

## COUNCIL

12 January 2021

Commenced: 5.00pm

Terminated: 7.35pm

Present:

Councillors Affleck, Alam, Billington, Bowden, Bowerman, Boyle, Bray, Cartey, Chadwick, Choksi, Cooney, Cooper, Dickinson, Drennan, Fairfoull, Feeley, J Fitzpatrick, P Fitzpatrick, Glover, Gosling, Gwynne, A Holland, B Holland, Hollinshead, J Homer, S Homer, Huntbach, Jackson, Jones, Kitchen (Chair), Lane, Lewis, McNally, Martin, Mills, Naylor, Newton, Owen, Patrick, Pearce, Quinn, Reid, Ricci, Robinson, Ryan, Sharif, Sidebottom, M Smith, T Smith, Sweeton, Taylor, Ward, Warrington, Welsh, Wild and Wills.

*Councillor Kitchen, Chair of Council Business, in the Chair*

### 28. CIVIC MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Civic Mayor began by extending best wishes for the New Year to all and thanked everyone who had worked tirelessly over the last 10 months to treat people who had contracted Covid-19. She further thanked those involved in the vaccination programme for getting the critically important operation up and running so quickly and efficiently.

The Civic Mayor congratulated four Tameside residents who had been recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours List. Anwar Ali had been awarded an OBE, Dr Amir Hannan was awarded an MBE and Michael Barlow and Nigel Morgan were both awarded the British Empire Medal.

The Civic Mayor thanked Councillors Newton and Naylor for organising the Big Tameside Quiz in aid of the mayoral charity appeal. The quiz had taken place online at the end of October and raised just short of £800.

The Civic Mayor made reference to Remembrance Sunday when she had represented the Borough at Ashton War Memorial. The Executive Leader and Councillor Feeley were in attendance at Denton and Stalybridge respectively on the same day. She made further reference to a recording on social media, which had gone out at 11.00am on 11 November 2020 and included footage of herself and the Executive Leader laying wreaths. The Civic Mayor thanked everyone involved in the making of the very moving video, and in the other virtual events such as the 11 Days of Remembrance and online craft activities.

The Civic Mayor made reference to the festive season, and thanked all involved in the making of the 12 Days of Christmas project. She further thanked all the people who contributed so generously to food banks and the Tameside Toy Appeal.

The Civic Mayor was delighted to be asked to take part in Dukinfield and Stalybridge Rotary's Local Community Heroes Awards. She also congratulated all council staff who had been recognised with awards recently, including the community response service who won an LGC award in partnership with Tameside Hospital for their work in the field of digital health.

The Civic Mayor closed by thanking all staff once again for all their hard work since the beginning of the Pandemic in March last year, which was greatly appreciated.

## **29. COUNCIL MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 3 November 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

## **30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Members of the Council.

## **31. COMMUNICATIONS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Executive Leader began by welcoming everyone to the first full Council meeting of 2021. She made reference to world events so far in 2021, including the shocking scenes of the recent storming of Capitol Hill in Washington DC.

The Executive Leader announced that, at the end of last year, a vital milestone was reached in terms of the coronavirus pandemic with the news that the first coronavirus vaccine had been approved and a local delivery infrastructure was rapidly put in place. To date in Tameside, 13,000 people in the top priority groups had received their first jab and, if adequate supplies of the vaccine were received from the government, Tameside was on course to have all of the most in-need residents protected by mid-February. This meant that all over 75s, health and social care workers and those over 70 who were clinically vulnerable would have received this vital, potentially lifesaving, jab within the next handful of weeks. Intensive work had taken place over Christmas and New Year to vaccinate care home residents, the over 80s and key health and social care workers, (including special school staff) and were now moving through other priority groups at pace. The Executive Leader extended heartfelt thanks to the Chairs and Governing Body at the CCG along with all of the CCG, Council, Primary Care Network and GP practice staff who had made this happen.

As the Country entered the worst period of the pandemic, the Executive Leader stressed the importance of the vaccination programme and added that, although rapid action had been taken to ensure that vaccine doses were not wasted through the local delivery programme, ongoing assurance around supplies was required, in order to deliver a sustainable programme.

Unfortunately, over the Christmas period there had been the emergence of a far more infectious strain of coronavirus. This had forced the imposition of another national lockdown to reduce infection rates while the vaccine rollout was in progress. The Executive Leader commented on the severe impact of repeated lockdowns on the livelihoods and mental health of many residents and the education of children. Public health experts had made it clear that the country was in the middle of the most serious crisis faced since the beginning of the pandemic. She added that infection rates in Tameside remained below both the England and Greater Manchester average, but the country was experiencing a sustained and dramatic increase in coronavirus infections across the board. The latest analysis from NHS England showed that just under a third of the beds available to the entire health service were occupied by coronavirus-positive patients. This was 162% higher than even the worst days of the first wave back in mid-April 2020. In order to protect hospitals, not just for those who had coronavirus but for people with other serious health conditions as well, there was no choice except to adhere to the new lockdown rules until the most critical of moments had passed.

It was hoped that the rollout of the vaccine meant the beginning of the light at the end of the tunnel of the pandemic, but it was clear that there was still a long and hard road ahead.

The Executive Leader continued by commenting on a number of other projects taking place in 2021 that would help shape the future of Tameside.

In March local residents would be supported to complete the 2021 Census. A national survey of all the people and households in England and Wales which took place every ten years. A huge number

of organisations, including Tameside Council itself, depended on the information from the Census to make decisions on vital areas like funding and services. Furthermore, while previous Censuses saw forms mailed out to every household, in 2021 it was hoped that the vast majority of residents would complete the Census online.

A number of projects at the local and Greater Manchester level would be progressed. The annual Budget, which had recently been consulted on and was due to be released at the end of February, would provide the framework to secure finances and begin rebuilding for the post-pandemic world.

The Executive Leader made reference to the ongoing deeply challenging financial situation, especially since the uncertainties around the impact of the pandemic on service demand and sources of income, were not yet fully known. Earlier last year the worst case scenario for the required savings in 2021-22 was around £48 million. This had now been revised down to £28 million, but it was clear that there was still a significant gap to make up.

In respect of innovative projects, details were given of 'Inclusive Growth in Tameside', the public consultation for which was due to end next week. This would provide the scaffolding for a huge variety of regeneration and investment projects in Tameside over the next five years, from enhancing the employment and skills offer to the renovation of town centres. Hand-in-hand with this would go the rollout and expansion of Tameside's part of the Greater Manchester-wide "Bee Network" and other cycling and walking infrastructure.

Following the discussions at the Combined Authority before Christmas, after Stockport Council chose to reject the draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework for public consultation, 2021 would also see the development of a new Joint Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment covering the nine Greater Manchester authorities. A common approach between the remaining local authority Leaders was agreed at the end of last year and initial findings were expected to be shared with residents and Members in the near future.

The Executive Leader announced that, last week a new GM-wide survey was launched with the intention of capturing the views and experiences of inequality from residents across the city-region. The findings, once complete, would inform the work of the GM Independent Inequalities Commission in 2021 and beyond.

Reference was made to a number of important elections that were delayed because of the pandemic last year, including the polls to select the next wave of council Members and the Mayor of Greater Manchester, it was hoped that they would be held as soon as it was safe and practical to do so.

The Executive Leader explained that Tameside's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England was an item later in the agenda. A Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review had also been launched, which was due to conclude by 2023, in time for any potential General Election in 2024. When taken together, it was hoped that they would preserve fair representation and equal access to democracy for all residents.

## **32. COUNCIL BIG CONVERSATION**

The Chair reported that there were no questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with Standing Orders 31.12 and 31.13.

## **33. MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE CABINET**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of Executive Cabinet held on 28 October 2020, 25 November 2020 and 16 December 2020.

It was moved by Councillor Warrington and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and it was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet held on 28 October 2020, 25 November 2020 and 16 December be received.**

**34. MEETING OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 17 November 2020.

It was moved by Councillor M Smith and seconded by Councillor McNally and it was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 17 November 2020 be received and the Standards Committee recommendation that the Council adopt the final version of the Local Government Association Model Code of Conduct to take effect for the new Municipal Year, be agreed and the Monitoring Officer undertake the necessary training to effectively implement the revised Code.**

**35. MEETING OF OVERVIEW PANEL**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview Panel held on 23 November 2020.

It was moved by Councillor Ricci and seconded by Councillor Cartey and it was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview Panel held on 23 November 2020 be received.**

**36. DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP**

Consideration was given to the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 16 December 2020.

It was moved by Councillor Cooney and seconded by Councillor Warrington and it was:

**RESOLVED**

**That the Minutes of the meeting of the Democratic Processes Working Group held on 16 December 2020 be received.**

**37. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION SUBMISSION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Governance and Pensions, which reminded Members that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) had informed Tameside Council they were to undertake an electoral review. The last such review was in 2003 and agreed the size of the council to be 57 councillors across 19 wards (three councillors per ward). The first stage of the review was to consider the size of the Council, i.e. how many Councillors should there be. This would be followed by a review of the warding arrangements.

Details of Tameside Council's size proposal (Stage 1) to the LGBCE, was appended to the report. In addition, Tameside Council had provided the supporting information requested by the LGBCE. The size proposal had to be submitted to the LGBCE by 16 December 2021 and would be considered by the Commission in January 2021.

The report was structured as follows:

1. Executive summary
2. Tameside the place and its communities
3. Electoral forecasts
4. Governance and decision making
5. Local and sub-regional arrangements
6. Scrutiny and regulatory functions
7. Representational role of councillors in the local community
8. Other

Tameside Council had proposed a council size of 57 councillors across 19 wards (three councillors per ward). No change from the current council size. In coming to the decision to propose a council size of 57 councillors, a range of evidence and a number of factors were considered and balanced. They included:

- population and elector growth;
- increasing diversity of local communities;
- governance and decision making;
- scrutiny and regulatory functions;
- changing nature of case work in terms of volume, scope and complexity;
- representation of individuals and communities beyond the formal governance arrangements;
- major changes such as Greater Manchester devolution and health and social care integration.

It was noted that Conservative Councillors were not in agreement with the submission and had submitted their own proposal.

It was also noted that it was for the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to determine the number of councillors appropriate for the Borough being consistent with the national position and local needs and not for the Council to determine.

## **RESOLVED**

**That the content of the report and appendix be noted and the submission, as set out in the Appendix to the report, be endorsed and submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission as a final draft.**

## **38. APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BODIES**

It was proposed by Councillor Warrington and seconded by Councillor Fairfoull and it was:

### **RESOLVED**

**That Councillors Choksi and M Smith be appointed to the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.**

## **39. NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **MOTION A**

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1, which was moved by Councillor Ryan and seconded by Councillor J Fitzpatrick:

*This Council notes the spending commitments outlined in the one-year spending review*

*This Council regrets that:*

- *The Chancellor failed to address the systemic underfunding of local Councils, opting instead for a series of one-off measures and further transferring the burden of paying for essential services to*

*local Council Tax payers who have in many cases already been hard hit by the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and years of Tory austerity.*

- *The Spending Review announced a £2.2bn increase in Councils' Core Spending Power. Of this sum, £1.5bn is assumed to come from Councils increasing Council Tax by 5% - the maximum the Government will allow without a referendum. Only £600m of this is labelled as new money with £300m of it recycled from previous spending commitments.*
- *The Government has not brought forward a plan to reform funding and provision of adult social care as promised and instead has given councils the power to raise a further adult social care precept – it assumes that this will be raised within the Core Spending Power increase. The precept can increase by 3% for 2021/22, but by using the ability to raise Council Tax as a means to generate income for adult social care, it is not linking to need. Those areas that can generate more Council Tax can raise more funding.*
- *While the Government has provided significant additional funding for 2020/21, this still leaves a significant shortfall and the Government continues to break its promise to 'do whatever it takes' to support public services tackling the pandemic, including fully reimbursing Councils and schools for additional costs and reduced income*
- *The Spending Review did not include additional funding for public health. This runs contrary to addressing the stark health inequalities exposed by COVID-19 and levelling up our communities. Keeping people healthy and well throughout their lives reduces pressure on the NHS and social care.*
- *The Government has not temporarily removed the No Recourse to Public Funds condition. This would reduce public health risks and ease the pressure on homelessness services by enabling vulnerable people to access welfare benefits, who are currently unable to do so because of their immigration status. The Chancellor also failed to commit to making permanent the £20 a week supplement to Universal Credit that has been crucial to protecting people from poverty.*

*This Council condemns:*

- *The wage freeze imposed on 2m public sector workers including firefighters, the police, teachers and local authority staff. Many of these workers have kept the country going during the pandemic and deserve more than a real term pay cut.*

*This Council believes:*

- *That only with the right funding and freedoms, can councils lead local efforts to level up the stark inequalities the pandemic has exposed and level up the economy so that it benefits everyone.*

*This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to:*

1. *The Local Government Association to urge a vigorous campaign for a long term local government funding settlement, for reform of adult social care and adequate funding of children's social care, education and social housing in the context of a new settlement reversing the centralisation of powers and decision-making that has been evident even before the pandemic.*
2. *The borough's three MPs urging that they oppose the public sector pay freeze and support efforts to secure the necessary funding and freedoms for local authorities.*
3. *Thérèse Coffey MP, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, calling on her to make the £20 a week Universal Credit supplement permanent.*

Following consideration of the motion it was:

## **RESOLVED**

**This Council notes the spending commitments outlined in the one-year spending review.**

**This Council regrets that:**

- **The Chancellor failed to address the systemic underfunding of local Councils, opting instead for a series of one-off measures and further transferring the burden of paying for essential services to local Council Tax payers who have in many cases already been hard hit by the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and years of Tory austerity.**
- **The Spending Review announced a £2.2bn increase in Councils' Core Spending Power. Of this sum, £1.5bn is assumed to come from Councils increasing Council Tax**

by 5% - the maximum the Government will allow without a referendum. Only £600m of this is labelled as new money with £300m of it recycled from previous spending commitments.

- The Government has not brought forward a plan to reform funding and provision of adult social care as promised and instead has given councils the power to raise a further adult social care precept – it assumes that this will be raised within the Core Spending Power increase. The precept can increase by 3% for 2021/22, but by using the ability to raise Council Tax as a means to generate income for adult social care, it is not linking to need. Those areas that can generate more Council Tax can raise more funding.
- While the Government has provided significant additional funding for 2020/21, this still leaves a significant shortfall and the Government continues to break its promise to ‘do whatever it takes’ to support public services tackling the pandemic, including fully reimbursing Councils and schools for additional costs and reduced income
- The Spending Review did not include additional funding for public health. This runs contrary to addressing the stark health inequalities exposed by COVID-19 and levelling up our communities. Keeping people healthy and well throughout their lives reduces pressure on the NHS and social care.
- The Government has not temporarily removed the No Recourse to Public Funds condition. This would reduce public health risks and ease the pressure on homelessness services by enabling vulnerable people to access welfare benefits, who are currently unable to do so because of their immigration status. The Chancellor also failed to commit to making permanent the £20 a week supplement to Universal Credit that has been crucial to protecting people from poverty.

**This Council condemns:**

- The wage freeze imposed on 2m public sector workers including firefighters, the police, teachers and local authority staff. Many of these workers have kept the country going during the pandemic and deserve more than a real term pay cut.

**This Council believes:**

- That only with the right funding and freedoms, can councils lead local efforts to level up the stark inequalities the pandemic has exposed and level up the economy so that it benefits everyone.

**This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to:**

1. The Local Government Association to urge a vigorous campaign for a long term local government funding settlement, for reform of adult social care and adequate funding of children’s social care, education and social housing in the context of a new settlement reversing the centralisation of powers and decision-making that has been evident even before the pandemic.
2. The borough’s three MPs urging that they oppose the public sector pay freeze and support efforts to secure the necessary funding and freedoms for local authorities.
3. Thérèse Coffey MP, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, calling on her to make the £20 a week Universal Credit supplement permanent.

## **MOTION B**

Consideration was given to the following motion received in accordance with Standing Order 16.1 which was moved by Councillor Drennan and seconded by Councillor Cooney:

*That this Council notes:*

1. *On Tuesday 6 October 2020, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) received a letter from the Department for Education saying that ministers have decided to end the Union Learning Fund from March 2021.*

2. *The Union Learning Fund (ULF) was set up in 1998 to support trade unions to widen access to learning and training in workplaces for both union members and non-members. The fund supports workplace projects across England, and is coordinated by the TUC.*
3. *Each year around 200,000 workers are supported into learning or training with union support through the ULF and the TUC. These learners undertake all sorts of job-relevant learning and training, including basic literacy and numeracy, ICT skills, apprenticeships and traineeships, vocational training, continuing professional development and many other informal and formal courses.*
4. *In 2019–20, the ULF was worth £12 million. If upheld this decision will effectively end union-brokered skills training, and will undermine key government skills and retraining priorities at a crucial moment for our economy.*

*This Council understands that:*

1. *Union learning reaches people that other Department for Education programmes do not reach.*
2. *There is an independent evaluation of the Union Learning Fund every two years. It was most recently evaluated by the University of Exeter in 2018. They spoke to 2,459 learners, and found:*
  - *Over two-thirds (68 per cent) of learners with no previous qualifications got a qualification.*
  - *47 per cent of those with entry level or level 1 qualifications got a qualification at a higher level.*
  - *Four in five (80 per cent) said they had developed skills that they could transfer to a new job.*
  - *Two in three (62 per cent) said their new skills made them more effective in their current job.*
  - *One in five (19 per cent) said they had been promoted or given increased responsibility and one in 10 (11 per cent) got a pay rise.*
3. *The 2018 independent evaluation found that union learning provided excellent value for money:*
  - *For every £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund, there is a return of £12.30: £7.60 to the worker, £4.70 to the employer.*
  - *The Union Learning Fund delivers an estimated net contribution to the economy of more than £1.4bn as a result of a boost to jobs, wages and productivity.*
  - *The return to the exchequer (through reduced spending on welfare benefits and other factors resulting from the boost to jobs and wages) is £3.57 for each £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund.*
  - *The £12 million government funding levered in an additional £54 million from employers, unions and training providers in 2019–20.*
4. *The government has said it will put reskilling workers at the heart of its economic recovery plans after the pandemic. In September 2020, the government announced a new fully funded entitlement to achieve a first level 3 qualification, delivered through the National Skills Fund. Union learning is ideally placed to support this aspiration, in three ways:*
  - *directly, through delivering relevant level 3 courses to workplace learners, which is already a core function of the Union Learning Fund and was assessed as highly effective by the 2018 independent evaluation.*
  - *directly, through enabling those with basic skills to learn and develop, putting them in a position to progress to level 3 skills.*
5. *Successive governments of all parties have valued this role – and have supported the Union Learning Fund. As government funding, it is paid as a contract and is subject to stringent monitoring requirements. Union Learning Fund money can only be spent on the direct costs of getting working people into learning and skills training, and the associated costs of delivering this programme.*
6. *ULF projects adapted quickly to delivering online learning and training for workers during the pandemic and have actually surpassed the number of outcomes expected by government since the beginning of April.*

*This Council resolves to:*

1. *Express its public support for the continuation of the Union Learning Fund.*
2. *Raise this issue with our local MPs and encourage them to call on the government to reverse its decision.*

Following consideration of the Motion it was:

**RESOLVED:**

**That this Council notes:**

1. On Tuesday 6 October 2020, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) received a letter from the Department for Education saying that ministers have decided to end the Union Learning Fund from March 2021.
2. The Union Learning Fund (ULF) was set up in 1998 to support trade unions to widen access to learning and training in workplaces for both union members and non-members. The fund supports workplace projects across England, and is coordinated by the TUC.
3. Each year around 200,000 workers are supported into learning or training with union support through the ULF and the TUC. These learners undertake all sorts of job-relevant learning and training, including basic literacy and numeracy, ICT skills, apprenticeships and traineeships, vocational training, continuing professional development and many other informal and formal courses.
4. In 2019–20, the ULF was worth £12 million. If upheld this decision will effectively end union-brokered skills training, and will undermine key government skills and retraining priorities at a crucial moment for our economy.

**This Council understands that:**

1. Union learning reaches people that other Department for Education programmes do not reach.
2. There is an independent evaluation of the Union Learning Fund every two years. It was most recently evaluated by the University of Exeter in 2018. They spoke to 2,459 learners, and found:
  - Over two-thirds (68 per cent) of learners with no previous qualifications got a qualification.
  - 47 per cent of those with entry level or level 1 qualifications got a qualification at a higher level.
  - Four in five (80 per cent) said they had developed skills that they could transfer to a new job.
  - Two in three (62 per cent) said their new skills made them more effective in their current job.
  - One in five (19 per cent) said they had been promoted or given increased responsibility and one in 10 (11 per cent) got a pay rise.
3. The 2018 independent evaluation found that union learning provided excellent value for money:
  - For every £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund, there is a return of £12.30: £7.60 to the worker, £4.70 to the employer.
  - The Union Learning Fund delivers an estimated net contribution to the economy of more than £1.4bn as a result of a boost to jobs, wages and productivity.
  - The return to the exchequer (through reduced spending on welfare benefits and other factors resulting from the boost to jobs and wages) is £3.57 for each £1 spent on the Union Learning Fund.
  - The £12 million government funding levered in an additional £54 million from employers, unions and training providers in 2019–20.
4. The government has said it will put reskilling workers at the heart of its economic recovery plans after the pandemic. In September 2020, the government announced a new fully funded entitlement to achieve a first level 3 qualification, delivered through the National Skills Fund. Union learning is ideally placed to support this aspiration, in three ways:

- directly, through delivering relevant level 3 courses to workplace learners, which is already a core function of the Union Learning Fund and was assessed as highly effective by the 2018 independent evaluation.
  - directly, through enabling those with basic skills to learn and develop, putting them in a position to progress to level 3 skills.
5. Successive governments of all parties have valued this role – and have supported the Union Learning Fund. As government funding, it is paid as a contract and is subject to stringent monitoring requirements. Union Learning Fund money can only be spent on the direct costs of getting working people into learning and skills training, and the associated costs of delivering this programme.
  6. ULF projects adapted quickly to delivering online learning and training for workers during the pandemic and have actually surpassed the number of outcomes expected by government since the beginning of April.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Express its public support for the continuation of the Union Learning Fund.
2. Raise this issue with our local MPs and encourage them to call on the government to reverse its decision.

#### **40. QUESTIONS**

Councillor Billington raised a question under Standing Order 17.2 as follows:

*‘What action have the appointed Members from Tameside Council to the Mayor’s Police and Crime Panel provided in light of the damning HMIC report into the running of Greater Manchester Police’?*

In response, Councillor Gwynne stated:

*‘The recent inspection of Greater Manchester Police by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary caused great concern both in Tameside and in all other GM boroughs. We have been kept informed throughout the process via the Police & Crime Panel and the Deputy Mayor’s office and following the publication of the report, the report was presented to the Panel, together with an outline of the actions being taken by the force and the Deputy Mayor’s office to address the issues.*

*The most concerning aspect of the report was a finding that there was serious concern over GMP’s services to victims, and that a large number of criminal matters had not been properly recorded by the force. Measures put in place following publication include the immediate resignation of the Chief Constable, the placing of the force into the “national oversight process” (similar to special measures) and the introduction of a hotline to help any victims of crime who may have been let down by the force.*

*It is important to note that the failings highlighted by the report are forcewide management and system failings and do not reflect on the dedication and hard work of the vast majority of officers within GMP. In Tameside especially we work in very close partnership with local officers, who have shown considerable commitment to improving our local communities and a high level of resilience in supporting residents through the last 12 months.*

*The Community Safety Partnership sets a strong strategic direction for all our partners, and the Independent Advisory Group has received extremely positive feedback for its work in bringing communities, the police and Local Authority together and increasing community cohesion.*

*GMP have recently appointed a new Divisional Commander for Tameside – Supt Rob Cousen. Supt Cousen is very keen to continue building strong relationships with local communities and partner agencies and to push the agenda of improvement within Tameside Division of GMP.*

*We fully support the officers & staff of GMP and are keen to see the force taking full advantage of the help and assistance being offered through the national oversight process. We are confident that these measures, together with the appointment of a new Chief Constable to drive the culture of change through the force, will result in rapid and positive change to address the issues highlighted by Her Majesty's Inspector'.*

In accordance with the Council Constitution Councillor Billington as a follow up question asked about Tameside representation at meetings of the Police and Crime Panel.

#### **41. URGENT ITEMS**

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items of business for consideration.

**CHAIR**