

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL

6 July 2020

Commenced: 14:00

Terminated: 14:35

Present:

Councillors Warrington (Chair), Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, McNally, Newton, Reid, Ryan and Dickinson

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Director of Governance and Pensions
Ian Saxon	Director - Operations and Neighbourhoods
Tom Wilkinson	Assistant Director of Finance
Tim Bowman	Assistant Director of Education
Sandra Whitehead	Assistant Director of Adults
Debbie Watson	Assistant Director of Population Health
Paul Smith	Assistant Director of Strategic Property

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting on the 16 March 2020 were approved as a correct record.

3 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.

RESOLVED

That the EXECUTIVE CABINET & COUNCIL 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.

4 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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

With regards to Emergency Active Travel Funding work was ongoing, on the Safe Streets Save Lives campaign, with the ten Greater Manchester authorities. 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.

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. The next steps were to identify a preferred route and develop a construction programme which is acceptable to Highways England.

Members enquired on the progress of the Mayors walking and cycling schemes. The Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods explained that the pop up schemes where £0.500m had been released, focused on a mechanism for getting people in and out of the city centre, there was now a detailed design completed. There were some technical challenges, however, the first phase down Sheldon way had been completed.

RESOLVED

That the EXECUTIVE CABINET & COUNCIL be RECOMMENDED to note progress and that:

- (i) 2020/21 Engineers Capital Budget (Appendix 1) and Department for Transport Highways Maintenance Funding allocations (Appendix 2) are noted.**
- (ii) Additional DfT Highways maintenance funding of £0.292m is added to the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 2.2.**
- (iii) The annual highway resurfacing programme is approved (Appendix 3).**
- (iv) The status of the GM Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF) schemes is noted (Appendix 4).**
- (v) The overall Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital programme outturn for 2019/20 and budget summary for 2020/21 is noted (Appendix 5)**
- (vi) Progress and impact of Covid 19 is noted with regards to Cremator Replacement and Mercury Abatement is noted.**
- (vii) 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) 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**

5 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 stage 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.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET & COUNCIL be RECOMMENDED to note the following schemes that had been approved by Executive Decision on 5 March 2020 and 29 April 2020, and 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.**

6 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.

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 was 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

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. 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 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.

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 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

The Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel 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.

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.

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.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET & COUNCIL be RECOMMENDED to note the report and add the following 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.

7 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.

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.

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.

RESOLVED

That the contents of the report are noted.

8 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.

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 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.

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. 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. 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. 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 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. 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. 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. 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.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET & COUNCIL are RECOMMENDED 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**

9 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 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. The approved capital was no longer sufficient, nor offering value for money on this development.

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 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.

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.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED 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.**

10 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.

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.

RESOLVED

That Strategic Commissioning Board be RECOMMENDED to note report and the details of the status of the schemes in the programme.

CHAIR