

## **BOARD**

**20 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:**    **Dr Asad Ali, Steph Butterworth, Tim Bowman, Jeanelle De Gruchy, Dr Ashwin Ramachandra, Ian Saxon, Sarah Threlfall, Jayne Traverse, Debbie Watson, Tom Wilkinson and Jess Williams**

### **205    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **206    MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on the 13 January 2021 were approved as a correct record.

### **207    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 (Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment) / Assistant Director of Population Health / Assistant Director of Finance, which provided an update on the plans for financial sustainability of the Council's Sport and Leisure facilities provided by Active Tameside.

Members were reminded that a Sport and Leisure review was being undertaken across the leisure estate over the next six months including the financial performance of facilities, usage and analysis of demographic information to inform the development of an Equality Impact Assessment.

The Assistant Director of Population Health detailed the changes to the report following consideration at the last meeting of the Executive Board.

It was explained that the report detailed a phased approach. The first phase of the review focused on those facilities that had been operating at a loss in recent years, followed by a second phase including all sport and leisure facilities being carried out in conjunction with the Councils Operational Estate and Portfolio review of council land and property holdings. The second phase would include condition surveys of all the Council's leisure facilities. The cost of the review would be met by existing budget within the Population Health directorate.

The Assistant Director of Finance highlighted that the purpose of this review was to ensure the financial sustainability of Active Tameside. It was reported that Active Tameside had already received £1m out of a £2.5m cap on their insurance claim, however, a challenge had been made to the high court, this would determine if Active Tameside's cap was for the whole estate or each premises. Despite this, it was likely that Active Tameside would need further financial support in the next financial year.

Members discussed the purpose of the consultation and the options that were being considered. It was important that all the options considered would ensure that the Council's Sport and leisure offer was financially sustainable.

The Executive Leader led a discussion on the financial performance of the facilities at Longdendale, Oxford Park and the Etherow Centre. The Board highlighted the importance of proceeding with this phase of the review.

With regards to the consultation Members of the Board requested that the wording of the options for consultation be reviewed prior to decision at Executive Cabinet. Members of the Board expressed the importance that the consultation reflected that if the buildings were to be repurposed it would not be as part of Sports and Leisure services offered by Active Tameside. Members of the Board agreed that the consultation document be appended to the report when it is presented for decision at the Executive Cabinet.

#### **AGREED**

**That the report be redrafted following comments by Members and for the redrafted report to be presented at the next meeting of Board.**

### **208 PLANNING REFORM CONSULTATION - SUPPORTING HOUSING DELIVERY AND PUBLIC SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Housing, Planning and Employment / Director of Growth which detailed the proposed response to the "Supporting Housing Delivery and Public Service Infrastructure" published for consultation by the Government which closed on 28 January 2021.

It was explained that the Government's consultation on supporting housing delivery and public service infrastructure was a technical consultation which sought views on proposals for:

- A new permitted development right for a change of use to residential to create new homes;
- Measures to provide public service infrastructure more quickly through expanded permitted development rights and a new streamlined planning application process for hospitals, schools and prisons; and,
- The approach to simplifying and consolidating existing permitted development rights following changes to the Use Classes Order.

The consultation sought views on any potential impacts on business, local planning authorities and communities from these measures. Through a series of focussed questions it provided the opportunity for comments to be submitted by 28 January 2021. The proposed responses from Tameside Council were as set out in **Appendix 1** to the report.

The Director of Growth highlighted concerns set out in **Appendix 1** to the report. It was stated that if changes of use took place without permission then there would not be a quality control over design, this would lead to complaints from the public. Further, this could reduce applications and planning fees whilst burdens from complaints increase. Members of the Board agreed that a paragraph be added to the report which would summarise the Council's objections, in addition, a list of changes be added on changes which the Council would no longer have control over.

#### **AGREED**

**That Executive Cabinet be recommended to receive a copy of a consultation to the Government's Supporting Housing Delivery and Public Service Infrastructure consultation set out in Appendix 1 to meet the statutory consultation deadline.**

**Chair**