

## BOARD

9 December 2020

**Present**

<b>Elected Members</b>	<b>Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Bray, Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne and Ryan</b>
<b>Chief Executive</b>	<b>Steven Pleasant</b>
<b>Borough Solicitor</b>	<b>Sandra Stewart</b>
<b>Deputy Section 151 Officer</b>	<b>Tom Wilkinson</b>

**Also In Attendance:** **Steph Butterworth, Ilys Cookson, Jeanelle De Gruchy, Richard Hancock, Ian Saxon, Paul Smith, Sarah Threlfall, Jayne Traverse, Emma Varnam, Debbie Watson, and Jess Williams**

**Apologies** for **Councillors Kitchen and Wills**  
**Absence**

### 174 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

### 175 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board meeting on the 2 December 2020 were approved as a correct record.

### 176 ASHTON OLD BATHS – OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Growth / Director of Growth / Interim Head of Investment and Development. The report set out future arrangements for Ashton Old Baths operation and ongoing maintenance.

The Head of Employment and Skills provided a summary of the operation of the Ashton Old Baths since opening. The centre had experienced high occupancy until the impact of Covid-19. Plans for the future including income from the new annexe space and the canopy for the event space put the centre in a positive position for future years.

Members were reminded that the new office floor space was expected to generate extra business rates of circa £45,922 per annum from the AOB project. This figure was based on actuals from 2017/18 from Oxford Innovation who manage the Ashton Old Baths Phase 1. This would be in addition to the Business Rate contribution between 2017 and 2020 which on average has been £52,170 per annum.

Members were presented with a forecast of the cumulative overall expenditure above that budgeted by Oxford Innovation over the lifetime of the project to 31 March 2024. This was due to:

- Impact of Covid-19 on occupancy since March 2020.
- The top floor event space was not able to be used for most of the year due to it being too cold, resulting in this planned source of revenue being severely restricted to date, this would be resolved for the financial year 2021/22. The canopy for the top floor event space had been included in the new Annexe phase and was expected to be in place before March 2021.
- Defined Gateway criteria as to the type of companies that were permitted to occupy a unit in the centre under the terms of the ERDF funding, also restricting revenue opportunities especially during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This report proposed that the management agreement be extended by a year with the ability to extend by a further year. Further, that a modification to the existing contract would also take place to enable Oxford Innovation to provide overall management arrangements to the existing and new Annexe space with the exception of the Data Centre, which would be managed by an external provider (currently being procured with budget identified for this management contract).

It was stated the reasons for extending and modifying the management agreement were pragmatic, the Annexe needed to be brought under effective management from completion and business continuity was required especially in the Covid-19 operating environment. The modification was needed for economic and technical reasons and would cause significant inconvenience and substantial duplication of costs for the Council if not managed by one provider with operational experience of the building and local market.

It was explained that the economic impact of Brexit uncertainty, followed by the unprecedented drop in economic activity caused by Covid-19 lockdown and subsequent recession had seen the centre experience its first major decline in occupancy, and demand from businesses who met the gateway criteria. However, there had been continued interest from business who met elements of the gateway criteria.

Members were advised that following procurement advice there was sufficient comfort in the Grant Funding Agreement to suggest that an expansion of use would be acceptable, provided it targeted existing and growing SMEs in priority sectors. It was proposed that Tameside Council would formally request this change. This would be submitted following Cabinet's consideration of this report.

#### **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:**

- (i) Authorise the submission of a change request to the ERDF Monitoring Body to evolve the current gateway criteria for new businesses applying for accommodation to support increased occupancy.**
- (ii) Extend the existing Management Agreement to one-plus, one-plus year with Oxford Innovation.**
- (iii) Authorise modification to the existing contract with Oxford Innovation to incorporate the new Annexe from February 2021.**
- (iv) Subject to recommendations (ii) and (iii), approve the procurement and enter into a new management contract on expiry of the existing contract after seven years (2024) with a further report to Cabinet in 2022/23 prior to procurement.**
- (v) Approve the estimated net revenue budget of £ 36k for Ashton Old Baths as stated in table 1 for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24. This sum will be financed from the existing Growth revenue budget over this period.**

#### **177 DECARBONISATION OF THE PUBLIC ESTATE - ACCEPTANCE AND EXPENDITURE OF GRANT FUNDING**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member of Finance and Economic Growth / Assistant Director of Strategic Property. The report provided background information in regard to the Decarbonisation of the Public Estate Fund and the bid submission that the Council had made to the fund working as part of GMCA consortium. The report also provided information in relation to the processes involved in bid submission, the timescales involved and the detail of the Councils submission.

The report summarised that as part of the Summer Fiscal stimulus, Government announced £1bn funding for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). This funding was being released, as 100% grants, via Salix Finance (NDPB), between October 2020 and January 2021. The PSDS fund aimed to halve carbon emissions from the Public Estate by 2032, through the deployment of energy efficiency and heating measures.

The Assistant Director of Strategic Property stated that the PSDS offered a rare opportunity to bid for 100% funding for capital works to the Councils buildings that would produce a real change and underline the Councils commitment to the Greater Manchester carbon reduction targets. It also provided an opportunity to improve buildings and in some cases would provide planned replacements that would have required funding via internal Council funding. Installed measures would also reduce the Councils overall utility costs.

It was reported that the result of the bid would be announced on the 11 December 2020. If the GMCA bid was successful then the Council would receive a formal notification of the grant conditions.

Discussion ensued on how the schools were selected in **Appendix A**. Members of the Board asked that all schools be assessed so that they could be considered for future grants and phases.

#### **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:**

- (i) Give approval in principal to the acceptance of the grant funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund of circa £2.4 million to be included in Property Services capital budget and approve expenditure for associated capital works on identified buildings as detailed in the report.**
- (ii) Note that approval would be in principal pending receipt of the formal grant condition letter, which will be received circa 11 December, with subsequent separate Executive Decision in regard to formal acceptance.**

#### **178 DROYLSDEN LIBRARY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member of Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth.

In order to take advantage of an immediate and time limited funding opportunity the Council needed to consider bringing forward one element of the Droylsden Town Centre redevelopment proposals, specifically the relocation of Droylsden Library. This report set out the nature of the funding opportunity available to the Council, the options available to the Council for the relocation of Droylsden Library and sought approval to bring forward plans for its relocation to the ground floor of Guardsman Tony Downes House (Greater Manchester Pension Fund building)

The Director of Governance and Pensions highlighted that there had been no actual decision or governance to relocate the library. Further, in order to progress this project, it needed to be managed very carefully given the age of the consultation as balanced against the very tight timescales preferably so that abortive costs were avoided. It was proposed that an Executive Decision be taken to allow for work to begin on the Droylsden Library Relocation and for this report to be redrafted with a focus on the library itself, its content, facilities, and community space and accessibility issues.

#### **AGREED**

**That the report be redrafted and proceed to Cabinet in January 2020 and that and appropriate Executive Decision be produced to allow for work to begin on the Droylsden Library Relocation.**

#### **179 THE A57 LINK ROADS INITIATIVE UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member of Transport and Connectivity / Director of Growth. The report provided an update on the proposed A57 Link Roads initiative.

The report summarised the progress of the Mottram and A57 Trunk Road improvements. Highways England (HE) had appointed its delivery partner for the new bypass. Having reaffirmed all the work undertaken to date, the consultants were concentrating on issues around traffic modelling, air quality issues and noise. To deliver the scheme outcomes, within a fixed financial budget of £180.6m, the consultants had proposed four design amendments which had been accepted by HE. These were subject to further discussions with Tameside officers. Further, the report detailed the progress of the work undertaken on Traffic Modelling, Air Quality, Blight Issues and improved facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.

**AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to authorise drawing down the allocated £100k funding as appropriate to fund the cost of Tameside's input and submission to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the Development Consent Order approval process.**

**180 TAMESIDE AND STOCKPORT PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**AGREED**

**That the Tameside and Stockport Partnership Opportunities item be deferred to the next meeting of the Executive Board.**

**181 ADULT SERVICES HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION WITH SUPPORT STRATEGY 2021-2026**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Health, Social Care and Population Health / Clinical Lead for Living well / Director of Adult Services. The report outlined a range of accommodation schemes needed over the coming 3-5 years to meet current and future need across all adult groups.

The demand for expanding and improving the accommodation provided by the Council required ongoing management. The North West Sustainability Review highlighted a region at 'tipping point' in the requirements for older peoples housing and social care needs, where incremental measures would no longer be enough. This had led the Council to move away from failure demand towards long term investment and early intervention.

Approval had been granted for various potential accommodation schemes over the past 12 months based on the need to increase capacity to meet existing and future need as outlined in Section 2 of this report. Of the potential schemes approved the Council had to date been able progress the following schemes:

- Mount Street, Hyde (SCB August 2020)
- Hart Street, Droylsden (SCB July 2019)

Work had progressed significantly in relation to defining the current and future housing requirement over the coming years. In line with this work had progressed more using links with Registered Housing Providers locally to progress the immediate accommodation needs.

In line with the Council's ambitions of supporting all people that were eligible for services to Live Well at Home a plan had been designed to significantly increase the availability of high quality accommodation with support.

The identified need and potential accommodation solutions were constantly being updated, Members received the most recent table containing the schemes, number of units and timescale.

Delivering the plans would be a key factor in delivering savings and efficiencies for the Council, whilst increasing the quality and range of independent living options for people supported by the Service.

To enable timely decisions and to maximise the potential savings/cost avoidance whilst enabling Adult services to facilitate smooth transitions authority was sought to agree terms to enter individual agreements to deliver accommodation with support for the Adults service users. Advice would be sought in respect of each accommodation project, to agree the details and the value for money of each scheme individually together with advice from STAR Procurement should any procurement activity be required within each individual scheme in relation to the application of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

#### **AGREED**

**That the Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to agree**

- (i) That approval is given to progress the plans devised by Adult Services in conjunction with Growth and thereby the resultant accommodation schemes identified in ongoing discussions with registered provider partners. The accommodation schemes developed will increase capacity in the borough for the provision of accommodation with support for the range of Adult service users enabling them to live in their own homes.**
- (ii) That authority is given to enter individual agreements to deliver accommodation with support for the Adults' service users, subject to such relevant governance required Key/executive decision setting out the details including vfm together with advice from STAR Procurement should any procurement activity be required within each individual scheme in relation to the application of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.**
- (iii) That approval is given to provide the support in the accommodation at all locations by either the in-house Long Term Support Service, or through tender with independent sector providers (to be established based on the needs identified and requirements of each scheme).**

#### **182 LOCAL RESTRICTIONS SUPPORT GRANT AND ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT - DISCRETIONARY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth which set out preferred options for the disbursement of the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) (LRSG) and Additional Restrictions Grant Funds (ARG).

It was stated that the LRSG (Open) was intended to help kick start recovery for businesses that were not legally required to close but were severely impacted by the restrictions under LCAL 2 (Tier 2) and LCAL High type restrictions, and was retrospective applying from 1 August 2020 (as per LRSG (Open)).

Tameside Council had been allocated £1,811,940 for the period 1 August 2020 to 4 November 2020. It was proposed that Tameside Council managed this allocation closely and utilised the ARG to top up the budget should demand exceed Government funding. It was expected that all Local Authorities would be given a new 28 day allocation following re-entry into Tier 3 or 2, however this had not yet been confirmed with a funding amount in formal guidance or offer letters by Government.

Members were advised that the ARG was intended to allow Local Authorities to support businesses in their local economies and to provide additional support to grant funding under the Local Restrictions Support Grant from the 24 October 2020 (GM entering LCAL 3 'Tier 3'). Government envisaged that this would primarily take the form of discretionary grants, but that Local Authorities could also use this funding for wider business support activities. Tameside Council had been allocated £4,792,000 (confirmed by GMCA 13 November 2020) for the period beyond 24 October and was required to spend the money in financial years 2020/21 – 2021/22. It was proposed Tameside Council would not utilise any other funding beyond that provided by Government and would not overspend on this allocation. It was further proposed that initially £2m of funding would be

utilised for ARG with the remaining £2.7m available for top up of LRSG Open and potential additional use for ARG.

The number of self-employed residents in Tameside could be gained from Government data provided in August 2020 **Appendix C** to the report suggested that there were 9,800 Tameside residents eligible for the SEISS, of which 7,700 had made a claim by 31/7/2020. The options set out in the report did not include support for self-employed who had not received support due to the limitations of the Government's national scheme. Tameside Council as part of GMCA continued to lobby the Government on modifying the national scheme.

It was explained that the LRSG (Open) preferred option was predicated on a streamlined approach to administration with RV the basis of award levels and Non RV based on property rental / mortgage costs and was aligned to other GM LA schemes. The report proposed that income levels were not used as the options were targeted on sectors that have had restrictions. This would provide a more responsive process for applicants due to lower processing times. Other non-preferred options were set out in **Appendix D** to the report.

With regards to ARG funding options for the allocation for period 24 October to 31 March 2022. Authorities in Greater Manchester were working towards the following collective principles in the design of an ARG scheme:

- a) Businesses which were badly affected by the restrictions but who were not receiving other grant support
- b) Other businesses which were important for each LAs economy

The ARG fund would need to be spent by the end of 2021/22 (31/03/2022). It was likely that the funding would be fully utilised during the national lockdown period and following months due to need and demand.

The preferred option for ARG was for Tameside trading businesses that were not receiving LRSG (Closed) / (Closed) addendum / (Sector) grant would receive one off payments based on employee numbers. This option was open to RV and Non RV but not domestic businesses including employed in domestic premises.

#### **AGREED**

**That the Executive Cabinet be recommended to:**

- 1. Approve the recommended Local Restriction Support Grant (Open) and Additional Restriction Grant schemes and approve payments covering the periods before and after National Lockdown.**
- 2. Approve applications to be paid immediately once eligibility checks are completed and appropriate state aid declarations have been completed by the applicants.**
- 3. Receive a review and outcome report setting out all applications paid to be published on the Council website in April 2021.**
- 4. To agree the temporary re-prioritisation until February 2021 of the Growth Directorate Services as set out as 7.1 to enable the delivery of Local Restriction Support Grant Open and Additional Restrictions Grant.**

#### **183 FORWARD PLAN**

#### **AGREED**

**That the forward plan of items for Board be noted.**

**CHAIR**