

EXECUTIVE CABINET

27 January 2021

Commenced: 1.40pm

Terminated: 2.15pm

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

In Attendance:	Dr Ashwin Ramachandra	Co-Chair, Tameside & Glossop CCG
	Steven Pleasant	Chief Executive & Accountable Officer
	Sandra Stewart	Director of Governance & Pensions
	Kathy Roe	Director of Finance
	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
	Ilys Cookson	Assistant Director, Exchequer Services
	Debbie Watson	Assistant Director of Population Health
	Simon Brunet	Head of Policy, Performance and Intelligence
	Catherine Moseley	Head of Access Services

122. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

123. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet meeting held on 16 December 2020 be approved as a correct record.

124. MINUTES OF STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 16 December 2020 be noted.

125. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings of Executive Board held on 9 December 2020, 6 January and 13 January 2021, be noted.

126. MINUTES OF THE LIVING WITH COVID BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Living with Covid Board held on 9 December 2020 be

noted.

127. CONSOLIDATED 2020/21 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 30 NOVEMBER 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 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.

RESOLVED:

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

128. 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 had confirmed additional funding for local authorities to provide universal routine access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis. It was proposed that the grant allocation be awarded to Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust for the provision of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis 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 Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis.

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.

It was explained 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 (Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust)). 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 Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust) 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 Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust).

RESOLVED

- (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; and**
- (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 Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust to provide an enhanced clinical outreach offer.**

129. 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.

It was 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.

RESOLVED:

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.**

130. 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.

RESOLVED:

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**

131. 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.

RESOLVED:

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

132. 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.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the Policy enabling the disposal of residential ground plots leased plots leased to residents and set out at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted, 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) That decisions on all future disposals of the Council's freehold reversions to individual homeowners to be made by the Director of Growth, subject to compliance with the Council's Residential Freehold Reversions Policy and the requirements of The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/2095/contents/made>**

133. 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, which 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.

Members were informed 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.

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

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the content of the report, in relation to the ongoing bus franchising consultation taking account of the possible effects of Covid-19, be noted; and**
- (ii) That the formal response to the 12 questions contained in the consultation questionnaire, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.**

134. 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 setting 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 to the report.

School place planning in the borough was reviewed on an annual basis and formed part of the annual report on admission arrangements that was reported to Executive Cabinet in February. Appendix 2 to the report 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.

RESOLVED

That the determination of admission arrangements for all Tameside community and voluntary controlled schools for 2022/23 be agreed without change from those that applied for admission in 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

135. 2021 CENSUS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Leader / Assistant Director for Policy, Performance & Communications, which provided an update on the plans to assist ONS in achieving a successful census in Tameside. Every ten years the Office for National Statistics (ONS) carried out a census to find out more about the people who live in England and Wales, and about the make-up of local neighbourhoods. The next census would take place on **21 March 2021**.

Members were advised 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 residents 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 sessions across the week followed by one additional four and a half hour sessions each Saturday.

AGREED

That the content of the report be noted and the proposals supported.

136. PLANNING REFORM CONSULTATION – SUPPORTING HOUSING DELIVERY AND PUBLIC SERVICE INFRASTRUCTURE

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Housing, Planning and Employment / Director of Growth, which informed Members of 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 and the proposed responses from Tameside Council were detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

It was further explained that Tameside Council was objecting to many aspects of the proposals by Central Government set out in its consultation, on the grounds that they would reduce public participation in the planning process, resulting in less control over where residential development was located, threaten the vitality and viability of high streets and town centres. They would also add further complexity to existing permitted development rights by enabling more development to be carried out without planning permission and public engagement.

Ultimately the Government's proposals would mean that communities and businesses of Tameside would not be able to express their views on those developments which no longer required the need for a planning application under the reforms. Where prior approval would be needed, this would limit the scope of what could be taken into account when the Council was considering objections from the public and the community.

RESOLVED

That the draft consultation to the Government's Supporting Housing Delivery and Public Service Infrastructure consultation, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

137. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR