

## STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL

21 September 2020

Commenced: 2.00 pm

Terminated: 2.56 pm

**Present:** Councillors Warrington (Chair), Cooney, Fairfoull, McNally, Newton, Reid, Ryan and Dickinson

**In Attendance:**

Sandra Stewart	Director of Governance and Pensions
Kathy Roe	Director of Finance
Tom Wilkinson	Assistant Director of Finance
Ian Saxon	Director - Operations and Neighbourhoods
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director - Stronger Communities
Tim Bowman	Assistant Director for Education
Sandra Whitehead	Assistant Director Adults
Debbie Watson	Assistant Director of Population Health
Mark Steed	Capital Projects Consultant
Jayne Traverse	Director of Growth

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Feeley

### 11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 12 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel on the 6 July 2020 were approved as a correct record with the amendment that Councillor Dickinson removed as present and be recorded as submitting apologies.

### 13 ADULTS CAPITAL MONITORING

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Adult Social Care and Health)/Director of Adult Services which provided an update on the Adults Capital Programme which now included three schemes that were being funded from the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) as well as the two schemes previously reported on. Progress on these schemes was reported alongside the main DFG within the Growth Directorate Capital update report.

The five projects contained within the report were:

1. The review of the day time offer
2. Christ Church Community Developments (CCCD) - 4C Community Centre in Ashton
3. Moving with Dignity (Single Handed Care)
4. Disability Assessment Centre
5. Brain in Hand

The Oxford Park business case report and the Christ Church Community Developments (CCCD) 4C Community Centre in Ashton reports had previously been agreed by Members. The report provided an update on both schemes, as well as schemes funded from the Disabled Funding Grant (DFG), which had previously been reported through the Growth Directorate.

Members were reminded that in March 2018 Executive Cabinet had approved a capital budget of £455k for Oxford Park. The capital investment was sought 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 March 2018 Executive Cabinet meeting had 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.

A further 3 schemes funded through the Disabled Funding Grant (DFG) were approved at Executive Cabinet on 24 July 2019. These were:

- Funding to support Pilot for Moving with Dignity (Single Handed Care) Scheme - £375,000;
- Funding to support a new Disability Assessment Centre - £250,000; and
- Funding to support pilot for “Brain in Hand” - £20,000.

Members were informed that all of the capital projects had been delayed for different reasons as outlined in the body of the report. More recently, the COVID-19 pandemic had impacted and caused delays progressing all projects with resources having to be redirected, a change in circumstance and people’s needs, thinking of ways to creatively deliver services taking into consideration social distancing and infection prevention and what could realistically be delivered with partners. However, recovery plans were being developed and ways to ‘build back better’ working across services, partner agencies and reviewing all transformation plans locally and regionally. This included consideration of different ways of working to meet people’s outcomes as well as focussing on the financial impact of the work.

The Assistant Director of Adult Services provided reassurance that despite delays due to Covid-19 the 4C Community Centre would be open by January 2021.

Members enquired on the status the Councils Disposals report, whether delays to the capital projects would lead to cost increases and whether the Capital Projects Programme was sustainable. The Director of Finance and Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth explained that the Council were going through a thorough and transparent process on the disposals going forward. Once the disposals report had been finalised there would be an update on the financial impact. Further, the Assistant Director for Adult Services explained that the Oxford Park would no longer proceed with the original format due to the costs, but there was a wider review of the day service offer for people with learning difficulties and a different way to achieve a similar outcome without using that specific premises.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to note the updates provided in this report, including:**

- (i) The progress of the review of the day time offer (which includes the Oxford Park development reported in previous reports) and the potential development of a full business case thereafter;**
- (ii) The progress of Christ Church Community Developments (CCCD) including the success of obtaining match funding to support the project; and**
- (iii) The progress and update of the three schemes funded from the DFG:**
  - **Moving with Dignity (Single Handed Care)**
  - **Disability Assessment Centre**
  - **Brain in Han**

## **14 UPDATE ON EDUCATION BASIC NEED CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVISION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage /Director of Children's Services, which provided an update on the Education Basic Need Capital programme. The report provided background on the work undertaken since 2009 to increase school places in the borough by 5564 in primary and secondary phases and outlined the work that was currently being undertaken to expand the specialist estate to meet the needs of children and young people with Education Health and Care Plans who need specialist provision.

It was explained that school place planning was a complex process that took account a range of factors including the number of births in the borough, in year movement and cohort survival rates (how many children moved from one year to the next) as well as parental preference and planned housing development. With rapid shifts in economic conditions for families and changing patterns of migration, planning for basic need for school places required a proactive approach to best respond to both short and medium-term demand for places. The Council has been proactive in tackling the issue of a 27% rise in births and a 24% increase in pupils starting primary schools over the last few years whilst also managing to maintain high levels of meeting parental preference. The Published Admission Number (PAN) has been increased at many primary schools and overall by almost 18% from 2734 places in 2009/10 to 3195 places currently and secondary school places were now being increased. In 2010, there were 2582 pupils in Year 7 and for September 2020, 2993 places had been allocated, a 16% rise in demand. There were still more places needed in the secondary sector for September 2021 to September 2023.

Most of these increases in pupil numbers and admission numbers has necessitated capital work to expand the accommodation available in some schools. This has been funded through the Basic Need Grant from the Department for Education. Between 2011 and 2019, the Council received a total of £42,745,350 to fund additional places in the borough. A further £12,231,816 had been allocated for 2021-22. In addition to Basic Need Funding, the Council had also received an allocation of £1,075,921 for the period 2018 – 21 from the special capital fund for provision in specialist settings. This increase had been achieved through a mixture of permanent and temporary increases. Two completely new schools had also opened; Inspire and Discovery Academies in Ashton and Hyde respectively which can accommodate up to 120 pupils per year group.

There were still two projects to expand primary schools that were not yet complete. They were at Aldwyn Primary School where Published Admission Number were being increased from 45 to 60 and St John's Primary School where the Published Admission Number were being increased from 30 to 45. Both of these projects were going into their final stages once governance had been agreed subject to reports being presented setting out the project, contractual arrangements, programme delivery, costs and any associated risks and how they will be mitigated managed particularly in light of Covid.

The first increases in secondary school admission numbers had taken place in 2012. Since that time, an additional 2310 places had been created across all year groups in 10 of the 16 secondary schools. This represented an 11% increase with plans for further increases over the next three years. As the number of places had risen, so had the number of children starting at secondary schools in September. In 2010, there were 2582 pupils in Year 7 and for September 2020, there are 2993 allocated places, a 16% rise in demand. Again, the additional places had been achieved through some internal remodelling of space, temporary demountable classrooms and the opening of Laurus Ryecroft School. There were several on-going capital projects with secondary schools including at Alder High School, Hyde High School and Audenshaw School.

As with primary and secondary schools, there had been some permanent increases in places across the special school estate. For example, an additional 60 place ASC unit was built at Samuel Laycock School and Oakdale Primary School has expanded provision through remodelling of nursery space and the Children's Centre. Following the fire at Cromwell School in 2016, some additional accommodation was provided as part of the rebuild. There had been a significant

increase in children requiring specialist provision over recent years. The SEND Forward Plan 2019-22 was developed with parents and carers, schools and other education providers and professionals working in the area of SEND, and children and young people to set out what the Council would do to develop and improve education provision for children and young people with SEND in Tameside.

There were around 568 children and young people in Tameside special schools. If things stayed the same, the plan predicted that there would be a need for around 120 extra special school places by 2024, with over 200 specialist places in mainstream and independent schools to meet the needs of Tameside children and young people with EHCPs. In addition, there are some particular issues linked to the overall special school offer in the Borough.

There were currently 181 pupils attending schools and colleges outside of Tameside. These were attending other local authority special schools, independent, non-maintained schools or special free schools or special academies outside of Tameside. This meant a number of pupils are often not being educated close to their home. This puts more pressure on the budget, both for special school provision and for transport particularly for more complex needs including ASC. The remainder of these children and young people attended a range of establishments such as further education colleges and other local authority mainstream schools.

The Forward Plan identified the following priorities for additional provision:

- Develop sixth form provision at Cromwell High School;
- Increased special school places for primary aged children at Hawthorns Primary School;
- Create a short term nurture provision for Key Stage 1 pupils within Thomas Ashton School;
- Increase the amount of resourced provision across the Borough with a focus on the main areas of need: SEMH, ASC and the prevalence of MLD so that there are at least three Resource Bases, capable of supporting 10 pupils, in each Neighbourhood. This would entail either having existing space refurbished, or extensions built.

The Forward Plan identified that the Council would begin to commission new targeted mainstream provision model with a greater emphasis on highly supported resource based provision for a small number of children. To do this, a review of accommodation in all schools across the borough was taking place. This would identify where there may be additional space in a school to establish resourced provision and where there was also interest from schools in hosting this provision, recommendations will then be made on where provision can be made.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED that:**

- (i) Negotiations continue with Rayner Stephens High School and the Stamford Park Trust to identify accommodation that would enable Cromwell High Sixth Form provision to be established on a permanent basis and the relevant statutory school organisation processes are followed.**
- (ii) An appraisal of the options to expand Hawthorns Primary School is undertaken by officers and an outline business case is developed for consideration by members.**
- (iii) Officers develop an outline business case to implement additional resourced provision in the borough once the outcome of the space utilisation survey is known and schools have had the opportunity to express an interest.**

## **15 EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage)/Director of Children's Services which advised Members 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 had indicated a need. Schemes that had already been approved were

continuing.

There had been significant and ongoing delays to the scheme to increase capacity at Aldwyn School from a 45-pupil intake to 60. Three temporary modular classrooms had been provided at Aldwyn to accommodate additional pupils from September 2017, 2018 and 2019 pending a start on the permanent extension. The revised costs for the overall scheme were agreed in July 2020. Since then further contractual problems had surfaced, in part connected to the COVID-19 pandemic and the additional contractual risks that this might produce in terms of lengthened delivery times and increased costs from ensuring social distancing during construction.

The St John's CE Dukinfield scheme provided 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 had been 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. Costs totalling £1,343,000 for the scheme were agreed in September 2019.

The Alder Community High School works increased pupil intake from 155 to 180 and are being procured through Pyramid Schools (now known as Albany), a PFI Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). Significant internal alterations were carried out over summer 2018 to enable the first year of additional pupils to be suitably accommodated. Over summer 2019 the SPV, through Elite Systems, provided a stand-alone four-classroom modular block. The final phases of the works aimed to connect the new block directly to the main school via a new covered link; 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 were being finalised with the intention that they would remain within budget estimates already approved. Works on a catering pod and canopy had been delayed. Governance to proceed would be sought in due course.

The Hyde Community College scheme increased 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 a revised programme would be agreed with the school during the autumn term. It was reported in July 2020 that phase 2 of the works was to provide an additional five teaching spaces including two science laboratories located at the rear of the school site. Unfortunately it became clear that the 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 took place with alternative suppliers and a revised budget estimate was agreed by Executive Cabinet in July 2020. Late agreement with all parties on the design of the extra classrooms meant that the planning application was delayed and permission was granted on 19 August 2020. However, this included a pre-start condition requiring additional hydraulic modelling. Further delays were caused by additional excavation required to find service and drains runs. Completion was projected to be 9 November 2020. In order to mitigate the late delivery of this project, particularly in light of Covid-19 distancing requirements, section 73 planning notices had been issued to maintain on site temporary classrooms, which were due to be removed in 2020 until the summer of 2021. Governance to proceed would be sought in due course.

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 had been placed to progress the design and works to the sixth form block due to its vacant status, with the main school works to be scheduled separately and access agreed with the school. A budget envelope of £1,000,000 for the scheme had been approved, with an additional £300,000 granted in a separate request. Phase 1 of the works to update and ready the sixth form block for the new entry students had begun and was

completed for 1 September. Phase 2 relating to the main school science rooms would take place once a suitable programme had been agreed.

There had been a significant increase in the number of primary age children requiring specialist provision from Thomas Ashton School. In the summer term of 2018, 57 pupils were on roll with Thomas Ashton and this had increased to 86 pupils currently on roll. Figures from the January 2020 census identified 23.24% of 1575 education health care plans maintained by Tameside were those with a primary need of social emotional mental health compared to 15.66% of 977 plans in 2018. In order to address the significant increase in children requiring specialist Social, Emotional and Mental Health provision, and in conjunction with the school, the Inclusion Team had been looking to identify suitable accommodation for additional primary nurture provision in the borough but not on the same site as the main Thomas Ashton School.

Reactive school condition issues were covered by the allocation of £150,000 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 and this added to previous unspent grant gave a total of £2,399,149 available to spend in 2020/21. Members had agreed a list of priority schemes totalling £1,886,000. These schemes were listed in **Appendix 2** to the report.

With regard to Russell Scott Primary School it was explained that a number of fire compliance measures were currently being carried out over the summer holidays – these were deferred from the Easter holidays due to access restrictions and resource/materials availability caused by COVID-19. An appraisal of building condition and resulting options with technical information informing this appraisal was being provided by MAC Architects.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the EXECUTIVE CABINET & COUNCIL be RECOMMENDED to approve:**

- (i) The proposed changes to the Education Capital Programme, (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**
- (ii) An additional £100,000 is allocated from the Basic Need Funding in 2020/21 to the work needed at Birch Lane Child and Family Centre to create suitable space for Tameside Music Service**
- (iii) An additional £115,000 is allocated from the School Condition budget for Fire Safety Works. This consists of a virement from funding allocation lines; Arlies Primary (£41,000), Micklehurst Primary (£22,000), and Fairfield Road Primary (£38,000) where funding was previously approved separately for related fire safety works that would be more appropriately reported against the main Fire Safety Works funding allocation line. Also included in the request is £14,000 for fire alarm works to Audenshaw and Broadbent Fold Primary schools.**
- (iv) That Members note that an additional £543,000 of School Condition grant has been awarded by the DfE.**

## **16 GROWTH UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth)/Director of Growth which provided an update, on the 2020/21 Growth Capital Programme and set out details of the major approved capital schemes in this Directorate.

The current situation regarding progress with delivery of adaption was listed to Members.

It was stated that Ashton Old Baths was due to complete on February 2021. A 2-month delay due to Covid-19 was anticipated but the project was now approximately 4 weeks in delay. Currently there were no budget concerns.

With regards to Ashton Town Hall Members were informed that emergency repairs had mainly been

carried out, but the outcome of the Listed Building Consent to complete was awaited. A report from the LEP on the envelope scheme was expected in late September and the feasibility study for the future use of the building was also due in September.

The delivery/ installation of the stone lantern at Hartshead Pike was expected late September 2020 (Weather permitting) with refurbishment works to the spire to follow, scheduled to be completed in October 2020. Work included investigating the condition of the floor support beams by exposing the beam ends before cleaning, treating and reinstating.

Members were updated on the Denton Pool site. It was explained that for reasons of health and safety the cost to remove asbestos, demolish the building and clear the Denton Pool site had been established, with the cost reviewed as part a Value for Money assessment. A request for capital funding to clear the site was the subject of a separate report.

For reasons of Health and Safety, estimated costs to remove asbestos, demolish the buildings and clear the Two Trees school site have been established. A request for capital funding was the subject of a separate report.

The proposed Garden Village at Godley Green was the key strategic site for residential development in Tameside. 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. Members were informed that the Council had entered into a £10m Housing Infrastructure Funding (HIF) award for the Godley Green in December 2019. The Grant Funding allowed for an early draw down of £720,000 supporting activity required to get to planning submission stage. An application would be submitted in November 2020 and was the next critical date for the project. The first claim for £300,000 had been made and received from Homes England. A detailed capital programme plan outlining the spending of the remaining £9.28 grant was being developed and would then be added to the Council's capital programme.

The report provided information about the corporate landlord capital expenditure in regard to statutory compliance repairs on the Councils buildings during the period covered by this report totaling £143,353. The Council had a duty to ensure that its buildings provided a safe physical environment for staff and services to operate from. The monitoring and regulation of this was undertaken by a series of statutory checks across a range of requirements e.g. fire safety, asbestos management and electrical safety. These checks were carried out at fixed intervals and reports produced to state condition and also inform in regard to remedial works that needed to be undertaken to ensure compliancy. In addition to compliance issues informed by the regular statutory checks there were repairs and replacements identified during the day to day management of our buildings. These may be repairs and replacements brought about by one off events such as vandalism and extreme weather or they may be due to breakage or failure during normal operations. If the issue was deemed to be causing a serious risk it would require immediate rectification. Where the costs of replacement and repair were deemed to be of benefit in regards to the Councils capital assets then costs were met from the statutory compliance fund.

The report summarised the financial position as at 31 July 2020 with regard to receipts for Section 106 (s106) Agreements and Developer Contributions. The current position for s106 Agreements was £0.775m in credit, less approved allocations of £0.197m, leaving a balance available to drawdown of £0.578m, as at 31 July 2020. The position for Developer Contributions as at 31 July 2020 was £70,000 in credit, less approved allocations of £42,000 leaving a balance of £28,000.

A revised policy on the disposal of council owned land, along with a list of initial sites was being progressed to September Cabinet. The Council's surplus land disposal programme was highly likely to be impacted by COVID-19 due to changes within the housing market. Whilst no robust data was currently available, RICS estimated that the market was unlikely to pick up again until February 2021 which related to the whole spectrum of a property transaction including cash flow, site preparation, borrowing restrictions and criteria, property visits and solicitor activity.

Members enquired on the Denton Pool clearance and the costs involved and the status of the Ashton Town Hall report.

With regards to Denton Pool it was significantly more expensive than expected because of the high level of materials that contained asbestos, it would be a health and safety risk for the Council not to address this. Confidence could be obtained that vfm from independent certification and fact it had been procured on open market and 5 contractors had submitted bids. The cost of this was estimated to be £700,000 to fully clear the site and ready it for redevelopment. The Council could sell the property, the private sector could be looking in the future with the property and not be redeveloped as quickly and continue to be a derelict building attracting anti-social behaviour and costing security on weekly basis as well as business rates.

In response to a query about whether the reports had been received on Ashton Town Hall, Members were advised that there were two parts to the Ashton Town Hall report, the report to keep watertight and secure – the envelope project and the commercial feasibility strategy paper considering the longer term use and whilst expected imminently neither had been received yet.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to note the report and the following be added to the approved Council Capital Programme Statutory Compliance expenditure of £143,353 which was urgent and unavoidable and scheduled at Appendix 2 including £7,000 additional required spend on Hartshead Pike as set out in the report.**

## **17 CAPITAL PROGRAMME – OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (SEPTEMBER 2020)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) / Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods which provided information with regards to the 2020/2021 Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme.

With regard to the Highway Maintenance Programme the works programmes had been prioritised and were being planned in detail with delivery contractors. The carriageway and footway resurfacing programmes commenced in August and ran through until the end of November 2020. Works would recommence in late February 2021 and run until the end of March as was the usual industry pattern.

As works could not take place during the traditional spring / early summer laying period, extra resources would be deployed subject to contractor availability. However it may be necessary to extend the laying programme into April and May 2021.

The report provided an update on:

- Flood Prevention and consequential repairs;
- Slope Stability Works;
- Repair and Restoration of Cemetery Boundary Walls;
- Replacement of Cremators and Mercury Abatement, Filtration Plant and Heat Recovery Facilities;
- Children's' Playgrounds;
- Ashton Town Centre Public Realm Project;
- LED Street Lighting Lanterns; and
- Fleet

The Covid 19 pandemic had affected Bereavement Services across Greater Manchester. The cremator contractors had been inundated with providing help and critical support to deal with breakdowns 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 as a part of the replacement capital project 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 costs of the temporary cremator were not capital costs and were approved by an Executive Decision on 8 April 2020. These costs had also been reported within Revenue Monitoring and on the MHCLG Covid Returns. The contractor submitted two revised project plans for the main cremator refurbishment to commence. The original scheme was due to complete on the 5 February 2021 with the reduced number of cremators during the installation period October/November ahead of the traditionally busy Christmas period. Following a period of pause due to Covid 19 the commencement of the project has now been tabled for a start date of 14 September 2020 with completion on 13 July 2021. This programme involved the removal and replacement of cremators during the generally busy Christmas period and into the New Year when historically, the number of deaths was high.

Children's playgrounds across Tameside were to be improved to help youngsters stay active and healthy. The Capital investment of £600,000 would improve play areas across the borough and ensure there 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. Officers were working with colleagues in the Council and STAR with a view to commencing procurement of play equipment and safety surfacing in September 2020. This had been delayed due to the coronavirus and changes in capacity within Engineering Services. The aim was to get some work started in October 2020 with the rest to follow over the next 18 months.

For the Ashton Town Centre Public Realm Project schemes continued to be designed to ensure they could be delivered within the current budget envelope a 2020-21 budget envelope. As a result of Covid 19, the Ashton Town Centre public realm project had been temporarily paused in line with Government guidance. The next phase of the works would begin on Wellington Road. The procurement exercise had recently started and subject to availability and delivery timescales of materials it is anticipated that works would commence on this zone in October 2020. The designs for Albion Way (which was a Mayor's Challenge Fund scheme also) were largely complete following ongoing dialogue and design review with TfGM. The Road Safety Audit had been undertaken, traffic modelling was due to start imminently and the scheme was currently being costed. Discussions were ongoing with TfGM to agree a design development and governance timetable which would deliver a construction programme to meet the Growth Deal funding deadlines therefore ensuring that this element of match funding was safeguarded. Further focused consultation on this scheme was required once a programme and costs had been identified.

The two year LED Street Lanterns programme was projected to deliver annual energy savings in the region of £274,000 at a cost of £3,600,000. The remaining funding available was £3,500,000. The financial profiling of these works was expected to be around £1,000,000 in 2020/21 with the remaining £2,500,000 in year 2021/22. To assist in the delivery of these works, the Council had engaged the services of STAR procurement and Bloom procurement services to provide specialist expertise and value for money on contracts for both design and purchase of luminaires (completed June 2020). Detailed design works had started and the ordering of materials (lanterns) will commence shortly. A delivery programme was being compiled.

It was explained that the Council had prepared a business case for the first phase of the Tranche 1 – Active Neighbourhoods proposal, which comprised the Chadwick Dam and Hill Street schemes. This had been submitted to TfGM for a 'critical friend' review, prior to formal submission. The design for these two schemes was largely complete. The proposed traffic regulation orders had been advertised, road safety audits had been completed and the design details were being finalised to feed into the final cost estimates and risk registers.

The Council had received confirmation that an allocation of £400,000 had been awarded following the submission of an Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 1). This funding had been ring fenced to deliver a pop up cycle lane on Lord Sheldon Way / A635 to the Manchester City Centre boundary. Works to Phase 1 of this scheme were almost complete with Phase 2 due to start shortly.

In addition a Quiet Street scheme was due to be delivered imminently on Currier Lane, Ashton, Frederick Street, Ashton and Stamford Drive, Stalybridge with the Traffic Regulation Orders being advertised shortly. All schemes in Tranche 1 were expected to be completed by September 2020. Early indications were that the Council would be allocated £985,000 from Tranche 2 if GM received its full allocation from DfT. This comprised four schemes; upgrading of existing cycle lanes, pop-up cycle lanes along Dowson Rd and Stockport Rd, Hyde, interventions along Stamford St Central, Ashton and £300,000 for the reallocation of road space along strategic routes. A formal decision was expected at the end of August 2020. Schemes approved in Tranche 2 were expected to be complete by March 2021 at the latest.

Reference was made to the Highways England – Designated Funds Scheme and it was explained that since the last reporting period good progress had been made to identify a preferred route and this was now being finalised in discussions with an external delivery partner and with Highways England. An Options Report was being finalised and data collected to enable the completion of Highways England's Scheme Assessment Report in preparation for a Value Management Workshop later this year. Discussions with Highways England had been positive and they had recently confirmed that their bidding process had changed meaning that funds were only available in each financial year for schemes that could be delivered within that year. Highways England had confirmed that this scheme had been allocated funds, this financial year, for feasibility and design only. Subject to Highways England approval of the final designed scheme then a further bid would be submitted for construction.

Following the Government's announcement regarding infrastructure investment on 30 June 2020 under Tranche 2B of this fund, a joint bid by Bolton MBC and Tameside MBC had been awarded a grant of £1,110,000 (towards a total of £1,135,000). The grant would be made during the summer of 2020 through the Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund, which included the Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund. The funding was for the financial year 2020/21. Tameside MBC was the lead authority for this project. The project had two discreet elements one in the Bolton MBC area and for Tameside. Tameside's contributory funding of £50,000 will be drawn from existing drainage / flood risk management operational budget.

There were a number of legacy areas in the borough where gully and drainage connections were constructed in a way that restricted basic cleansing and resulted in delays when dealing with urgent flooding issues. This was as a result of the design of the gully pots and traps, the depth of the outlet pipes and associated connections. To ensure these gullies could be cleansed regularly and be accessed in urgent situations, it was proposed to replace them with new gully pots with accessible outlets. In all, about 300 units that required replacing had been identified. Works to digitally plot the locations of the gullies to be changed started in July 2020 as did establishing the locations of underground utility services. The physical works of excavating and replacing the obsolete gully pots had commenced and works will be ongoing during the remainder of the financial year.

Tameside and Oldham councils were working closely on a joint scheme to make the A670 safer, which ran in Tameside as Mossley Road, Ashton to Stockport Road, Mossley and to the Oldham boundary and on through Greenfield. The works would involve localised lining and footway improvements which would be supported by variable message signs that would alert drivers and monitor speeds. In addition to this a Puffin Crossing was proposed outside St George's School, Mossley. This was objected to following a public consultation and was subsequently submitted to Speakers Panel (Planning) for resolution. The Panel approved the introduction of the crossing. The funding for the scheme was with Oldham Council as the major partner and all funding claims were to be addressed to Oldham. The work on this scheme had commenced and will be completed within this financial year as the funding was slipped to 2020/2021. This had been agreed with Oldham Council and the money would remain in their control until the scheme was progressed.

Members enquired on the progress of the LED Street Lighting and if the reported savings would be achieved.

It was stated that the programme had not started yet but lighting would soon arrive in the depo and

work would start soon, savings were expected and the service was working with colleagues in finance to finalise the expected savings.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to:**

- a) **Note the rescheduling to the Tameside Asset Management Plan (TAMP) and the Highways Maintenance Programme. The commencement of the works programme was revised due to Covid 19.**
- b) **Note that Tameside MBC bid for and has been successful in securing £350,000 from the Department for Transport (DfT) for improving highway drainage infrastructure. The total project costs are £400,000 with a Tameside MBC allocation £50,000 from existing drainage budgets – see recommendation (o) below. This DfT allocation has to be used in financial year 2020/21. Accordingly, a site prioritisation exercise has been undertaken with regards to the inlet structures programme and re-phased a number of locations to commence in spring / summer 2021 to ensure the full use of the additional external funding.**
- c) **Note the progress with regard to the Slope Stability Programme.**
- d) **Note the progress with regards to the Cemetery Boundary Walls Programme.**
- e) **Note the rescheduling to Replacement of Cremators and Mercury Abatement, Filtration Plant and Heat Recovery Facilities Programme by the significant impact Covid 19 has had on the operation of the Crematorium and the suppliers of cremator equipment.**
- f) **Note the revised timetable for the Children’s Playground Programme.**
- g) **Note the progress with regards to the Ashton Town Centre Public Realm Project.**
- h) **Note the impact of Covid 19 on the LED Street Lighting Lanterns Project.**
- i) **Note the progress with regards to the Mayor’s Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund Programme (MCF).**
- j) **Note the Council has received confirmation that an allocation of £400,000 has been awarded following the submission of an Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 1). If progressed, approval will be sought from Executive Cabinet for £400,000 to be added to the Council’s Capital programme for this project.**
- k) **Note the progress with regards to the Highways England – Designated Funds Scheme.**
- l) **Note the progress with regards to Department for Transport – Safer Roads Fund project in conjunction with Oldham MBC.**
- m) **Note the need to replace an existing tipper with a larger vehicle as set out in section 2.24-2.25 in this report. If progressed, approval will be sought from Executive Cabinet to add £40,000 to the Council’s Capital Programme to fund the net cost of the replacement vehicle.**
- n) **Note the replacement of a dumper belonging to Bereavement Services as set out in section 2.26 of this report. Approval will be sought from Executive Cabinet to add a budget of £15,500 for the replacement dumper to the Council’s Capital Programme for the new vehicle which will be funded by insurance monies.**
- o) **Approve that £50,000 of existing drainage / flood risk management operational budget be used as the Tameside MBC contribution to the overall £400,000 Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund – Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund 2020/21 with the remaining £350,000 coming from the Department for Transport.**

## **18 LEISURE ASSETS CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment)/Director of Population Health which provided a summary of progress to date in relation to the delivery of the Council’s capital investment programme to improve sports and leisure facilities approved by Executive Cabinet on 24 March 2016. 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.

Members were informed that the Leisure Assets Capital Investment Programme comprised a number of individual projects, the following of which had been completed and delivered within budget:

- a) Active Copley heating system replacement (£0.369m).
- b) Active Copley pitch replacement scheme (£0.177m).
- c) Active Medlock roof replacement scheme (£0.120m).
- d) Active Dukinfield development (ITRAIN) – (£1.3m Council investment & £1m repayable loan by Active Tameside).
- e) Active Longendale Development (Total Adrenaline) – (£0.600m repayable loan by Active Tameside).
- f) Active Medlock Synthetic Turf Pitch Replacement (£0.120m).
- g) East Cheshire Harriers Floodlight Replacement Scheme – (£0.100m)
- h) Tameside Wellness Centre (£16.374m)

It was explained that the Hyde Pool extension scheme had been procured by the Local Education Partnership (the LEP) on behalf of the Council. The capital budget for the scheme was approved by Executive Cabinet on the 25 September and now stood at £4.034m, which was in keeping with the projected scheme cost. The scheme commenced on site in February 2020 with completion due in March 2021. Progress on site was currently in keeping with the agreed programme. Work to date had been predominantly outdoors including excavation, drainage, foundations and the installation of the concrete pool tank.

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. With the partial lifting of restrictions elements of the building reopened on the 27 July. The building was currently in its 12 month defects liability period. The closure period has been used to deal with a small list of outstanding defects. The final account for the scheme is currently under review with the Council's independent client advisor.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to note the contents of the report.**

**CHAIR**