payments become due and the Council was in receipt of several payments which have not as yet, been formally allocated to specific schemes.

Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel at its meeting in November 2019 agreed to recommend allocation of £453,168.39 and this was agreed at Executive Cabinet in December 2019. A further £491,007 was recommended for allocation by Panel and subsequently approved by Executive Cabinet at the meetings in March 2020.

The Special Provision Fund allocations support local authorities to make capital investments in provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Local authorities can invest in new places and improvements to facilities for pupils with education, health and care (EHC) plans in mainstream and special schools, nurseries, colleges and other provision. The funding is not ring-fenced or time-bound, so local authorities could make the best decisions for their areas.

Tameside MBC was allocated £211,254 for each of the three financial years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21. In addition, the Council received further allocations of £147,386 in May 2019 and a further £294,773 in December 2019. In total £1,075,921 has been allocated to Tameside at the time of this report.

It was reported that COVID-19 and the resultant lockdown had started to have an effect on the Education Capital Programme. Smaller schemes planned for Easter and Whitsuntide had to be extended or had been delayed because of supply chain problems. It was anticipated that there could be problems in obtaining tenders for summer works because of the industry shutdown, however, this risk had begun to recede with the slight loosening of restrictions and the resumption of work in the construction industry in mid-May 2020. Discussions would continue with all stakeholders to review ways of working.

The current focus of the Council's Basic Need programme was to complete the two remaining schemes at primary schools and create additional places in secondary and special schools where forecasts have indicated a need. Members were advised as to the position of the works approved by the Executive Cabinet.

The Aldwyn and Hawthorns scheme sought to increase capacity at Aldwyn School from a 45-pupil intake to 60 and also included a two-classroom extension at Hawthorns School. Three temporary modular classrooms had been provided. There had been significant and ongoing delays to the project for a number of reasons. One of the particular challenges with this scheme had been that although the two schools occupied the same building, Aldwyn was a community school and Hawthorns was part of an academy chain. This continued to cause difficulties and it was for this reason that the scheme was likely to be split into two distinct projects. The proposal was to continue to procure the Aldwyn extension via the LEP but to action any alterations/ extension to Hawthorns via a grant agreement in favour of the Newbridge Academy Trust. This would have the effect that the Trust would procure the Hawthorns building alterations directly, albeit financed through Basic Need funding.

The St John's CE Dukinfield scheme sought to provide a two-classroom extension, increasing the school's intake from 30 to 45 throughout. This followed on from previous alterations to increase the numbers in KS1. Agreement was reached with the school, as a contingency plan, to reconfigure the use of the existing facilities to accommodate additional pupils from September 2018. A two-classroom mobile was provided over summer 2019 until the permanent extension can be completed. .

The Alder Community High School scheme sought to increase pupil intake from 155 to 180 and was being procured through Pyramid Schools (now known as Albany), a PFI Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The final phase of the work aimed to connect the new block directly to the main school via a new covered link. This phase also included: works to improve the security at the main entrance; additional external canopies and a new dining pod to provide additional capacity for dining and works to the paths to the rear of the school. The costs and programme are being finalised with the intention that they will remain within budget estimates already approved.

The Hyde Community College scheme sought to increase the school's intake from 210 to 240 and was being overseen by Amber Infrastructure, a PFI Special Purpose Vehicle. Work on the internal alterations commenced in August 2018 with the bulk completed by October 2018. Some internal works remained to be completed and it was anticipated these would be concluded over summer 2020. Phase 2 of the works was to provide an additional five teaching spaces including two science laboratories. It was now proposed to procure a modular classroom science block to be located at the rear of the school site. This would allow the former construction shed to be used as an additional indoor dining space as the existing central atrium becomes overcrowded at lunchtimes with the additional pupils on roll. In turn this would avoid having to construct a large and expensive canopy to provide external dining space. Final designs had been agreed with the school and the SPV and costs were being obtained. It became clear that contractor who had been developing the scheme for the PFI SPV could not guarantee delivery of the five-classroom unit for 1 September 2020. Discussions subsequently had taken place with alternative suppliers who have indicated that they can supply the buildings in time for the start of term. The initial cost estimates received indicated that the existing budget was not sufficient to cover the costs of the new five classroom science block the removal and making good of the short-term four classroom standard mobile unit and the remaining internal remodelling costs.

Discussions had taken place with Audenshaw School to carry out internal remodelling so the school could offer additional places from September 2020. The school previously operated a sixth form and some remodelling of this area was proposed to create additional classrooms. Additional specialist science laboratory and food technology space was also required. Following stakeholder discussions a design had been agreed to improve the sixth form block with some additional works to take place in the main school science rooms. An order has been placed to progress the design and works to the sixth form block due to its current vacant status, with the main school works to be scheduled separately and access agreed with the school. The Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel agreed a budget envelope of £1,000,000 for the scheme at its last meeting.

A new temporary six-classroom block with toilets and staff workroom was erected at the school during September 2019 at Denton Community College. In addition, significant internal remodelling

to create additional teaching spaces and address some suitability problems took place over summer 2019. Associated works to complete the two schemes were continuing. The Council had previously allocated £1,366,647 for these works. Obtaining cost agreement and programming of the remaining works had been delayed because of supply chain problems arising from the health emergency but work was continuing on resolving these items within the budget previously agreed.

Discussions had been taking place with All Saints High School regarding the possibility of increasing the admission number. These discussions had identified around £5 million of urgent works required at the school – from the poor condition of many areas through to the lack of specialist facilities not least around sport and PE. The school had consulted and now agreed to increase its Published Admission Number for each of three years commencing in September 2021. A menu of options had been prepared for further discussion with the school as to which it would take forward. The maximum investment that was proposed was £2 million and the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel allocated this sum from the previously ear-marked Secondary School Improvement Fund at its last meeting

St Thomas More RC High had poor accommodation including a number of “temporary” structures. There was a willingness by the school to support the Council by offering to take 10 additional pupils in 2021 and 10 further in 2023. The school had particular problems with dining as the dining hall was very small for the pupil numbers passing through it. Outdoor sports provision was also badly affected because of the poor field drainage meaning pitches are unusable for much of the year. Discussions were continuing but at this stage it was proposed to allocate £134,000 of the Healthy Pupils Capital Funding to the school for improvements to sports and PE facilities at the school.

Executive Cabinet agreed an allocation of £15,000 to Droylsden Academy for conversion of a classroom to accommodate an additional 15 pupils into Y7 in September 2021. A grant agreement between the Council and the Academy Trust would be drawn up to ensure the grant was spent for this purpose.

In order to both support pupils of sixth form age to attend college nearer to home and reduce out of borough placements, there was a need to create and increase sixth form provision at Cromwell School and this was reported to Panel at its meetings in July and November 2019. Rayner Stephens also had some accommodation problems which would be alleviated by some internal remodelling of existing teaching spaces. The Executive Cabinet agreed an increase in pupil numbers at the school from 150 to 180 in February 2017 and an allocation of £473,000 was recommended by the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel to support the necessary work at the school.

Members were reminded that an Executive Decision had been taken on 14 August 2019 which agreed to grant Aspire Plus Education Trust (the trust that manages Rayner Stephens School) £55,000 to enable conversion of two classrooms for Cromwell to take place. The £55,000 was allocated from the Council’s Special Provision Fund. As such there was no effect on the Basic Need allocation and this is reported for information only.

The additional two classrooms would be a temporary solution. It was proposed to develop longer-term provision for the Cromwell Sixth Form. Panel at its meeting on 25 November 2019 agreed to allocate £500,000 from the Special Provision Fund with an initial allocation of £100,000 from Basic Need for development of the scheme and more detailed designs and costs.

It was explained that in order to develop an informed asset management plan for schools that remained the Council’s responsibility an independent surveyor was appointed to carry out condition surveys of existing school premises. The intention was to create a transparent and targeted schedule of works required for school buildings. The budget available was insufficient to meet the demands placed upon it and the surveyors were asked to identify priorities of the works required.

In addition to the works identified in the condition survey there were other calls on the School Condition Allocation budget. It had been custom and practice to address health and safety items and support disabled access by using the School Condition Allocation funding. Reactive school

condition issues were covered by the allocation of £58,000 of the School Condition Allocation as an in-year contingency against any urgent works that could arise.

The Government allocated Tameside £1,168,720 for School Condition schemes for 2020/21. At the last meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel in March a list of priority schemes was submitted totalling an estimated £1,135,000. It was now proposed to formally add these schemes to the Education Capital Programme given the recent grant announcement from central government. Members received an outline of the schemes proposed as follows:

- £10,000 for structural engineer's fees to carry out further investigations as recommended by the recent building condition surveys.
- A group of schemes would need to be developed to ensure schools met their responsibilities on fire compartmentalisation, fire doors and similar aspects. It was proposed to set aside £100,000 from the condition allocation.
- A small sum was proposed to be set aside for works to give added protection to glass balustrade systems in three primary schools where these systems were present.
- The Council previously agreed a budget to carry out upgrades to Millbrook Primary School's heat emitters. This work had not been carried out because the boiler was found to be at the end of its useful life. Asbestos was present and replacing the boiler would be the highest priority. Additional budget would be required to that already allocated. As part of the Council's decarbonisation agenda the designers have also been asked to consider alternative and/or additional green heating sources and this work is currently underway.
- Livingstone Primary School's roof was 100 years old and required complete replacement. The scheme is currently out to tender but an initial high-level estimate is included.
- St Anne's was one of two schools with a public entrance that affords insufficient secure protection for pupils and staff. The school had already paid for the architectural development of a scheme and planning had been submitted. The school would contribute 50% of the costs of the scheme, the Council had allocated £150,000 as the Council's contribution to the scheme at its last meeting. There are some issues around obtaining planning permission, the application would be considered at Speakers Panel Planning.
- A figure of £50,000 had been set aside to carry out the remaining condition surveys and provide a budget for any additional surveys required during the year.
- Gee Cross Holy Trinity was a Victorian building. One particular elevation suffers from serious water penetration. It retains single glazed metal windows. Water ingress is greatly evident with damp and mould present. It was proposed to address these issues out of this year's budget.
- Broadbottom CE had been extended piece-meal over many years. The result was a very inefficient mix of heating systems. It was proposed to replace the existing systems with a traditional gas-fired hot water boiler system and pipes with the first phase looking to upgrade the gas supply and boiler. Designers had been asked to consider alternative and/or additional green heating sources and this work is currently underway.
- The kitchen at Micklehurst Primary has been out of operation for some time and its meals have been cooked elsewhere and transported to the school. Agreement has now been reached to upgrade the plant throughout the kitchen, new extraction would be required and the removal of asbestos contained in the ceiling.

It was reported that Russell Scott Primary School faced difficulties following its remodelling. On 9 April the building surveyor identified further defects, subsequent emergency repair works had been carried out to enable the school to open and operate safely. A programme of monitoring and management was in place to provide assurance of the continuing safety pending a permanent solution. Essential works would continue to be carried out to enable the school to remain open and operate safely. This work was being overseen by the school directly. A number of fire compliance measures were due to be carried out over the Easter holidays – these were delayed due to access restrictions and resource/ materials availability caused by COVID-19. The contractor is evaluating these issues and would be providing an amended programme as soon as possible.

The next stage would be for the Council to undertake an options appraisal, which would determine

the cost of the full refurbishment of the school and lifecycle costings against the cost of constructing an equivalent size new school building.

Demolition of the life-expired kitchen and dining block at Fairfield Primary School took place in December 2019. The replacement building would feature a new kitchen and school hall/dining room fit for the whole school. Overall the scheme had cost £1,440,000 which was funded by the DfE under the Priority School Building Programme (Phase 2). In order to build an improved facility, which would have a much greater use than dining, the school was contributing £270,000 and the Council a further £70,000 towards these costs. Construction of the new building had continued in line with COVID-19 guidelines and social distancing being adhered to onsite. Completion and handover of the building was expected during August 2020.

In accordance with Council policy, all capital projects were procured through the Tameside Investment Partnership/LEP. Alterations to PFI schools were procured through the PFI contracts. Capital projects at Voluntary Aided schools were generally procured directly by the relevant governing body and diocese as they own the buildings. In addition to a fixed price and scope being provided, the LEP had a responsibility to confirm to the Council that value for money was being delivered, either through tendering or benchmarking using independent review on the larger projects. The LEP had also committed to delivering added value in the form of using local supply chains and providing apprenticeships and work experience opportunities.

Following the Council's Executive Cabinet decision on 20 June 2018 to review the current arrangements with the LEP there would be a need to ensure that a longer term sustainable solution for the delivery of the Education Capital Programme forms part of the consideration of that review.

AGREED

That it is RECOMMENDED TO EXECUTIVE CABINET to APPROVE the :

- (i) Budget slippage and proposed changes to the Education Capital Programme budgets for Basic Need Funding Schemes, Special Provision Fund and Healthy Pupils' Capital Fund as outlined in Appendix 1 and School Condition Allocation Funding Schemes Appendix 2, to deliver the work outlined in sections 2 and 3 of this report.**
- (ii) Approval for £336,339 of Devolved Formula Capital grant to be added to the Capital Programme for 2020/21.**
- (iii) Approval of £1,168,720 of School Condition grant to be added to the Capital Programme for 2020/21. 2. That the 2019/20 Capital Expenditure Outturn position in Appendix 3 is noted**

29 ADULTS CAPITAL MONITORING

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Adult Social Care and Health)/Assistant Director of Adult Services which provided an update of the development and plan in relation to the Adult Capital Programme.

Members were reminded that in March 2018 Executive Cabinet had approved a capital budget of £455k for Oxford Park. The capital investment was to support the development of the Oxford Park facility to provide a purpose built disability and community facility that would host a wide range of services to children and adults. The investment was expected to enable the commissioning and provision of services that met the needs of vulnerable children and adults within the borough, and avoiding the additional costs of out of borough provision.

The March 2018 Executive Cabinet meeting also approved a £150k capital grant to Christ Church Community Developments Charitable Organisation (CCCD). The capital grant was approved to support the delivery of a new community based development, building on the successful Grafton Centre model, in partnership with CCCD who were to lever £51,583 of match funding from other sources.

The Oxford Park development was proposed following an initial review of learning disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) services that were provided and/or commissioned by Adult Services. The principle reasons for this review were to meet financial savings targets and also to future proof the service to enable complex day services to be provided within borough as more young adults transition through from Children's Social Care.

The strategic vision was based on diversification of services being offered to facilitate greater choice and control, the introduction of a more diverse market to increase competition, drive up quality and reduce cost. It would enable the service to differentiate internally provided services to focus on the provision of higher cost specialist complex provision of day services to adults who have learning disabilities and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who have complex needs. Many of these individuals would require the complex service provision that was currently provided by internal services and many will also access existing services provided by partners through Children's Services.

As the young people with eligible needs transitioned into Adult Services, demand may significantly exceed service capacity which could realistically result in increases in high cost out of area placements. Post 16 placements had traditionally been provided by Tameside College's Dovestones Unit, and by placements in colleges outside the borough. These out of borough placements could be at significant cost and did not always meet the required outcomes identified with individuals. Due to capacity issues and syllabus changes at Dovestones, their offer of a five day per week service had been reduced which had meant that more young people were being referred to Adult Services for day service provision, increasing pressure on existing services to provide day service provision.

The project had experienced a number of ongoing delays, which in turn had resulted in increased costs as a result of inflation in the construction industry. Since the approval of the investment in March 2018, a number of different procurement routes had been explored. A final quote for the completion of the works was received via the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) in early June 2019 which was significantly in excess of the approved budget; more than double the amount. Therefore the approved capital was no longer sufficient, nor offering value for money on this development.

Alternatives were investigated in the form of demountable buildings as well as utilising other estates such as delivering services from The Wellness Centre. The quote obtained for a demountable building at Oxford Park was approximately £530k and does not include all costs. However, these were only interim solutions to ensure that the demand for day services was met and in the future.

Through Adults Services transformation priorities set for the coming year, a further 'daytime offer' review had been initiated to drive this piece of work,- inclusive of Oxford Park - continuing to work collaboratively with Children's Services and Education to understand what longer term daytime offer of provision needs to look like to manage demand and growth for all cohorts of people.

It was recommended, that the Oxford Park development be incorporated into this overall daytime offer review to consider the provision for day services holistically. Updates on the further daytime offer review would be provided to Members as appropriate.

The Oxford Park development was expected to deliver revenue savings for Adults Services from 2019/20 onwards. Savings of £79k were anticipated in 2019/20, rising to between £270k and £300k for each year thereafter. Delays to this scheme would create a revenue budget pressure for the service, and alternative saving proposals were being explored.

Part of the Council's Improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) allocation was originally committed to support the start up and running of the Oxford Park service once the development had been built. Due to a number of other pressures across Adult's, this funding was no longer available and the ongoing revenue operation costs had been factored into the Councils Medium Term Financial Plan

The quoted costs for the original scheme and the demountable building now significantly exceeded the forecast in the original business case. There remained a risk that further delay would result in further cost increases but economies of scale could be identified through a wider daytime offer review.

The sole purpose of CCCD was the development of the 4C Community Centre project to build and operate a centre in the grounds of Christ Church, Ashton-under-Lyne for the benefit of all members of the community. The capital investment approved by Executive Cabinet in March 2018 was intended to support this development, alongside match funding to be raised from other sources by CCCD.

As part of the Council's ongoing development of the asset based community development offer, to date, the Council had been successful in developing services via the asset transfer model, for the whole of the community with a focus on specific areas. The Grafton Centre in Hyde had a specific focus on older people whilst still being accessible to all. The Together Centre @ Loxley House had a specific focus on people with disabilities, whilst still accessible to all. The focus now had developed to that of providing a whole family offer and this was where the developments at 4C Community Centre were integral to providing services and support to all members of the family from children through the spectrum to grandparents.

Since the approval of the Capital grant by Executive Cabinet in March 2018, there had been a change in contractors which had resulted in an increase of £34k in costs and an increase in the match funding required to be raised by CCCD. The additional costs had arisen due to the change in contractor and their increased price, increased cost of materials and the delay in funding being made available. These additional costs would be met by 4C through their own fundraising activities. The majority of the match funding would be delivered through external bids which are reliant on the confirmation and release of the funds by the Council.

CCCD had successfully obtained funding from Viridor Credits to the value of £50k and were in discussion with a number of other funders who were keen to offer support. The match funding would also be quantified through voluntary hours given in kind to complete the development. Payment of the grant funding from the Council would be conditional on the approval of the match funding required.

Additionally, since the Executive Decision to agree the capital funding of £150k in March 2018 there had been ongoing discussions between CCCD, the Council's Legal team, Adults Services and the Diocese in relation to the need to apply a legal charge to the property. It was agreed that a legal charge was necessary and a valuation of the property was required to secure this. The valuation had now been completed and the Land Registry form CH1 was finalised on 7 February 2020 which enabled the charge to be registered on the property. The grant agreement had been signed and sealed by Legal Services on 7 February 2020 which meant that all governance requirements had now been met.

Due to the current climate and the impact of Covid-19, there had been significant delays to the construction. This has resulted in no significant progress taking place onsite and previously reported timescales had obviously not been met.

As a direct result of the implications of Covid 19 and in a bid to ensure the safety of all future members and attendees, CCCD were in the process of making changes to the current project specification to allow for the design and layout of the building to accommodate the delivery of services in a new, Covid 19, safe environment, taking into consideration the ongoing social distancing guidelines. Discussions were taking place with CCCD and the contractors to agree a new cost effective and safe layout within budget and once agreed, a new set of timescales could be agreed.

With regards to the risks of 4C it was stated that one of the primary risks was of funding not being released and CCCD may not progress the agreed works. However, it was explained that CCCD have been committed totally to the provision of a community centre in the area for the benefit of the

local area – having secured over £1 million to construct the shell of the building it is believed that the chance of the Council's funding not being used as planned are remote. However, to mitigate the chances of this it was proposed that the funding be released in phases and visits will be arranged to monitor that the work at each stage has been delivered before the next phase of funding is released.

AGREED

That Strategic Capital Panel be recommend to note the updates provided in the report, including:

- (i) The progress of the Oxford Park business case and alternatives that had been considered, with a recommendation that it is incorporated into the overall daytime offer review that has been initiated.**
- (ii) The progress of Christ Church Community Developments (CCCD) including the success of obtaining match funding to support the project.**

30 FINANCE AND IT CAPITAL UPDATE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth)/ Director of Finance which summarised the progress to date in relation to the delivery of the Council's capital investment programme in the Finance and IT Directorate.

Members were informed that the approved Finance and IT Capital Programme for 2020/21 was £7.012m which included £3.730m for additional investment in Manchester Airport and £3.282m for Digital Tameside. The Digital Tameside programme included £1.820m of grant funding from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

In February 2019, Executive Cabinet had approved an equity investment of £5.6m in a £56m investment with the other 9 GM districts at Manchester Airport to fund the construction of a 7,500 space multi-story car park. This would be funded by prudential borrowing. The investment was drawn down in three tranches during March and April 2020 by the airport. The investment was expected to generate revenue income through returns of around 3.25% (after taking account of all borrowing costs and debt repayment).

It was originally envisaged that this income would begin to be received from 2021/22 onwards, although no amounts were yet assumed in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP). The economic impact of COVID-19 was likely to mean that income from this investment may not be in line with previous assumptions and would be dependent on the speed and scale of recovery in the Aviation Sector.

With regards to Digital Tameside Schemes, the corporately funded capital scheme for Fibre Infrastructure (£1.725m) was approved by the Executive Cabinet in December 2017. Work to construct the resilient figure of 8 fibre network to connect 22 key council sites and a further 30 health sites was complete and all the connections to council buildings were live and in-use.

A Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Grant of £2.262m had awarded to the Council in 2018 by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) with the intention to both accelerate the deployment of fibre across Tameside and support its commercialisation. The money was to pay for additional fibre cable to be installed around the core figure of 8 network to provide additional capacity, an additional 13.5km of ducting and fibre optic cables to connect high employment and industrial sites across Tameside, contribute towards the costs of a Digital Exchange facility in the new Data Centre being built at Ashton Old Baths and a further 8 mini digital exchanges located across Tameside and finally a new resilient fibre link to Manchester from Tameside. All these works were complete and grant claims submitted and paid.

It was stated that in January 2018 the DCMS announced a second round of LFFN funding. Greater Manchester Combined Authority coordinated a Greater Manchester £23.8m bid involving 10 local authorities, Police, Transport for Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester Health & Social Care

Partnership with aim of increasing fibre to the premise coverage across Greater Manchester from 2% to 25% by 2020.

The Tameside element of the successful bid was £2.500m and was based on expanding existing re-use of public assets model, through the Digital Cooperative. Working with Network Rail and using their track side troughs, the submission involved expanding the fibre infrastructure to additional sites and public sector buildings in Mossley, Hattersley, Broadbottom, Mottram, Hadfield and Glossop.

Work on the Wave 2 scheme was underway with around 20% completed but progress had been significantly hampered due to the COVID-19 lockdown. It was reported that to date around 3 months had been lost which meant activity would need to ramp up over the remaining 3 quarters of the financial year to ensure all works were complete before the 31 March 2021 deadline.

In view of the COVID impact it was possible that the DCMS and Treasury would announce that works could run in the next financial year, however this had not been confirmed so plans to ensure all works would be completed by the 31 March deadline were being put in place. This would mean some works would need to sub-contracted to external companies. Should this be the case these works would be via the existing Civil Engineering Small Works contract. This would be delivered within the existing resources

This scheme would purchase second-user on premise perpetual licenses for replacement Microsoft desktop Office 2016 and associated software, server operating systems and SQL databases. The initial phase of procurement and design were now completed and many of the licenses relating to the Microsoft Office 2016, the main Data Centre and Disaster Recovery site had been placed and the new software had started to be rolled out across the Councils laptop fleet and server infrastructure.

The roll-out and installation of the new software had been complicated by the lockdown and home working. The upgrading of over 2,800 laptops would now be done remotely with the software being installed onto devices which were connected over relatively slow home broadband connections. It was also important to ensure that during this process disruption to staff was minimised so they can continue work from home. Training materials, guides and FAQ's are being developed to help staff with the transition to the new software. The upgrade across the entire fleet of laptops would be completed by late summer.

Work upgrading the operating systems on 97 servers and 122 SQL databases in the main datacentre in Rochdale was now also underway. However this work had been further complicated because it was being done remotely.

The final elements of the software refresh including the project to upgrade to the main Exchange email system, Active Directory system and commissioning the Disaster recovery site were being initiated and would be completed in late summer/early autumn.

AGREED

That Strategic Planning & capital Monitoring Board be recommended to note report and the details of the status of the schemes in the programme.

31 FORWARD PLAN OF ITEMS FOR BOARD

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

32 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items

CHAIR