

BOARD

13 January 2021

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**
 Section 151 **Kathy Roe**
 Officer

Also in Attendance: **Steph Butterworth, Jeanelle De Gruchy, Richard Hancock, Catherine Moseley, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Paul Smith, Sarah Threlfall, Jayne Traverse, Emma Varnam, Debbie Watson, Tom Wilkinson and Jess Williams**

197 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

198 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Board on the 6 January 2021 be approved as a correct record.

199 THE COUNCIL'S SPORT AND LEISURE FACILITIES – FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY PROPOSALS DURING THE COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) PANDEMIC

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Assistant Director of Population Health / Assistant Director of Population Health / Assistant Director of Finance.

The report provided an update on the plans for financial sustainability of the Council's Sport and Leisure facilities provided by Active Tameside. Further, the report sought permission to consult on the proposals and the wider sport and leisure offer as the Council looked at new ways to deliver the services.

The Assistant Director of Population Health explained that the current financial position of the Council plus the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic had meant the current model of delivery of sport and leisure facilities was not sustainable.

Members were reminded that despite measures and the reopening of some services it was predicted that Active Tameside would become technically insolvent mid November 2020. The situation had been made worse as leisure providers were exempt from most Covid-19 emergency support funding. On 2 November 2020 Executive Cabinet approved an amount of £1.8m to be paid via a loan agreement to be paid back over the lifetime of the contract to allow Active Tameside to remain solvent during 2020/21.

It was further explained that as Greater Manchester was placed in Tier 3 from 2 December 2020, Active Tameside were unable to deliver group exercise classes or sell food and beverages, which had also meant they have been unable to open attractions such as the 10 pin bowling at Tameside Wellness Centre. Active Tameside were still working on detailed figures but early estimates for the group exercise loss was around £100K for December 2020 to March 21. There was also an

expectation that Tier 3 would lead to increased cancellations of Memberships, which would severely impact 21/22 revenues.

Active Tameside had sensibly insured themselves against business interruption for events that were outside of their control. An initial claim covering March 20 to October 20 had been submitted to loss adjusters for consideration and this shows losses of around £3m. The eventual insurance payout was unlikely to be received until March 2021.

The DCMS and Sport England had also announced a National Leisure Recovery Fund of £100m that was available for Council commissioned Leisure services. An Expression of Interest was being developed with a deadline of 8 January 2021 for submission. The current best estimates for a Tameside claim varied between £0.25m and £0.5m. Any funding received would assist the Trust to remain solvent at this challenging time.

It was reported that a review had been undertaken to understand the potential for efficiency savings in relation to key facilities within the Council's leisure portfolio. The overall aim was to identify savings proposals to reduce the Council's management fee to the Trust from 2021/22 and therefore support future financial sustainability of the sport and leisure portfolio. The Council were proposing to reduce the current management fee by £0.15m recurrently in 21/22 and by £0.3m in 22/23 and 23/24. Active Tameside had therefore been asked to develop proposals to deliver services supported by the reduced management fee. Along with service redesign, the proposals also considered a range of actions in relation to the facilities which had been operating at a loss over recent years.

A desktop review had been undertaken of available data in relation to facility usage, financial performance and programmed activity and could be found in **Appendix 1**.

It was proposed that the Council carry out a public consultation on the Sport and Leisure offer and the options set out in section 4 from Friday 29 January to Friday 26 March 2021 via the Big Conversation pages on the Council website. The proposed consultation framework was attached at **Appendix 2**.

The Executive Leader led a detailed discussion on the facility usage and financial performance of Active Tameside. It was agreed that the report would be amended to reflect that this report was the start of a review of the wider sport and leisure offer as the Council looked at new ways to deliver these services.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Note the completion of the Sport and Leisure Review and savings options outlined in section 4 of the report.**
- (ii) Approve the implementation of a public consultation to seek views on the proposals and to inform the Council's future commissioning approach.**
- (iii) Agree to review the results of the consultation and recommendations, with final options presented to Executive Cabinet for decision in June 2021.**

200 2021 CENSUS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Assistant Director for Policy, Performance & Communications. The report provided an update on the plans to assist ONS in achieving a successful census in Tameside.

The Assistant Director for Policy, Performance & Communications stated that in order to ensure the census ran smoothly in each local authority area, the ONS had recruited Census Engagement Managers for each area. The Census Engagement Manager for Tameside was Graham Thomas. Each local authority was required to have a Census Liaison Manager and an Assistant Census Liaison

Manager, these were Simon Brunet (Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence) and Lorraine Kitching (Performance, Intelligence & Scrutiny Service Manager) respectively.

The 2021 Census would be a digital first census with a target of achieving a 75% response rate online. For the majority of households initial contact for the Census would be made via a digital first pack detailing how to complete the census online.

It was recognised that Tameside, along with other areas in Greater Manchester, had a high level of digital exclusion and the Council would need to assist some residents with completing the census. ONS statistics estimated that 11.4% of resident in the UKD35 District (Tameside and Stockport) had either never used the internet or haven't used the internet in the last 3 months. This equated to approximately 20,000 residents aged 18+.

Tameside Council successfully bid for a small pot of funding through 'The Good Things Foundation' to provide online census centres in six of Tameside's libraries. The contract amounted to £13,290 plus an additional £1,050 to cover the costs of training. The bid for this contract was based on running twelve four hour session across the week followed by one additional four and a half hour sessions each Saturday.

AGREED

That Executive Board note the content of the report and support the proposals.

201 RESIDENTIAL FREEHOLD LAND DISPOSALS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Growth, which set out a supplementary policy: the Corporate Policy Disposals Policy for residential ground plots leased to residents.

The Director of Growth reported that the Council held approximately 900 residential plots of land which were typically occupied by a single home. The vast majority of the leases were for the ground only and the resident usually owned the freehold home.

It was explained that a considerable number of the Council ground leases had less than 60 years remaining which prevented home owners from selling their property as buyers were often unable to obtain a mortgage where ground leases had less than 80 years remaining. This in effect prevented a resident from selling their property unless they were able to attract a buyer with no borrowing requirements. The limitation also prevented some mortgage holders from switching to different lending products which could disadvantage them financially.

There were circa 55 requests from residents to acquire their reversionary freeholds, of which 8 were pressing.

While the Council did not have a statutory duty to sell reversionary freeholds, it would want to assist leaseholders. The Director of Growth highlighted issues that reversionary freeholds and grounds created for residents and leaseholders. Firstly, as residents' leasehold interests got shorter over time it meant that finance became more difficult to obtain. Secondly, residents and leaseholders in England could find that the superior landlord charges high levels of fees for permission to do works or enforces lease clauses that cause hardship.

Therefore it was recommended that reversionary freeholds would only be sold to residents on the appropriate market terms rather than disposing of the reversionary interest portfolio as an investment to a third party.

Disposals would be progressed through negotiation on the basis of a valuation carried out by an approved Chartered Surveyor. The Head of Estates would either appoint a qualified Chartered

Surveyor from the Estates Team or appoint a firm of Agents to carry out the valuation within their existing budget provision.

A discussion took place on timescales and Members asked that the existing outstanding applications be dealt with within 6 weeks in order that residents had an offer to considering accepting that any legal work would follow thereafter.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree:

- (i) To adopt the Policy enabling the Disposal of residential ground plots leased plots leased to residents and set out at Appendix 1 noting that this was expected to change in due course by law.**
- (ii) That the Council should as a general principle not dispose of its reversionary freehold portfolio as a whole on the investment market, in order to protect the interests of residents.**
- (iii) Members asked that the existing outstanding applications be dealt within 6 weeks in order that residents had an offer to considering accepting that any legal work would follow thereafter and that the Executive Member receive a monthly spreadsheet setting out progress on the 55 outstanding applications together with any new.**
- (iv) That the time scales for any new applications be 6 weeks That the time scales for any new applications be noted as 6 weeks as set out in paragraph 7.1 of the policy at Appendix 1.**

202 DOING BUSES DIFFERENTLY: CONSULTATION ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE PROPOSED BUS FRANCHISING SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Transport and Connectivity / Director of Growth. The report considered the Greater Manchester Combined Authority consultation for the proposal to introduce bus franchising in Greater Manchester taking account of the possible effects of Covid-19.

Members were reminded that Greater Manchester had an ambition for a truly integrated public transport system, "Our Network", to enable moving around the city-region easy, accessible and affordable. In June 2017 GMCA considered using powers contained in the Transport Act 2000 to improve bus services in Greater Manchester by reforming the current bus market. Between 14 October 2019 and 8 January 2020, GMCA held a consultation on a Proposed Franchising Scheme for the city-region's buses, which asked questions about the Scheme and the Assessment.

Within Tameside, the original consultation exercise was the subject of an Executive Cabinet Report on the 18 December 2019, more than 8,500 responses to the consultation were received. An independent research agency, Ipsos MORI, reviewed, analysed and summarised all the responses to the consultation in a report. Of the 5,905 respondents who answered the question on whether they supported or opposed the Proposed Franchising Scheme, 83% said they supported the Scheme.

The outcome of the consultation was due to be considered by GMCA in spring 2020 but was deferred due to Covid-19. In June 2020, GMCA noted the results of the consultation and asked TfGM to prepare a further report that would consider the potential impact and effects of Covid-19 on the bus market in Greater Manchester and make recommendations about appropriate next steps, before making a final decision.

The Covid-19 Impact on Bus Franchising report considered the potential impact and effects of Covid-19 on the bus market in Greater Manchester, how it could affect the key conclusions of the Assessment and GMCA's proposals for franchising.

The report found that the Proposed Franchising Scheme was still the best option to deliver GMCA's objectives for the bus network and achieve Greater Manchester's long-term ambition for a fully integrated public transport system. This was compared to leaving buses organised as they were now (a 'Do Minimum' option) or a partnership with bus operators.

Under all scenarios, the report noted that franchising was still the best option to achieve Greater Manchester's long-term ambition for a fully integrated public transport system.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to:

- (i) Consider and note the contents of the report in relation to the ongoing bus franchising consultation taking account of the possible effects of Covid-19**
- (ii) To consider and approve the attached formal response to the 12 questions contained in the consultation questionnaire attached at Appendix 1.**

203 DETERMINATION OF ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2022

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Director for Children's Services.

The report set out the proposed admission arrangements for Tameside community, and voluntary controlled schools for admission in September 2022. There had been no change to these from September 2021. The report highlighted changes proposed by the Department for Education to the School Admissions Code.

Members were reminded that all admission authorities were required to consult on their coordinated admission scheme and on changes to admission arrangements. Where no changes had been proposed to the coordinated admissions scheme or admission arrangements, there was no requirement to consult. Admission authorities should ensure that their determined admission arrangements comply with the mandatory requirements of the School Admissions Code 2014.

It was reported that for entry to community or voluntary controlled primary, junior and secondary schools in September 2022, no changes were planned and therefore consultation was not necessary. The proposed admission arrangements for entry in September 2022 for community or voluntary controlled primary, junior and secondary schools were set out in **Appendix 1**.

School place planning in the borough was reviewed on an annual basis and forms part of the annual report on admission arrangements that is reported to Executive Cabinet in February. **Appendix 2** set out the latest information.

It was stated all local authorities had a statutory duty to ensure that there were sufficient school places to meet demand in the area. These could be school places available at provision maintained by the local authority, academies, or other non-maintained schools. In order to carry out this statutory duty, Councils needed to carry out school place planning and forecasting.

It was explained that whilst there were currently sufficient places to meet expected demand, the school place planning process must continue to be dynamic particularly in view of significant housing development that was predicted within the borough and the impact that would have on demand and travel to learn patterns.

Members discussed the arrangements in place for School Admission appeals due to Coronavirus and the impact of the expiry of the changes to the regulations on the 31 January 2021. Members were advised that admission appeals had been held online and feedback had been positive due to the accessibility of the hearings online.

AGREED

That Executive Cabinet be recommended to agree the determination of admission arrangements for all Tameside community and voluntary controlled schools for 2022/23 without change from those that applied for admission in 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report other than amendments to the Published Admission Number as set out in the report.

204 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL WELLBEING COMMUNITY OFFER - UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Population Health / Clinical Lead for Starting Well / Director of Commissioning / Assistant Director of Population Health.

The report provided an update on progress in relation to the development of a Tameside and Glossop Children and Young People's (CYP) Emotional and Mental Wellbeing Community Offer and commissioning intentions since the paper was presented at Strategic Commission Board in September 2020.

The Director of Commissioning stated that following a Market Engagement Event in August 2020 for prospective providers to learn more about the process, there were several co-production workshops throughout September and October, which were well attended by providers, stakeholders and young people to explore the desirables for a new Community Offer. A series of parent and carers workshops took place in early January 2021. The outcomes from the workshops formed the core deliverables and design principles of the Community Offer (**Appendix 1**) and therefore informed the development of the specification (**Appendix 2**).

Members were advised that over 50 participants engaged in each of the co-production workshops, including stakeholders of the Tameside and Glossop CYP Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategic Group, and interested providers via an expression of interest through the North West Procurement Portal. The parent and carer workshops were promoted through various networks, as well as through the Communications Team.

It was explained that the outcomes from the co-production workshops were clear in that in order to successfully enable positive outcomes for children and young people's emotional and mental wellbeing, a collaborative partnership approach with a wide menu of choice on offer was essential. Current providers attended the co-production workshops. All potential providers had been encouraged to work collaboratively to meet the expectations of the specification.

The new offer would be commissioned via an NHS contract led by Tameside & Glossop CCG, with Tameside Council as associate commissioner. Current providers (Off the Record, TOG MIND, Anthony Seddon Fund and 42nd Street) had been notified that current contract/grant agreements would end on 31st August 2021.

The initial timeline had been extended to allow potential providers more time to collaborate on the 'offer', so extensions had been granted to all current providers (Off the Record, 42nd Street, TOG MIND and Anthony Seddon Fund) until 31st August 2021, with a start date for the new contract 1 September 2021. It was proposed that invitations to tender would be launched with support from STAR Procurement on 28 January 2021.

Although the total tender value remained the same at £250,000 per annum, the proportions from each organisation had slightly changed following a contract review across population health. Tameside and Glossop CCG had increased investment of £16,200 with the Council's funding remaining at current levels of investment of £91,800. The contract would remain as a 3 + 2 years.

AGREED

That Strategic Commissioning Board be recommended to:

- (i) Note the progress described in the report and the coproduction undertaken with children and young people, parents and carers and key stakeholders which has informed the final specification.**
- (ii) Give permission to tender the redesigned service offer with Tameside & Glossop CCG as lead commissioner and Tameside Council as associate commissioner to the new contract.**

205 FORWARD PLAN

AGREED

That the forward plan of items for Board be noted.

CHAIR