

EXECUTIVE CABINET

16 December 2020

Commenced: 1.40pm

Terminated: 2.20pm

Present: Councillors Warrington (Chair), Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne, Kitchen Ryan and Wills

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bray and Cooney

In Attendance:	Dr Ashwin Ramachandra	Co-Chair, Tameside & Glossop CCG
	Dr Asad Ali	Co-Chair, Tameside & Glossop CCG
	Steven Pleasant	Chief Executive & Accountable Officer
	Sandra Stewart	Director of Governance & Pensions
	Kathy Roe	Director of Finance
	Steph Butterworth	Director of Adults Services
	Ian Saxon	Director of Operations & Neighbourhoods
	Richard Hancock	Director of Children's Services
	Jayne Traverse	Director of Growth
	Jessica Williams	Director of Commissioning
	Jeanelle De Gruchy	Director of Population Health
	Tom Wilkinson	Assistant Director of Finance
	Sarah Threlfall	Assistant Director, Policy, Performance & Communication
	Ilys Cookson	Assistant Director, Exchequer Services
	David Berry	Head of Employment and Skills

103. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

104. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet meeting held on 25 November 2020 be approved as a correct record.

105. MINUTES OF STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 25 November 2020 be noted.

106. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings of Executive Board held on 11 November and 2 December 2020, be noted.

107. MINUTES OF THE LIVING WITH COVID BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Living with Covid Board held on 4 November and 18 November 2020 be noted.

108. MINUTES OF THE CARBON AND WASTE REDUCTION PANEL

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Carbon and Waste Reduction Panel held on 18 November 2020 be noted.

109. MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting held on 14 December 2020. Approval was sought of recommendations of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel arising from the meeting.

RESOLVED

- (a) The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 14 December 2020, be noted; and
- (b) That the following recommendations be approved:

CAPITAL PROGRAMME FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to:

- (i) Note the forecast outturn position for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1.
- (ii) Approve the re-profiling of budgets into 2021/22 as set out on page 4 of Appendix 1.
- (iii) Note the funding position of the approved Capital Programme as set on page 9 of Appendix 1. Members are reminded that the Period 6 finance report asked for approval to remove all remaining earmarked schemes and approve a full review and re-prioritisation of the future Capital Programme, to be concluded alongside the Growth Directorate's review of the estate and identification of further surplus assets for disposal.
- (iv) Note the changes to the Capital Programme as set out on page 10 in Appendix 1
- (v) Note the updated Prudential Indicator position set out on pages 11-12 of Appendix 1, which was approved by Council in February 2020.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (NOVEMBER 2020)

That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to note the following:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) the progress with regards to Flooding: Flood Prevention and Consequential Repairs and the rephrasing as a result of the successful bid for Department of Transport funding to improve highway drainage in the borough
- (iii) progress with regard to the Slope Stability Programme.
- (iv) progress with regards to the Cemetery Boundary Walls Programme.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) the start date for the Children's Playground Programme.
- (vii) the progress with regards to the Ashton Town Centre Public Realm Project.
- (viii) the impact of Covid 19 on the LED Street Lighting Lanterns Project.

- (ix) the progress with regards to the Mayor's Challenge Fund Programme (MCF).
- (x) progress with regards to the £400,000 awarded under the Emergency Active Travel Fund.
- (xi) the progress with regards to the Highways England – Designated Funds Scheme.
- (xii) that works are progressing with regards to the successful Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund – Highway Maintenance Challenge Fund bid of £400,000 (£350,000 from the Department of Transport, £50,000 Tameside) with respect of improving highway drainage infrastructure.
- (xiii) progress with regards to Department for Transport – Safer Roads Fund project in conjunction with Oldham MBC.
- (xiv) the replacement tipper as set out in section 2.31 in this report arrived at the end of July 2020 and is now operational.
- (xv) authority was granted to procure two minibuses via competitive tender as set out in section 2.33
- (xvi) approval has been given for the purchase of an additional gully cleansing vehicle to enable the Council to maintain the highway gully network in line with our service standards as set out in section 2.34
- (xvii) the allocation of £300,000 from Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) for bus stop enhancements within Tameside, and seek approval from Executive Cabinet for £300,000 to be added to the Council's Capital programme for this project to be delivered by the Council.
- (xviii) approval for the revised funding package required to deliver the Ashton Streetscape MCF scheme as set out in 2.27 of this report. This revision does not require any additional funding from the Council's Capital programme.
- (xix) approval to commit funding from the existing Sustainable Travel budget for works to the Tame Valley Loop as identified in Sections 3.23-3.29 of this report.
- (xx) the potential changes to the individual Mayor's Challenge Fund schemes funding packages as set out in Appendix 3 of this report. The revisions, at this stage, are estimates only and are subject to further scheme development and TfGM approval.

ADULTS CAPITAL PLAN

That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to:

- (i) note the updates provided in this report.
- (ii) approve Statutory Compliance expenditure of £100,000 (in total) to be allocated from the Disabled Facilities Grant budget to support the adaptations required at the Mount Street, Hyde supported living scheme.
- (iii) approve that the methodology by which the Housing Adaptations Service is resourced from the current fee based structure to one of direct capitalisation of salaries directly from the Disabled Facilities Grant.

LEISURE ASSETS CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

RESOLVED

That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to note the report.

FINANCE & IT CAPITAL UPDATE REPORT

RESOLVED

That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to note the report and the details of the status of the schemes in the programme.

GROWTH CAPITAL REPORT

That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to approve that the following be added to the approved Council Capital Programme:

- (i) The Corporate Landlord Statutory Compliance capital expenditure for the period identified in Appendix 5 of £0.028m.
- (ii) S106 funding allocations of £0.052m as detailed in section 2.29.
- (iii) That £0.793m of Growth's 2020/21 capital budget is re-phased as set out in APPENDIX 6.

EDUCATION CAPITAL REPORT

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to approve:

- (i) Proposed changes to the Education Capital Programme, Basic Need Funding Schemes Appendix 1, Special Provision Fund and Healthy Pupils' Capital Fund as outlined in Appendix 2A and 2B and School Condition Allocation Funding Schemes Appendix 3.
- (ii) To transfer £56,000 of fire safety budget back to the unallocated SCA budget now that final costs for replacement fire alarms have been obtained) paragraph 6.8)
- (iii) Allocate £13,000 to works to upgrade the gas supply at Broadbottom CE (paragraph 6.12)
- (iv) retrospective costs £10,123 funded from contingency following an urgent inspection of Victorian lath and plaster ceilings at eight schools during the October half term (paragraph 6.15)
- (v) retrospective urgent works to the boiler control system at Hurst Knoll CE undertaken during October half term costing £5,010 funded from contingency (paragraph 6.17)
- (vi) Design work to tender stage for electrical re-wires at Fairfield Primary (£10,614) and Arlies Primary (£9,981) be approved (paragraph 6.20)
- (vii) That a high level estimate of £220,000 be allocated to carry out replacement roof works at Stalyhill Infant school (paragraph 6.23)
- (viii) That £30,000 be allocated to carry out further investigation and scheme development for roof replacements and repairs at Corrie, Fairfield, Greswell, Hollingworth and Oakdale schools while noting that the main works to these roofs will need to be prioritised over several financial years;
- (ix) To allocate £15,000 for scheme development to tender stage for improved security access arrangements at Milton St John's CE school;
- (x) To allocate £10,000 for design to tender stage of replacement boilers at Audenshaw Primary School;
- (xi) To note that the boilers at Gorse Hall and Hurst Knoll school require replacement and to set aside £200,000 from 2021/22 SCA funding for this purpose. Bids have also been submitted to the Greater Manchester decarbonisation fund and it is hoped that some or all of this amount may be offset;
- (xii) To allocate a further £10,000 of 2020/21 funding to carry out further visits at February 21 half term to complete asbestos management reports;
- (xiii) To obtain costs to begin a five-year rolling programme of building condition surveys to ensure the asset management plan is maintained;
- (xiv) To allocate £32,500 of unallocated Basic Need Grant to Mossley Hollins to cover final costs;
- (xv) Following a consultation with the school and parents, an appraisal of the options to expand Hawthorns Primary School is further progressed by officers and an outline business case is developed for consideration by members in April 2021. An indicative Capital Allocation of £200,000 is made from the Basic Need funding for the design, surveying and business appraisal activity.

CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE PROPERTY CAPITAL SCHEMES UPDATE REPORT

That the EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED:

- (i) to note the delays in relation to the purchase of the new residential property for the assessment unit as set out in section 2.1 of the report;
- (ii) to approve the drawdown of a further £48,000 from the Children's Earmarked Reserve to fund the additional works, outlined at 2.2, to make St Lawrence Road safe and bring it into use; and

- (iii) to approve the drawdown of £13,541 from the Children's Earmarked Reserve to fund the additional works and refurbishment of the Fairfield Unit as outlined in 2.3.**

110. CONSOLIDATED 2020/21 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 31 OCTOBER 2020

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / CCG Chair / Director of Finance, which updated Members on the financial position up to 31 October 2020 and forecasts to 31 March 2021.

The Director of Finance reported that at Month 7, the Council was forecasting a year end overspend of £3.4m, which was a slight improvement on the position reported at month 6 due mainly to a revised forecast in Children's Social Care. COVID pressures exceeded £40m but with £39m of COVID related grant funding and other income contributions, the net pressure relating to COVID was £0.898m.

Significant pressures remained across Directorates, most significantly in Children's Social Care where expenditure was forecast to exceed budget by £3.718m, with further cost pressures in Adults and Education, and income loss pressures in the Growth Directorate.

In the first 6 months of the year the NHS had operated under a national command and control financial framework, with CCGs and providers advised to assume a break-even financial position in 2020-21. Changes to the national financial regime from month 7 meant that individual organisations financial positions would be monitored within the context of a financial envelope set at an STP (Sustainability and Transformation Partnership) level, which for the CCG, meant at a Greater Manchester level.

The CCG was showing a year to date pressure of £4,924k, but a break even position by year end. This related to top up payments which had not yet been received: £4,277k outstanding from command & control in first half of year, plus £647k Hospital Discharge Programme costs in M7. A decision on funding for the first half of the year would be made by NHSE by the end of November.

RESOLVED

That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

111. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2020 MODEL PAY POLICY FOR BOTH SCHOOL BASED AND CENTRALLY BASED TEACHING STAFF

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Executive Member of Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Assistant Director, People and Workforce Development, which outlined key statutory changes to pay and conditions effective from 1 September 2020 for all staff who were employed and subject to teachers pay and conditions.

It was reported that, following the recommendation of the School Teachers Review Body (STRB) the Department for Education produced a 2020 School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Documents (STPCD) that came into force on the 14 October 2020. The updated STPCD recommended that:

- Minimum of the Main Pay Range (MPR) was increased by 5.5%.
- Maximum of the MPR and the minima and maxima of all other pay and allowance ranges for teachers and school leaders were uplifted by 2.75%.
- The uplifts applied to all four regional pay bands; and
- Advisory pay points were reintroduced on the MPR and Upper Pay Range (UPR) from September 2020.

A summary of the statutory changes to the school teachers pay and conditions documents and the implications for the Councils Model Pay Policy 2020 were detailed.

It was proposed to provide the corresponding percentage uplift on all discretionary pay points in all teacher pay ranges and on all allowances. A 2.75% uplift on all discretionary points in the unqualified, leading practitioner and leadership pay ranges. This proposal was consistent with previous years approach and feedback at a local consultative level whereby local trade union representatives and head teachers had previously and consistently supported the uplift of all discretionary points within a pay range to the same level as that awarded to the minima and maxima pay levels. It was further proposed to adopt the advisory 6-point main pay range (MPR) and 3 point upper pay range (UPR) pay points.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Model Pay Policy 2020 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be implemented for all centrally based teaching staff employed within the Education Service;**
- (ii) That the Model Pay Policy 2020 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be recommended for adoption by all Governing Bodies of community, voluntary controlled and voluntary aided schools within the Borough, and that it applies to all teaching staff employed within these schools;**
- (iii) That the national cost of living pay award be implemented with effect from 1 September 2020, to all teacher pay ranges and allowances as follows:**
 - Minimum of the main pay range (MPR) is increased by 5.5 per cent.**
 - Maximum of the main pay range (MPR) and the minimum and maximum of all other pay ranges (i.e. unqualified pay range, upper pay range (UPR) leading practitioner and leadership pay range) and allowance ranges (i.e. TLR and SEN allowances) are increased by 2.75 per cent.**
 - Advisory pay points are reintroduced on the MPR and UPR from September 2020, applying a higher than 2.75 per cent pay increase on the MPR2 – MPR5 pay points.**

112. PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member of Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth / Director of Growth, which reminded Members that approval to sell the freehold interest in the former Hartshead School site was given by Executive Cabinet on 25 September 2019. The terms of sale included an undertaking by the Council to Sport England to: refresh the Tameside Playing Pitch Strategy, install an all-weather practice cricket facility at Ladysmith Cricket Club in Ashton, the development of a School Sports Facility Strategy and provision of two additional full size adult grass football pitches in the locality with the costs met from the proceeds of sale estimated at approximately £75,000.

The report set out proposals to deliver the undertaking made to sport England and sought approval to proceed based on the information set out in the report.

The report stated that it was proposed that two practice wickets be installed on the former tennis court at the club site bringing the area back in to productive use. The installation was dependent upon a successful planning application, which would be submitted in December 2020. If planning approval was achieved then the installation would take place in March 2021 in readiness for the start of the 2021 cricket season.

Further, there was a requirement to mitigate against the loss of natural turf pitches at the Former Hartshead school site. However, there was currently no identified user demand for additional pitches in this locality so this need should be re-evaluated as part of the new Playing Pitch Strategy.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the development of an updated Playing Pitch Strategy for Tameside be approved;**
- (ii) That an updated strategy for the community use of school sports facilities in Tameside be approved;**
- (iii) That the installation of artificial practice cricket wicket at Ladysmith Cricket Club, Ashton be approved; and**

- (iv) that £0.040m be allocated from the capital programme to fund an all-weather cricket facility at Ladysmith Cricket Club in Ashton.

113. LOCAL RESTRICTION SUPPORT GRANTS – MANDATORY

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Assistant Director of Exchequer Services which detailed the administration of the Local Restrictions Support Grant in accordance with guidance issued by the Secretary of State for the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Members were informed that on 9 September 2020 the Secretary of State for the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) announced the introduction of Local Restrictions Support Grants (LRSG) to help support businesses that were required to close due to localised restrictions as a result of COVID-19. Further guidance on the administration of the LRSG was issued on 3 November 2020.

The grants were a combination of mandatory and discretionary grants and some businesses would be eligible to receive more than one grant.

There were 5 grants payable under the new grant schemes;

- Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed);
- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector);
- Local Restrictions Support Grant (Addendum);
- Local Restriction Support Grant (Open); and
- Additional Restrictions Grant

Appendix 1 to the report outlined each grant in detail and highlighted the complexity of administration and understanding for the business community.

The Assistant Director, Exchequer Services, summarised the mandatory grant schemes, which went live in Tameside on the 10 November 2020. The mandatory grant schemes were the Local Restriction Support Grant (Closed), Local Restrictions Support Grant (Sector) and Local Restrictions Support Grant (Addendum).

The government had confirmed that local authorities would be reimbursed in full for all grants that were paid to eligible businesses that were affected. Payments would be made under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003, however grant funding letters had not yet been received for all grants from BEIS.

The application form for the mandatory grants went live on 10 November 2020 after approval from internal audit had been secured. As at 20 November 2020, a total of 654 had been received and 110 paid to date to the value of £143,434.

RESOLVED

That the arrangements for the payment of mandatory grants to business rates payers, as detailed in the report, be noted.

114. LOCAL RESTRICTIONS SUPPORT GRANT AND ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT – DISCRETIONARY

The Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth, which set out preferred options for the disbursement of the Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) & Additional Restrictions Grant Funds.

It was explained that the Council has received five funding for five different business support grants. Three of the funding streams were for mandatory grant schemes (see Minute 113 above), which were fully funded and operated in accordance with prescribed terms. The report focused on the two discretionary funding streams for business rates grants – Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) and Additional Restrictions Grant.

It was further explained that Local Authorities had been given the discretion to determine the payment schedule and timings for the grants, however Government strongly encouraged payments to be made to eligible businesses as quickly as possible in order to help businesses in need. The success measure of the Tameside schemes would be their implementation with all monies being paid to Tameside businesses. Whilst discretion has been given to Local Authorities, Section 13 of the LRSO (Open) guidance advised that the fund was aimed at hospitality, hotel, bed & breakfast and leisure businesses.

The preferred options for support and design of each funding stream were set out in the report, with other non-preferred options detailed in an appendix to the report. The two schemes set out for approval would provide up to £6,603,940 of financial support to Tameside businesses.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the recommended Local Restriction Support Grant (Open) and Additional Restriction Grant schemes and payments covering the periods before and after National Lockdown, be approved;**
- (ii) That applications be paid immediately once eligibility checks are completed and appropriate state aid declarations have been completed by the applicants;**
- (iii) That a review and outcome report setting out all applications paid be published on the Council website in April 2021; and**
- (iv) That the temporary re-prioritisation until February 2021 of the Growth Directorate Services as set out in the report be agreed, to enable the delivery of Local Restriction Support Grant Open and Additional Restrictions Grant.**

115. ASHTON OLD BATHS – OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth, setting out future arrangements for Ashton Old Baths operation and ongoing maintenance.

A summary of the operation of the Ashton Old Baths since opening was provided and it was explained that 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 informed that the new office floor space was expected to generate extra business rates of circa £45,922 per annum from the Ashton Old Baths project. This figure was based on actuals from 2017/18 from Oxford Innovation who managed the Ashton Old Baths Phase 1. This would be in addition to the Business Rate contribution between 2017 and 2020 which on average had 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.

Tameside Council had a management agreement with Oxford Innovation. The agreement was currently in its fourth year and was in the form of a management agreement rather than a lease. The Management Agreement was dated 28 February 2017, for a 5 year term, with the option for two +1 year extensions at TMBC's discretion

The report proposed that the +1, +1 year extensions to the management agreement be enacted. 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 reported that 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 businesses who met elements of the gateway criteria.

Members were advised that following legal 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.

The options for Gateway criteria were set out in the report with the preferred option being an evolution to support the future occupancy, start-ups impacted by COVID in the short term and financial performance of Ashton Old Baths (Option 3).

RESOLVED

- (i) That 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 be authorised;**
- (ii) That the existing Management Agreement be extended to one-plus, one-plus year with Oxford Innovation;**
- (iii) That modification to the existing contract with Oxford Innovation be authorised, to incorporate the new Annexe from February 2021;**
- (iv) Subject to recommendations (ii) and (iii) above, the procurement be approved 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; and**
- (v) That the estimated net revenue budget of £ 36k for Ashton Old Baths as stated in table 1 in the report for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24, be approved. This sum will be financed from the existing Growth revenue budget over this period.**

116. 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 / Executive Member, Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Assistant Director of Strategic Property, providing background information with 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 Council's submission.

It was explained that, as part of the Summer Fiscal stimulus, Government announced £1bn funding for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). The 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.

Members were informed that the PSDS offered a rare opportunity to bid for 100% funding for capital works to the Council's buildings that would produce a real step change in the way buildings were heated and underline the 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 Council's overall utility costs.

The PSDS was split into three phases, which were detailed in the report. All bids submitted were relevant to Phase 1 (delivered by March 21) and Phase 2 (delivered by September 21). Further work in 2021 would be required should there be a wish to bid for projects in Phase 3.

A successful Skills fund application, for £983k, was submitted on Wednesday 14 October, to enable a robust Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund submission to be made on November 23. Approval to receive and expend this feasibility funding was given by GMCA Chief Executive and Treasurer, under delegated powers, in October 2020.

Members were further informed that, working under a combined GMCA scheme, baseline assessments of the portfolio had been undertaken. Once assessed a number of buildings were submitted for initial review and detailed technical survey focussed on the required compliance criteria for the fund. The detailed surveys focussed on the types of measures that could be potentially installed at each building and the feasibility of installing the measures.

The total GM bid amounted to over £80 million made up of bid submissions from 13 public sector organisations. There was no filtering or rationing of the levels that organisations could individually bid for. The Council's bid was for £2.4 million for 90 individual measures across 11 buildings.

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.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given 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 expenditure for associated capital works on identified buildings as detailed in the report, be approved; and**
- (ii) It be noted that approval be in principal pending receipt of the formal grant condition letter, which will be received circa 11 December 2020, with subsequent separate Executive Decision in regard to formal acceptance.**

117. THE A57 LINK ROADS INITIATIVE

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Transport and Connectivity / Director of Growth, which provided an update on the proposed the A57 Link Roads initiative.

Members were advised that the existing A628 TransPennine route connecting the M67 at Mottram to the M1, north of Sheffield, consisted mainly of long sections of single carriageway road with steep gradients and sharp bends often clogged by slow moving HGV's using the link between Greater Manchester and the wider Sheffield region. Unfit for present day needs, Highways England (HE) and its predecessors had attempted to bring forward a number of improvements to the route over

many years. The last major initiative, to construct a full bypass around the villages of Mottram, Hollingworth and Tintwistle was halted by the then Highways Agency in 2009.

Following a wide ranging statutory public consultation initiative in early 2017, Highways England announced in late 2017 that the following elements were being taken forward to the next stage of development:

- Mottram Moor Link Road and A57 (T) to A57 Link Road as described in the report; and
- Safety and technology improvements.

It was explained that, in overall terms, the initiative would:

- Enable the existing A57, between the junction 4, M67 roundabout and a fixed point to be determined to a location east of the Roe Cross Road and Mottram Moor Road junction to be declassified and handed back to the local authority;
- Introduce a new local authority managed single carriageway link from the A57 at Mottram Moor to a junction on the A57 at Brookfield;
- Reduce congestion and improve the reliability of journeys - through Mottram in Longdendale and between Manchester and Sheffield;
- Reduce noise levels and pollution for neighbouring properties - by reducing the amount of traffic from the existing A57 through Mottram in Longdendale;
- Re-connect local communities and create better conditions for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians - in Mottram in Longdendale; and
- Reduce delays and queues that impact the community - affecting residents, businesses and public transport in the area.

Progress on each of the Options, Development and Construction phases was given and a timetable of provisional key dates was provided.

In 2012 Planning Inspectorate became the government agency responsible for operating the planning process for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs). NSIPs were major infrastructure projects which required a type of approval known as "Development Consent" under procedures governed by the Planning Act 2008. Development Consent, where granted, was made in the form of a Development Consent Order (DCO). The DCO approval process consisted of six separate stages as set out in Appendix B to the report.

The requirement for a Local Impact Report (LIR) to be submitted by relevant Local Authorities to the Planning Inspectorate was outlined. This gave details of the likely impact of the proposed development on the authority's area. Along with National Policy Statements, LIRs were the only documents that must be specifically taken into account when a decision was made on an NSIP application.

For Tameside, once general submission dates were confirmed for the scheme, an LIR would be prepared by consultants appointed by the Council. Tameside costs associated with appointing the consultants and the delivery of the LIR had been provisionally allocated over financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22. The appointment process would be the subject of further governance as appropriate.

RESOLVED

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

118. WINTER COVID GRANT

The Executive Leader / Assistant Director, Policy, Performance and Communications submitted a report setting out proposals for spending the 'Covid Winter Grant' before the 31 March 2021 to support families who were struggling to access food and warmth.

It was explained that Tameside had been allocated **£894,614.60**. Funding would be ring fenced and covered the period until end of March 2021, and would be paid as follows:

- 50% of funding would be made at the beginning of December;
- 25% of funding made following Management Information to DWP return due mid-February covering December and January's expenditure;
- 25% final funding payment made and adjusted after final Management Information to DWP return due April covering February and March's expenditure.

It was for each individual LA to determine eligibility in their area and target support within the scope of the following conditions:

- At least 80% of the total funding would be ring-fenced to support families with children, with up to 20% of the total funding to other types of households, including individuals;
- At least 80% of the total funding would be ring fenced to provide support with food, energy and water bills (including sewerage), with up to 20% on other items; and
- Where an eligible child lived on his or her own, they were a household that included a child covered in the 80% allocation for households with children.
- Vulnerable households, which included a person aged 19 to 25 with special educational needs and disability (SEND) and/or care leavers in accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014, may still be eligible for grant support however that support fell within the 20% allocation to households without children.

It was proposed to allocate funding to the provision of food vouchers for major supermarkets to pay for food for key cohorts including; all children attending schools in Tameside who were eligible for Free School Meals; all college students eligible for Free School Meals or bursaries; all 2, 3 and 4 year olds entitled to free child care; and all Care Leavers.

Going forward the identified families will receive support for the 3 scheduled school holiday weeks to March 2021:

- Two weeks at Christmas (£20)
- One week at February half term (£15)

For the purposes of distribution of funding, it was proposed to allocate on the basis of children attending Tameside schools. All other GM authorities agreed this in principle (potentially with the exception of Wigan).

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Covid Winter grant be spent on supporting vulnerable families and individuals as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (ii) That a voucher scheme for children eligible for free school meals be established. This scheme will enable children eligible for Free School Meals to receive a £20 a week food voucher for the Christmas Break and £15 voucher for February half term;**
- (iii) That any families who are not eligible for Free School Meals but are in need of support to contact the Early Help Access Point for help, support and advice;**
- (iv) That the voucher scheme be extended out to Care Leavers for the Christmas period (to a value of £40);**
- (v) That the scheme is further extended to low income sixth form and college students (to a value of £20). Administration of grants to students via the colleges will be formalised by letter to the colleges reflecting any appropriate conditions in relation to the administration of the grants on behalf of the Council;**
- (vi) That an amount of money be invested in welfare rights to provide food vouchers to those who are in financial need (£120,000 to fund 1,200 vouchers to a value of £30 per household);**
- (vii) That remaining funds be directed to organisation's working directly with the community to provide food and support with utility bills. Where grants are made to third party organisations, this will be done by letter containing appropriate conditions, for grant funding up to £10k;**

- (viii) As an element of the scheme is discretionary there is a risk that demand in December may limit the pot in February, enough funding will be retained to pay vouchers to the Free School Meals, college and Care Leavers cohort in February, all other committed funding will require a separate decision in January; and
- (ix) That arrangements be agreed with the following supermarkets to distribute vouchers: Tesco, Sainsbury's, Morrison's and Asda, subject to written terms and conditions attached to the purchase order.

119. EXEMPT ITEM

RESOLVED

That under Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public be excluded for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A and that, on balance, under paragraph 10 of Part 2 of Schedule 12A, it would not be in the public interest to disclose this information as disclosure would, or would likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of the Council and/or 3rd parties.

120. ASHTON MOSS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member of Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth, which summarised the next steps in the development of Ashton Moss. The next steps included:

- to progress Heads of Terms and subsequent legal agreements with key landowners at Ashton Moss East and Ashton Moss West;
- enter into Memorandum's of Understanding (MOU's) with key land owners;
- to appoint Project Manager's to advise on the appointment of Engineers; and
- to appoint Quantity Surveyors to design, specify, procure and manage various site investigations and related studies.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the progression of without prejudice negotiations on Heads of Terms with a potential Inward Investment company and land owner be supported, subject to a further report on the detailed terms in due course;
- (ii) That the negotiating and signing of Memorandum's of Understanding and licences to access land and undertake studies with key landowners at Ashton Moss East and Ashton Moss West, be supported;
- (iii) That the undertaking of various site investigation and services studies as set out in para. 2.4 of the report be supported, at an estimated budget cost of £0.350m, and
- (iv) That the appointment of Project Managers as set out in para 2.5 of the report be supported, at an estimated budget cost of £0.035m.

121. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items for consideration at this meeting.

CHAIR