

BOARD

6 January 2021

Present

Elected Members	Councillors Warrington (In the Chair), Bray, Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, Gwynne Kitchen and Ryan and Wills
Chief Executive	Steven Pleasant
Borough Solicitor	Sandra Stewart
Section 151 Officer	Kathy Roe

Also In Attendance: Dr Asad Ali, David Berry, Steph Butterworth, Ilys Cookson, Jeanelle De Gruchy, Richard Hancock, James Mallion Dr Ashwin Ramachandra Ian Saxon, Sarah Threlfall, Jayne Traverse, Graham Holland and Jess Williams

184 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

185 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of Board held on the 9 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

186 LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2021/22

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Assistant Director (Exchequer Services), which, set out the proposal for the continuation of the council tax reduction scheme for 2021/22 and recommended the approval of a hardship fund to be administered by Exchequer Services under the Section 13A policy.

It was reported that at the end of quarter two of 2020/21 approximately 18,155 people had claimed council tax support. Of this number, there were approximately 7,519 (41%) people of pensionable age who would be guaranteed protection under the CTS scheme. Therefore approximately 10,636 (59%) claimants were of working age.

It was explained that claimant caseload fluctuated on a daily basis and overall there had been little movement on overall claimant numbers from 1 April 2013. The caseload continued to fall during 2020/21 even though residents had more to pay in Council Tax due to the Council Tax rise in April 2020 and despite the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic; however, this decline appeared to follow the pattern from previous years. The Assistant Director highlighted that the effects of the end of the Governments furlough scheme was still to be seen.

It was stated that it was considered best practice to recognise the recommendations made to all Local Authorities by the LGO and provide clarity within the scheme, therefore to provide clarity in Tameside's Council Tax Support Scheme in relation to the treatment of these adjustments to entitlement to Council Tax Support, wording was inserted into the Scheme for 2020/21 at Schedule 8, paragraph (10). The wording would remain in the scheme for 2021/22.

The Assistant Director (Exchequer Services) reported that the Hardship Fund for 2020/21 was £50k and this would remain the same for 2021/22. Hardship funding was identified from existing budgets had previously been administered via the Tameside Resettlement Scheme. However, the Hardship

Fund would now be administered by Exchequer Services under the Section 13A Policy which was detailed at **Appendix 2** to the report. As at 30 November 2020, four applications for Hardship Relief had been received in the 2020/21 financial year; none of which were successful and no monies had been paid.

Further, as part of its response to COVID-19, the Government had announced in the Budget on 11 March 2020 that it would provide local authorities in England with £500m of new grant funding to support economically vulnerable people and households in their local area. Tameside had been allocated a Council Tax Hardship Fund of £2,158,109 by the government with the 'strong expectation' that billing authorities, such as Tameside would provide all recipients of working age local council tax support ('LCTS') during the financial year 2020-21 with a further reduction in their annual council tax bill of up to £150.

As at 31 October 2020, 11,690 working age claimants had benefited of a maximum of £150. £1.7m of the funding had been distributed leaving an additional £438k for claimants until the end of the financial year.

AGREED:

That the Council be recommended to

- (a) continue the scheme introduced in 2013/14, as amended in 2016/17, and adopts the council tax reduction scheme for 2021/22 set out in Appendix 3;**
- (b) approve a £50,000 hardship fund be in place in order to assist severe cases of hardship funded from existing budgets, to be administered by Exchequer Services under the Section 13A Policy.**

187 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2021/2022

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Assistant Director (Exchequer Services), which set out the calculation of the Council Tax. Members were reminded that the Local Government Finance Act 1992 required a billing authority to calculate the basic amount of its council tax by calculating its budget requirement less any grants divided by its tax base. The Calculated Tax Base would be used to determine the level of Council Tax income that the Council could raise in the upcoming financial year, subject to agreement of the amount of Council Tax to be charged for each band D equivalent dwelling.

It was reported that the calculation of the authority tax base for Council Tax setting purposes gave an estimated Band D equivalent of 63,756.1 properties. There were no Ministry of Defence properties in Tameside. An estimated collection rate of 97% gave a Council Tax base of 61,843.4.

The calculation of the Mossley Parish tax base for Council Tax setting purposes gave an estimated Band D equivalent of 3,441.5 properties. There were no Ministry of Defence properties in Mossley. An estimated collection rate of 97% gave a Council Tax base of 3,338.3.

AGREED:

That the Council be recommended, that pursuant to the figures set out in the report of the Assistant Director (Exchequer Services), and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012

- 1. the amount calculated by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council as its Council Tax base for the year 2021/2022 shall be 61,843.4**
- 2. the amount calculated by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council as the tax base for the Town Council of Mossley for the year 2021/2022 shall be 3,338.3**

188 CHRISTMAS SUPPORT PAYMENT FOR WET LED PUBS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Assistant Director (Exchequer Services), which detailed the latest government grant for wet led public houses in response to the Covid-19 economic situation.

It was reported that under the CSP scheme, local authorities would receive a one-off payment amounting to £1,000 per wet-led pub in each eligible local authority where Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions had been imposed, following the scheduled Tier review dates of 2 December and 16 December.

Grant monies would be paid to local authorities under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, and local authorities would receive 80% of the estimated grant funding based on an initial government estimate. When, or if, this threshold of funding had been spent, the government had confirmed that they would top up funding to local authorities if required.

The grant covered the period between 2 December 2020 and 29 December 2020 only; it could not be granted retrospectively. The grant scheme would close on 29 December 2020 and final applications would need to be received by 31 January 2021. Grant funding would be paid as soon as possible to eligible businesses and no later than 28 February 2021.

Members were advised that businesses established after 11 March 2020 and before 1 December 2020 could still be eligible for this grant and could be asked to supply accounting evidence that they derive under 50% of their income from food sales covering the period that they had been open.

It was estimated that there were 90 pubs within the Tameside area that were eligible to receive the £1,000 lump sum payment. This could be paid in addition to other grants that the wet led pub could be eligible to receive under either the mandatory or discretionary grant schemes.

AGREED:

That the government scheme for Christmas Support Payments to eligible wet led pubs be noted.

189 MONTH 8 FINANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Lead Clinical GP / Director of Finance which covered the Month 8 2020/21 financial position reflecting actual expenditure to 30 November 2020 and forecasts to 31 March 2021. The Director of Finance reported that at Month 8, the Council was forecasting a year end overspend of £3.5m, which was a slight deterioration on the position reported at month 7.

It was explained that significant pressures remained across Directorates, most significantly in Children's Social Care where expenditure was forecast to exceed budget by £3.806m, with further cost pressures in Adults and Education, and income loss pressures in the Growth Directorate. These were due to underlying financial pressures that the Council would have faced regardless of the COVID pandemic.

It was further explained that the CCG was showing a YTD pressure of £1,055k, but a break even position by year end. This difference related to top up payments for the Hospital Discharge Programme, which had not yet been received.

AGREED:

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

190 2019/20 STRATEGIC HOUSING AND ECONOMIC LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Housing Planning and Employment) / Director of Growth, which sought approval to publish the 2019/20 revision of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) and to publish the 2019 and 2020 revision of the Brownfield Land Register.

Members were reminded that the purpose of the 2019/20 SHELAA was to build upon previous iterations of the assessment identifying and quantifying the housing and economic land potential in the borough. The report provided the details to the SHELAA presented to Members through the all Member development session in relation to the 2020 GMSF (27 October 2020) and as contained within the approved GMSF and its supporting background documents. It covered the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2037.

Additionally, the Brownfield Land Register was a mechanism to provide up to date and consistent information on brownfield sites in the borough that were considered appropriate for residential development. The register was prepared in accordance with government guidance, regulatory requirements and builds on those previously approved.

It was stated that the SHELAA continued to make best use of sites in highly accessible locations, located around transport hubs and the borough's town centres and indicated a potential supply of 6,923 net additional dwellings between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2037. In addition, 26,432 sqm of office floorspace and 116,471 sqm of industrial and warehousing were identified to support future employment growth.

Further, the Brownfield Land Register highlighted those SHELAA sites that were wholly brownfield, not under construction and met other specific criteria, as set out in regulations. In 2020, 108 sites fall into this category from the SHELAA and form the register, with potential to deliver 3,842 residential units.

AGREED:

That the Executive Member for Housing Planning and Employment be recommended to agree to:

- (i) Locally publish the 2019/20 revision of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment in accordance with delegated authority as agreed by Executive Cabinet on 29 July 2020, minute no 34 refers.**
- (ii) Publish the 2019 and 2020 revision of the Brownfield Land Register in accordance with approved delegated authority as agreed by Executive Cabinet on 29 July 2020, minute no. 34 refers.**

191 TAMESIDE AND STOCKPORT PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage) / Deputy Executive Leader (Children and Families) / Director of Children's Services, which sought approval for scoping work, to explore opportunities related to enhanced partnership in the Education and SEND service.

It was stated that Tameside and Stockport had a track record of working successfully together in Children's Services over the past three years, including through the DfEs Innovation Program and as Partners in Practice. It was believed that it was the time to explore the opportunities that exist to potentially extend and accelerate this partnership. A position given further impetus as a result of the impact of the current pandemic and the wider financial pressures for Local Authorities, not only in 2020/21, but for the foreseeable future. This collaboration therefore provided an opportunity to respond to the challenges of the pandemic and to help deliver on shared 'build back better' ambitions.

This initial scoping exercise undertaken jointly across, in the first instance both Local Authorities Education and SEND departments, would underpin the development of more detailed options appraisals, where the evidence supported this, which would in turn then be available for consideration through the due governance processes of each Authority.

The report detailed five key areas that the scoping work would initially focus on:

- Leadership
- School Improvement
- SEND sufficiency and commissioning plan
- Technical posts
- Traded Services

Further to this proposal it was anticipated that in parallel to this initial scoping work in relation to Education and SEND services that preliminary work would also begin to scope out potential wider opportunities across Children's Services. This was likely to include areas such as placement commissioning and sufficiency, quality assurance and independent review.

The program would be overseen by a Program Board from both LAs including Lead Members, Directors of Children's Services, finance, legal, HR and school representation. An explicit objective of this programme board would be to initially identify and firm up the areas for collaboration including an appropriate options appraisal and in doing so quantify the risks, impact and outcomes, including the tangible savings that could be achieved within an agreed timeframe. Then steer proposals through due diligence and appropriate governance including any necessary policy changes and then oversee implementation.

AGREED:

- (i) That Board note the content of this report and the potential opportunities that it presents**
- (ii) That Board support the scoping work proposed to explore in the first instance, the opportunities related to "enhanced partnership" in our Education and SEND service and the intention to scope out the opportunity and options with a view to establishing an agreed model within 9-12 months**
- (iii) That Board note the proposed secondment arrangements (for an initial period of 2 years) for a single "Director of Education" position working across both Local Authorities to lead this work.**

192 COMMISSIONING PLANS FOR 21/22

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member Adult Social Care and Health) / CCG Chair / Director of Commissioning, which set out the providers operating under contracts that were due to expire in March 2021 and detailed the recommendations for the extension of the contracts.

It was reported that NHS Tameside and Glossop CCG (T&G CCG) had a number of contracts for NHS services that were due to expire in March 2021.

It was explained that 2020/21 had been a period of NHS Command and Control with CCGs no longer holding provider contracts in the usual way and unable to invest in services unless COVID-19 related. Providers had operated services in line with nationally set requirements with GM principles being adopted where appropriate.

Therefore, whilst T&G CCG had worked with providers of local services to ensure safety and quality the formal CCG level contracting processes had only started to operate since October 2020 and CCG had been unable to make major commissioning decisions unrelated to COVID-19.

The allocation available to the CCG for 2021/22 was not yet known but was anticipated to be in line with the CCGs 5 year long term plans which would enable the current services to continue to operate.

The Director of Commissioning stated that there were ten Providers operating under contracts that were due to expire in March 2021. All were currently delivering services in line with their contracts with no concerns regarding quality or finance. One contract did not have an option to extend as the provision of DEXA scans was under review with the ICFT when the contract was let.

The proposal was to extend the contracts by one year to enable the Tameside and Glossop system to reach a decision regarding future provision by June 2021 and the enactment of that decision by March 2022.

With all the contracts, STAR had provided advice as to acceptable ways forward in 2021/22. However, this advice was based on current legislation and the expectation was that it should be clearer regarding the 2021/22 Health commissioning arrangements by April 2021. As these arrangements could have a significant impact on future contracts it was proposed to delay any re-procurement planning until June 2021.

AGREED:

- (i) That the Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to approve the extension of the following contracts:

Provider name	Extension End Date
Practice Plus Group	31/03/2022
In Health Ltd	31/03/2022
Willow Wood	31/03/2023
Hyde Physiotherapy Centre	31/03/2022
Manor House Surgery	31/03/2022
Pioneer Healthcare Ltd	31/03/2022
Stamford House Medical Centre	31/03/2022
Primary Eyecare Services Limited	31/03/2022
Stroke Association	31/03/2023
Diagnostic Healthcare Ltd	31/03/2022

- (ii) That the Strategic Commissioning Board approve the intention to delay the planning of future provision until June 2021 when longer-term Health commissioning arrangements should be known.

193 SEXUAL HEALTH CONTRACTS TO SUPPORT HIGH RISK COMMUNITIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Adult Social Care and Health) / Consultant in Public Health, which proposed ongoing arrangements for the sexual health contracts including allocation of a new grant award and proposed recurrent savings to one of the programmes.

It was explained that the report sought permission to implement a number of contractual changes to ensure the continued delivery of programmes aimed at supporting and improving sexual health outcomes for those in the community at increased risk.

It was reported that following the successful Impact Trial, which Tameside had taken part in, NHS England and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) had confirmed additional funding for local authorities to provide universal routine access to PrEP. It was proposed that the grant allocation be awarded to MFT (Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust) for the provision of

Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) treatment to prevent HIV infection. This would continue to be targeted towards groups at high risk of contracting HIV including men who have sex with men (MSM), black Africans, and transgender men and women, to prevent them catching HIV. The proposal was for the allocation of £26,692 of the grant from the DHSC for the provision of PrEP

Approval was sought for the Extension of the Passionate About Sexual Health (PASH) contract across Greater Manchester for 12 months from 30 June 2021. With the high prevalence of disease and the existing need in Tameside's highest risk communities, Tameside commissioners, along with other GM commissioning partners, were satisfied that the aims of the programme and delivery model were meeting needs. The risk of not commissioning this programme was that HIV and STI rates would increase in Tameside, adding further financial pressure into the system for treatment and more complex support. Tameside's budget for this service was £22,560 and the proposal was for the contract to be extended for 12 months from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

The Consultant for Public Health stated that Chlamydia infection was the most diagnosed bacterial sexually transmitted infection in the UK, with higher prevalence in young people. All age groups had also seen increases in the rates of gonorrhoea and chlamydia infection in recent years. The report set out proposals for a Covid-19 Emergency Contract Award of the contract for the chlamydia and gonorrhoea screening programme to Brook as the service ceased with immediate effect earlier in the year due to the pandemic.

The service would prevent and control the spread of sexually transmitted infections in young people (under 25). In terms of cost, this was a needs-led service. The maximum total amount required for the full length of this 11-month service would be £49,087. This represented a lower cost than previous models and, while this was only for an interim service over an 11-month period, it was proposed a recurrent saving of 20% of the overall amount allocated for this service in the Population Health budget going forward, which would represent a recurrent £15,000 saving (from the total allocated annual budget of £75,000).

Members were reminded that the RU Clear service ceased abruptly with immediate effect in March 2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the provider (MFT). As a result of this service ceasing earlier in the year, there was currently underspend in the Population Health budget for the financial year 2020/2021 as this was a needs-led service where spend relates directly to the volume of activity. Alongside this underspend, other sexual health services were struggling for capacity to manage current demands. It was proposed to take £15,000 of the in-year underspend as a non-recurrent saving and £45,790 of the underspend would be re-allocated to MFT via a contract variation as a one off payment to fund additional capacity in the clinical nursing outreach post for the duration of the remaining contract with MFT.

AGREED:

That Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to agree:

- (i) That Permission be granted to implement the contractual arrangements as detailed in the report to ensure Tameside Council continued to meet its mandated obligations around the provision of open access sexual and reproductive health services;**
- (ii) That permission be granted to award the grant allocation for the provision of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis to Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, with 4% held back by Tameside Council to pay for Tameside residents accessing this service out of area**
- (iii) That permission be granted to extend the Passionate About Sexual Health contract for Tameside as part of GM-wide arrangements for 12 months from 30 June 2020**
- (iv) That permission be granted to issue a Covid-19 Emergency Contract Award for the chlamydia and gonorrhoea screening programme to Brook to commence immediately for a period of 11 months (this includes a proposed 20% recurrent saving for this service going forward;**
- (v) That permission be granted to re-allocate in-year underspend for the previous RU Clear chlamydia screening programme as a contract variation for the integrated sexual health service provided by MFT to provide an enhanced clinical outreach offer.**

194 ADULT EDUCATION CAPITAL GRANT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage) / Director of Growth, which sought approval for the Provider Capital Grant Programme and to enter into the grant agreement.

Members were advised that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) recognised that in light of the COVID-19 pandemic the additional requirements needed to ensure all learners and staff stayed safe and protected when they returned to a learning environment would be an additional financial burden. To support Adult Education Budget (AEB) providers to put suitable measures in place, GMCA had released Provider Grant Funding from the Local Growth Fund.

Tameside MBC had submitted a bid to Greater Manchester Combined Authority for the Provider Capital Grant Fund on 21 August 2020. The bid had a value of £25k which was the maximum amount that could be bid for. It was reported that Tameside's bid had been approved and a grant agreement had been provided by GMCA for TMBC to enter into.

Tameside Adult Community Education successfully and safely re-opened on the 14 September 2020 providing high quality teaching and learning for Tameside residents accessing basic skills. The capital grant funding had been essential in this process.

AGREED:

That the Executive Member (Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage) be recommended to approve the Provider Capital Grant Programme and enter into a grant agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority on the terms provided.

195 CLARENCE ARCADE DILAPIDATIONS SETTLEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member (Finance and Economic Growth) / Director of Growth, which sought approval on the dilapidations settlement. Members were advised that the Council had entered into a lease agreement on 30 April 2015 with landlord Jersey Street Properties Ltd to occupy a series of retail and office units at Clarence Arcade as 'decant space' as part of the Tameside Administration Centre / Tameside One redevelopment. The lease was for a term of 4 years from 15 May 2015 to 14 May 2019.

As part of the agreement, the Council were responsible for all internal repair and maintenance of the space. Similarly, under the provisions of the lease the Council were responsible for a service charge contribution towards maintenance of both the building structure and the common areas.

It was reported that prior to the lease terminating, the Council appointed Workman LLP to prepare an assessment of the Council's terminal dilapidations liability. As part of this work, Workman estimated the Council's liability as being £27,397.36 for the ground floor shop units and £62,808.51 for the office units, excluding loss of rent. Further, following expiry of the lease, Northern Group had obtained quotations for repairs, redecoration and reinstatement of the internal alterations carried out by the Council under a Licence for Alterations. A quotation dated 13 July 2019 prepared by Artez Contractors for £63,264.00 was issued by the Landlord to the Council on 7 August 2019.

Following a prolonged period of discussion, Sanderson Weatherall had confirmed that subject to approval, they had negotiated a full and final settlement of £53,635.98 as a contribution towards the Council's terminal dilapidations liability.

AGREED:

That the Director of Growth be recommended to approve the dilapidations settlement of £53,635.98 plus VAT recommended by its appointed agents upon the landlord consenting to the Council to be released of all remaining lease obligations.

196 FORWARD PLAN

AGREED

That the forward plan of items for Board be noted.

CHAIR