

BOARD

7 October 2020

Present	Elected Members	Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Bray, Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Kitchen, Ryan and Wills
	Chief Executive	Steven Pleasant
	Borough Solicitor	Sandra Stewart
	Deputy S151	Tom Wilkinson
Also In Attendance:	Steph Butterworth, Richard Hancock, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Ian Saxon, Paul Smith, Sarah Threlfall, Jayne Traverse, Debbie Watson, and Jess Williams	

107 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

108 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meetings of Board held on 16, 23 and 30 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

109 MONTH 5 FINANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader/Joint Chairs of CCG/Director of Finance which informed Members of expenditure as at 31 August 2020 and forecast outturn at 31 March 2021. It was explained that in the context of the on-going Covid-19 Pandemic, the forecasts for the rest of the financial year and future year modelling had been prepared using the best information available but was based on a number of assumptions. Forecasts were subject to change over the course of the year as more information became available, the full nature of the pandemic unfolded and there was greater certainty over assumptions.

Members were reminded that the CCG continued to operate under a 'Command and Control' regime, directed by NHS England & Improvement (NHSE&I). NHSE had assumed responsibility for elements of commissioning and procurement and CCGs had been advised to assume a break-even financial position in 2020-21.

It was explained that as at Period 5, the Council was forecasting an overspend against budget of £3.678m. The £3.678m pressure was non-COVID related and reflects underlying financial issues that the Council would be facing regardless of the current pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic was unprecedented and whilst its impact on local public service delivery was clearly significant, the full scale and extent of the health, socio-economic and financial impact was not yet fully understood. The immediate demands placed on local service delivery would result in significant additional costs across the economy, and the economic impact was expected to have significant repercussions for our populations, resulting in losses of income for the Council across a number of areas, potentially for a number of years. Whilst the immediate focus was quite rightly to manage and minimise the impact of the virus on public health, the longer term financial implications and scenarios do need to be considered.

Members were informed that included within the Education Capital Programme was a scheme to increase capacity at Aldwyn School from a 45-pupil intake to 60. The Scheme had a total

approved budget of £2.716m. In addition to the proposed extension works at Aldwyn school, the project scope would also include resurfacing of the flat roof area of the existing school. The proposed extension works require the new roof and existing roof to connect. Rather than forming a joint to a poor quality roof, it was recommended that given the age and condition of the existing roof (including ongoing leaks) it would be more cost effective and less disruptive to the school to renew the roof covering at the same time. This would reduce the potential future leak risk and water damage to the new extension. The estimated roofing cost was £200k. This would need to be funded from School Condition grant as the works related to repairs and maintenance of the existing site.

AGREED

- (i) That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2020/21 as set out in appendix 1 be noted.**
- (ii) That the extended scope of the Aldwyn School Extension project to include roof repairs as set out in section 3 of this report be approved.**
- (iii) That an allocation of £200,000 of School Condition Grant Funding to fund the roof repair works at Aldwyn School be approved.**

110 CYBER SECURITY AND DEFENCE STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader/Assistant Director (Digital Services) which explained that in recent years, Cyber Security had become a high risk and high priority for many businesses as well as the general public. The report detailed the Council and CCG's new Cyber Security and Defence Strategy. It contained details of controls, processes and systems that had been put in place to protect our digital assets, and it set out how the organisations should prepare for the possibility of a future cyber incidents and how to react should that eventuality occur.

This strategy applied to all computer systems operated by Tameside Council and Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group. Also included were any systems hosted on behalf of partner organisations, and to any person using Council equipment and/or accessing any computer systems hosted by the Council whether on premise or off premise. It also applied to all of the Council's computer systems and data hosted by third parties, including in those hosted in the "Cloud".

The council was working to achieve the IASME cyber security standard. IASME was developed over several years using UK government funding and it was an affordable and achievable alternative to the international standard, ISO27001. It was the sole partner to the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) for delivery of their Cyber Essentials Scheme. It was already widely adopted with over 30 council's throughout the United Kingdom. The IASME Governance directly mapped onto the NHS Digital Data Security Standards and it met or exceeded the NHS requirements.

Accreditation would be achieved through the audited IASME Governance process. Carried out by a skilled, independent third party, this was an independent on-site audit of the level of information security in-place within the organisation and offered a comparable level of assurance to the internationally recognised ISO27001. The standard included all of the five Cyber Essentials technical topics and adds additional topics that relate to people and processes:

- Risk assessment and management
- Training and managing people
- Change management
- Monitoring
- Backup
- Incident response and business continuity

Gaining the Audited IASME Governance certificate would provide the appropriate assurance to the organisation, our customers and suppliers that the Council is providing the highest levels of cyber security.

Adopting the IASME standard also meant the Council would be conforming to the HMG security framework. The HMG framework was introduced by the UK Government in June 2018. Developed and delivered in collaboration with NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre), the standard that all Government “Departments”, including organisations, agencies, arm’s length bodies, and contractors must adhere to without exception.

It was widely acknowledged that people remained the key risk and potential weak spot for cyber-attacks. Whilst advanced technology such as firewalls and virus identification and protection software could be deployed to give a hard protective shell around the organisations ICT systems and Data staff remained a risk. Simply clicking on a seemingly innocuous link within an email, or opening an infected attachment can quickly lead to a serious cyber-attack being launched.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommend to endorse the approach being taken to protect the Council from Cyber-attack and approve the new Cyber Strategy and controls, measures and processes contained within.

111. INCLUSIVE GROWTH STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth)/Director of Growth which set out the vision, aims and priorities of the emerging Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy 2021-26 along with a timeline for consultation and adoption.

The draft Inclusive Growth Strategy 2021-26 set the vision, aims, priorities and delivery plans to transform Tameside by harnessing the strengths and opportunities of people, land, health and digital. Inclusive Growth for Tameside’s economy would deliver economic growth for all by enabling all Tameside’s residents to access opportunities. The emerging vision, aims and priorities were considered by Executive Board on the 4 March 2020. The Strategy would be dependent on a range of partners working across private, public and voluntary sectors to deliver out plans. In the development and production of this strategy steps have been taken to ensure that the idea of inclusiveness is practiced in engagement in and delivery of our practical work.

The Strategy would provide detail to the Corporate Plan on how to realise and deliver overarching priorities. The Inclusive Growth Strategy would provide the local response to the Greater Manchester (GM) Local Industrial Strategy and sits at the centre of a range of core local strategies that are interdependent, these include:

- Tameside Housing Strategy (in development)
- Tameside Strategic Asset Management Plan (in development)
- GM Combined Authority (GMCA) 5 year Environment Plan
- Tameside Local Plan (in development)
- GM Spatial Framework (in development)
- Tameside Locality Plan

The Strategy would deliver across all of the priorities in the Corporate Plan. The Strategy would be parent to sub delivery plans that further evidenced the work across wider determinant strands such as health and poverty.

The Strategy had been informed by the GM Local Industrial Strategy, Independent Prosperity Review 2019 and Tameside Economic Baseline Review 2020. Wider studies, reports and research documents had also informed this work including the emerging Tameside Housing and Asset Management strategies. The Tameside Economic Baseline Review provided the core evidence base for this strategy.

AGREED

Executive Board be recommended to:

- (i) **Review the draft Inclusive Growth Strategy for consultation, provide comment and approve for consideration by Executive Cabinet**
- (ii) **Approve the commencement of the consultation on the Draft Inclusive Growth Strategy with a minimum consultation period of 6 weeks subject to Executive Cabinet approval.**
- (iii) **Note the Economic Baseline Report and to make it available as part of the consultation with the public.**
- (iv) **For the outcome of the consultation to be brought back to Board and Cabinet for further consideration**

112. DISCRETIONARY GRANT FUND REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth)/Director of Growth which stated that the Tameside Discretionary Grant Fund (DGF) had been delivered between June and September 2020 in accordance with the Scheme adopted on the 3 June 2020. The DGF totalled £2,345,250. The full list of Decisions relating to the Discretionary Grant Fund was provided in the report.

It was suggested that the DGF should be considered in context of the Small Business Grant (SBG) and Retail Hospitality Leisure Grant (RHLG), which provided non-discretionary payments to Tameside businesses totalling £44m. Applicants to the SBG or RHLG were ineligible for DGF and therefore all the schemes had provided a combined coverage of support. Any business in Tameside with a Rateable Value up to £51k was able to apply for some form of grant.

The DGF used social media, printed press, press releases, eshots (email to 2,500 Tameside businesses), business networks and radio interviews to reach potential applicants and achieved the following numbers with regards to communication:

- Round 1 - 2,106 unique visits to scheme/application webpage.
- Round 2 - 4,017 unique visits to scheme/application webpage 34,800 twitter views and 24,757 Facebook views.
- Round 3 – 2,587 unique visits to scheme/application webpage, 62,618 twitter views and 18,462 Facebook views.

These visits resulted in 392 applications to the Discretionary Grant Fund totalling £2,934,000. There were 240 eligible applications and their value (£1,883,000) and 152 ineligible applications.

There were 6,140 businesses in Tameside, it was not possible to determine how many of those businesses could have potentially applied for the scheme due to the lack income loss and property cost information. This was set out in the Key Decision on 3 June 2020 and Executive Decision Round 3 proposal report of 22 July 2020 (section 3.1 below).

AGREED

Executive Board are recommended to note the report and that Appendix A (applicants who received an award) of the report will be published on the Council's Discretionary Grant Fund webpage

113. BACK TO SCHOOL

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning & Skills / Director of Children's Services which outlined the work that had been undertaken by all in Tameside to ensure that schools opened to their pupils in a safe and sensible way. It was stated that the approach had always been inclusive and collaborative with some key pieces of work such as the "back to school – Tameside loves school" campaign held up as national good practice. The

range of measures in place and guidance that had been assimilated has been significant and the new year will undoubtedly bring additional challenges. However, the approach taken so far would stand the borough in good stead to meet any challenges going forward.

Since lockdown began at the beginning of the pandemic, schools had been at the centre of many national conversations about dealing with COVID-19. Schools were closed to all but the most vulnerable children and the children of key workers from mid-March. Primary schools opened more widely to Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils after Whit half terms and secondary schools opened to Year 10 pupils.

The wider opening had been carefully planned by schools and followed government guidance and was supported by the colleagues across the Council, particularly from the Health and Safety and Public Health teams. All of the wider opening was done taking a safe and sensible approach, with local trade union and staff representatives being fully involved at all planning stages.

Support for schools had always been available to all schools, whatever type they may be and whatever phase or sector they are in. This had helped to maintain a borough-wide approach to identifying collective processes which support local decisions.

Attendance during the pandemic had generally been very good for those eligible to attend. Whilst all Tameside maintained schools and academies had been open throughout the pandemic (3 schools (2 Academies) closed for short periods due to cleaning and staffing), the figures below are based on data submitted to the Department for Education (DfE). The response rate to the DfE Educational Settings Status form from 8 June onwards (1 June – 5 June was summer half term in Tameside and response rates were low) was between 72% and 81%.

School attendance was consistently above the national average estimate from 23 March to 29 May with the exceptions of bank holidays and 1 May when there were submission issues. Attendance ranged daily between 1% and 3% of all Tameside pupils (with exceptions of bank holidays).

School attendance was below the national average estimate from 1 June to 17 July (primarily due to the Whit half term break and the prolonged closure of Tameside schools until 22 June) though it increased week on week and was at a high of 16.4% on 07 July (National estimate of 17.5%).

The report set out the areas where support for schools and families had been focussed, as follows:

- Support for our most vulnerable pupils
- Digital devices
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Fact sheets / Workforce FAQ's
- Risk assessments
- Webinars
- Contact and communication
- Free school meals
- Support for transition
- Summer offer
- Covid Exceptional Costs Support

In conclusion the report provided details of work being undertaken in preparation for September, included details of:

- INSET days
- COVID Catchup Premium
- Partnership with the Education Endowment Foundation
- Task and Finish Groups and GM Y1 Transition Support
- SEND
- Specialist Settings
- SEN Transport

- Dedicated school transport
- Attendance campaign
- Test and trace and the contain framework

AGREED

That the update be noted.

114. COMMUNITY CARDIOLOGY DIAGNOSTICS SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Adult Social Care and Health)/Clinical Lead/Director of Commissioning which presented options for the locality for the commissioning of community cardiology diagnostics from March 2021.

Members were informed that Tameside and Glossop CCG commissioned Broomwell Healthwatch to deliver community cardiology diagnostic services. Broomwell Healthwatch was commissioned to deliver this service until March 2021. A procurement process was required for contract arrangements from April 2021

It was stated that Broomwell Healthwatch had successfully delivered services to Tameside & Glossop for a number of years. The current contract began April 2016 as a 3 year contract following a successful procurement process with the option to extend for two years. The option to extend was taken up and would end on 31 March 2021. The indicative annual contract value for the 2 services was £305k. The current contract had consistently over performed and activity had grown exponentially over the life of the contract.

Current average activity for the service was 839 reviews each month, with activity increasing by 16% over the course of the contract. Current average activity for the 24 hour ECG service was 91 per month, with activity increasing by 76% over the course of the contract.

Rising levels of activity were essential as early mortality rates (under 75 years) from coronary heart disease in Tameside & Glossop were significantly higher than the England average. A proactive approach to diagnosing and testing for heart conditions was essential to raise healthy life expectancy. The NHS long term plan stated that cardiovascular disease caused a quarter of all deaths in the UK and was the largest cause of premature mortality in deprived areas. This was the single biggest area where the NHS could save lives over the next 10 years. Increasing activity would also help increase the diagnosed prevalence of atrial fibrillation (AF). Public Health England estimated that there could be an additional 1,050 people with undiagnosed atrial fibrillation across Tameside and Glossop. This was an activity-based contract, if successful, activity would continue to increase and deflect urgent activity away from other services. Due to the nature of this contract it was not deemed suitable for a block contracting arrangement.

AGREED

That Strategic Commissioning Board recommended to:

- (i) Support a 3-6 month extension of the current contract to enable a procurement exercise to take place which will be facilitated by STAR procurement, the delay in this process starting earlier has unfortunately been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- (ii) Support the procurement process outlined within the paper, including permission to award the contract following a successful procurement exercise**

113. HYDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage)/Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth)/Assistant Director (Strategic Property) which explained that Hyde Community College (HCC) was a PFI school funded and procured through the Building Schools for the Future programme. Hyde Community

College was one of five schools with Project Co2 managed through a special purpose vehicle called Inspired Spaces. Inspired Spaces is managed by Amber Infrastructure. This was a 25 year contract and as well as constructing the school the SPV was responsible for the ongoing Facilities Management and Lifecycle Maintenance. Any changes to the contract followed a structured variation process.

The proposed scheme was to remodel some internal classrooms following the closure of the sixth form provision at the school and to remodel a large open space that had previously been used for vocational education. The work was planned in three phases and regular reports on progress were presented to the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel. All three phases were essential to ensure the school could take 240 pupils per year group. The current coronavirus pandemic and the need for appropriately risk assessed provision in the school was also impacting on the need for additional temporary accommodation.

The project commenced on site in July 2020 without planning permission or governance approval. The reasons for this are subject to an internal investigation. Planning was granted on 19 August 2020 with supplementary prestart planning condition relating to drainage. Works therefore ceased on site on 20 August 2020. The prestart planning condition has now been met.

The 5 classrooms proposed were modular units whose manufacture has been completed and were due to be delivered to site on 20 August 2020.

Meanwhile, work had been ongoing to sort out all the contractual arrangements including any lease and licence requirements and ensure there was clarity on the lifecycle costs going forward. This was because there would be a change in the school and the necessary cleaning requirements together with the liabilities for the PFI company to care for and look after the fabric of the new classrooms this required a changes to the monthly charge which needs to be tested for value for money.

Unfortunately, the Council was advised on 6 October 2020 by Amber (PFI management company) that the modular unit supplier had stated that if the 5 classroom modular unit were not delivered to site on Tuesday 13 October 2020 then they could not then deliver them until March 2021. This has been because of the significant demand on suppliers for more modular classrooms had increased significantly as Schools nationally attempted to deal with the impact of Covid 19 and the requirements to social distance and creating additional capacity within the schools not necessarily for classrooms. Amber further stated that in order to accept the modular units on site on 13 October they required an instruction from the Council to proceed within 24 hours namely by close of business on 7 October 2020 in order to complete ground works on site in preparation to take delivery of the modular units.

Accordingly, this report sought authority to enter in a Contract Variation Notice for the sum of £1,147,142 in order to deliver:

- Phase 2 works - new Science Block. Work to provide a 5-classroom science block for the start of September 2020 term. Block to provide two full science labs and three other rooms in which science may be taught. The three classrooms to include a demonstration area equipped with gas for bunsen burner use etc. Each of the five classrooms to be equipped with power and data. Additionally a staff work area/kitchenette with provision of sink, worktops, and cupboards along with sockets for kettle and microwave. Additionally store rooms, boys and girls wc and disabled wc, staircase and ancillary rooms. Block to be be appropriately fire-rated given use for experiments. Staircase to be protected with refuge area. Furniture and ICT whiteboards to be provided separately. This CVN to cover design and development work, planning and building control, project management as well as groundworks and provision of the actual block. Cost to include demolition and removal from site of D&T external store. Scheme to include appropriate external fencing and gates as necessary.

AGREED

That the Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage)/Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) be recommended to agree that in the circumstances that the Council authorised the Assistant Director Strategic Property, to sign off the Contract Variation Notice in the sum of £1,147,142 referred to in paragraph 1.14 of the report in order to deliver *Phase 2 works - new Science Block. Work to provide a 5-classroom science block for 13 November 2020* under the variation Procedure set out in the PFI Project Agreement on the basis set out in the report and subject to a further report being received by the Board setting out:

- (a) the requirements for the whole project including the position and any governance required for any variation, change orders and warranties required to the original PFI contractual arrangements to facilitate the project and to receive the value for money report.
- (b) the actions being taken to ensure that school capital projects are properly managed with governance being obtained in advance so that the Council is in a position to properly agree to risks and manage the Council's statutory duties to deliver school places efficiently and effectively within a balanced budget.

114 FORWARD PLAN

AGREED

That the forward plan of items for Board be noted.

CHAIR