

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL

6 September 2021

Commenced: 2.00pm

Terminated: 3.10pm

Present: Councillors Warrington (Chair), Cooney, Fairfoull, Feeley, McNally, Reid, Ryan and Dickinson

In Attendance:	Sandra Stewart	Director of Governance and Pensions
	Tim Bowman	Director of Education (Tameside and Stockport)
	Caroline Barlow	Assistant Director of Finance
	Emma Varnam	Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
	Tracy Morris	Assistant Director, Children's Services
	Paul Smith	Assistant Director of Strategic Property
	Debbie Watson	Assistant Director of Population Health
	Trevor Tench	Head of Commissioning, Adult Social Care

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Newton who participated in the meeting virtually.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declaration of interest.

14. MINUTES

The minutes of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting held on the 5 July 2021 were approved as a correct record, with the addition of Councillors Newton and Reid to the list of persons present.

15. 2021/22 CAPITAL MONITORING REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Finance, summarising the forecast outturn at 31 March 2022 based on the financial activity to 30 June 2021.

Members were advised that the detail of this monitoring report was focused on the budget and forecast expenditure for fully approved projects in the 2021/22 financial year. The approved budget for 2021/22 was £68.234m (after re-profiling approved at Outturn) and current forecast for the financial year was £66.123m. There were additional schemes that had been identified as a priority for the Council, and where available, capital resource had been earmarked against these schemes, which would be added to the Capital Programme and future detailed monitoring reports once satisfactory business cases had been approved by Executive Cabinet.

The current forecast was for service areas to have spent £66.123m on capital investment in 2021/22, which was £2.111m less than the current capital budget for the year. This variation was spread across a number of areas, and was made up of a number of over/underspends on a number of specific schemes (£1.848m) less the re-profiling of expenditure in some other areas (£0.263m).

Updated information was provided in respect of approval by Executive Cabinet in July 2021 of additional budget of £1,138,721 allocated to the Stalybridge Civic Hall roof replacement project

(Stalybridge High Street Heritage Action Zone scheme) and added to the approved capital programme.

Members requested further details in respect of capital schemes for Godley Garden Village, Longlands Mill and Mottram Showground, as outlined in an appendix to the report. It was agreed that information be forwarded following the meeting.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to:

- (i) Note the forecast outturn position for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (ii) Approve the re-profiling of budgets into 2022/23 as set out on page 4 of Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (iii) Note the funding position of the approved Capital Programme as set on page 9 of Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (iv) Note the changes to the Capital Programme as set out on page 10 in Appendix 1 to the report; and**
- (v) Note the updated Prudential Indicator position set out on pages 11-12 of Appendix 1 to the report, which was approved by Council in February 2021.**

16. ADULTS CAPITAL PLAN

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Health, Social Care and Population Health / Director of Adults Services providing an update of the developments in relation to the Adults Capital Programme for:

- schemes previously approved and still underway; and
- the usage of the wider disabled facilities grant (DFG).

Details were given of approved projects for 2021/22, as follows:

	Project	Total Funding Approved	21/22 Allocation	Projected Outturn	Re-profiling
1.	Moving with Dignity (Single Handed Care)	£375k DFG	£190k	£190k	£0
2.	Disability Assessment Centre	£250k DFG	£250k	£250k	£0
3.	Replacement of obsolete and ageing equipment	£46k + oncosts	£46k	£46k	£0

Details of the wider DFG and other related adaptation funding and discretionary non-adaptations funding were also contained within the report. Full details of the Adult Services capital programme was included in an appendix to the report.

In respect of Disabled Facilities Grant and other related adaptations funding, it was explained that as restrictions eased residents were allowing access and contractors would be able to resume near-normal working. There were no referrals on hold due to Covid-19. Contractors were however, experiencing difficulties in obtaining some materials/ items due to issues around Brexit, import tariffs, shipping, etc. In addition, material costs were rising above inflation

One aspect of the pandemic was an increase in referrals for more complex cases resulting in more requests to extend properties. The maximum grant for DFG was £30,000 and as all extension exceeded this amount, this was creating some issues with housing providers where contributions were required.

Expenditure on adaptations was currently lower than expected for the first two full months of the financial year. The change from charging individual fees would have an effect. There was also approx. £25-£30k of invoices not yet received from one supplier. It was difficult to be precise with

spend for adaptations due to the nature of the works (many small grants, variations, works completing quicker, or taking longer than anticipated, etc.). Works relating to Housing Assistance would be limited due to the need to focus on delivery of adaptations.

The report concluded that a number of projects were now completed or due for completion shortly including 4C Community Centre which was due to officially launch in July (in line with government guidelines), as well as Brain in Hand which was undergoing evaluation. Further updates for this would be brought to the Panel as appropriate.

Services continued their best to deliver projects and meet improved outcomes for people through challenging and changing times.

All costs and benefits were being monitored and reviewed regularly taking into account people's changing needs and ensuring the right support was in place; whether that be assessment staff or adaptations to enable people to remain as independent as possible in their own homes.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to note the progress updates, and to approve the re-profiling of £98k of Housing Assistance works into FY22/23 owing to limited capacity within the Adaptations team as discussed in section 5 of the report.

17. CAPITAL PROGRAMME - OPERATIONS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS (JULY 2021)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods providing information with regard to the 2020/21 and 2021/22 Operations and Neighbourhoods Capital Programme.

The Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhood updated members in respect of approved schemes as follows:

Highways: Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) and 2021/22 - Highway Maintenance Programme - Confirmation of the 2021/22 Highway Capital Allocation from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) was received at the end of June. A total of £3.915m had been allocated to Highway works and officers were currently working on drawing up a detailed programme of works which would be reported in a subsequent update.

Flooding: Flood Prevention and Consequential Repairs - Works to improve critical infrastructure on the following inlet structures were anticipated to start on site in August/ September 2021:

- Stalybridge Country Park,
- Mottram Old Road, Stalybridge,
- Broadacre, Stalybridge,
- Ney Street, Ashton-under-Lyne,
- Store Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

All works should be completed before March 2022, and it was envisaged the costs would be within budget.

Slope Stability Works and Potential Additional Works Required - The engineering works at Fairlea, Denton were complete. The works were completed within the budget of £0.350m.

The Greenside Lane, Droylsden, retaining wall works were anticipated to be completed in December 2020. However, post-construction monitoring highlighted an ongoing issue with the wall structure, which required additional works to be carried out. The Council's consultants and contractor had been working through various options to find the optimum solution. The design of this solution is close to completion and it is expected the works to carry out remedial measures will

commence on site in August 2021. A revised program for completion will soon be available including information on any additional costs.

Repair and Restoration of Cemetery Boundary Walls - The remainder of the original budget (£0.260m) to be spent this financial year was £0.060m. Further works were now planned for Hyde cemetery with minor additional works on medium risk walls at other cemeteries. All works were envisaged to be completed this financial year and would be within budget.

Replacement of Cremators and Mercury Abatement, Filtration Plant and Heat Recovery Facilities - £2.500m was earmarked in the capital programme to fund this project. The scheme was marked as business critical and was approved by Executive Cabinet on the 24 October 2018. Work on the scheme was progressing.

Children's Playgrounds - Children's playgrounds across Tameside were being improved to help youngsters stay active and healthy. The Capital investment of £0.600m would improve play areas across the borough and ensure they were good quality and safe facilities for children to enjoy. Wetpour surfacing improvements had been completed on several sites. Work to improve the appearance of the play area at Haughton Green was due to start in August. Phase 2 of the wetpour project will commence in September 21. A package of infrastructure works to improve things like gates and benches will commence in October 21 and further improvements such as the installation of new play equipment will take place across the rest of this financial year.

Ashton Town Centre Public Realm Project - As a result of the pandemic the Ashton Town Centre Public Realm project had been temporarily paused in line with Government guidance. Procurement documentation for the paving materials was currently being finalised with STAR and it was anticipated to go out to tender shortly. Uncertainty remained nationally regarding availability and delivery of construction materials. A detailed review of the project is still required, once the procurement exercise is complete. Tenderers will be required to provide delivery timescales as part of their submissions.

Main Road LED Street Lighting Lanterns - The Main Road LED design works were substantially complete. As reported previously the only designs remaining would be the ones requiring bespoke design parameters (ie. Metrolink, high mast columns and heritage lighting). The completion of the project is still scheduled for March 2022.

Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Schemes - Mayor's Challenge Fund - On 29 March 2018, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority agreed to allocate £160 million of Greater Manchester's £243 million Transforming Cities Fund to develop a Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund. Previous reports highlighted that the Council had successfully secured Programme Entry Status for schemes at Tranches 1, 4, 5 and 6 of the programme. Previously, it was reported that the Hill Street and Chadwick Dam schemes were due to be completed by summer 2021, however due to Covid related issues outside of the Council's control this programme was being re-evaluated. It was anticipated that this would result in a two month delay to the original programme. TfGM, the project sponsors, had been informed.

Dukinfield Active Neighbourhood Pilot - On the 3 March 2021, the Council approved, via Executive Decision, the selection of an area in Dukinfield for Tameside's Active Neighbourhood pilot scheme. Work has since started on this resident-led initiative.

Active Travel Fund (ATF) – Tranche 2 - The previous Capital update report provided confirmation that the Council had been awarded £0.985m, from TfGM on the 29 January 2021, to create an environment that was safe for both walking and cycling in order to replace journeys previously made by car or by public transport. A requirement of the grant funding was the Council's ability to demonstrate progress and commitment to implementing the schemes in Tranche 2 by March 2022. In addition, there was a requirement to undertake consultation on all schemes and obtain design approval from TfGM prior to implementation and to implement appropriate monitoring and evaluation.

Following a procurement exercise, Mott MacDonald's – Highway Designers, had been commissioned to work on the feasibility and design of each of the ATF schemes had started. Once outline designs had been approved by TfGM then consultation with relevant residents and stakeholders will commence. A summary of the schemes approved alongside the available budget was provided.

Capability Fund - The previous report provided an overview of the Capability Fund bids, submitted by the Council, earlier in the year. A summary of the bids was provided, which were designed to support behaviour change activities and the development of local cycling and walking infrastructure proposals. The Council was currently awaiting a decision on whether any of the bids had been successful. Confirmation of the outcome would be provided at a future meeting.

Places to Ride – Tame Valley Loop (TVL) - The Council had now received the formal offer of funding from British Cycling, which was currently awaiting sign-off. Works were currently being programmed so that the formalised route could start to be promoted later in the year.

Pedestrian Crossing Facilities at Side Roads - TfGM were researching the use of road markings at side roads in urban areas, working with the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL). The aim was to provide direct and safe crossing points for pedestrians. The Council were supporting the research by implementing two trial sites at locations in Denton and Audenshaw. The on-road trials were now complete, with monitoring completed in early July 2021. This work was being funded by TfGM, under the Mayor's Challenge Fund, with design and delivery being carried out by the Council estimated at £0.022m. The costs were to be met by TfGM, including Council staff time. Costs were being compiled for submission to TfGM.

A further update was given in respect of grant funding schemes reported previously, as follows:

- Transport Infrastructure Investment Fund - Highways Maintenance Challenge Fund 2020/21;
- Department for Transport (DFT) – Safer Roads Fund; and
- Growth Deal 3 Funding – Bus Stop Passenger Access Enhancement.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to note:

- (i) **The progress with regards to Flooding: Flood Prevention and Consequential repairs;**
- (ii) **The progress with regard to the Slope Stability Programme and potential additional works required;**
- (iii) **The progress with regards to the replacement of Cremators and Mercury Abatement, Filtration Plant and Heat Recovery Facilities;**
- (iv) **The progress of the Walking and Cycling infrastructure schemes set out in section 3 of the report;**
- (v) **The progress of Capital schemes in section 2.13-2.20 of the report, and external grant schemes in section 3 and 4; and**
- (vi) **Following the GMCA approval on 25 June 2021, to note that £2.415m Highways grant funding was added to the Council's 2021-22 capital programme and £1.500m Pothole and Challenge funding of the same grant was added to the 2021-22 Operations and Neighbourhood's directorate Highways revenue budget.**

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to APPROVE:

- (vii) **To add £0.022m to the Capital Programme for Pedestrian Crossings at side roads (section 3.18 of the report). This scheme will be wholly financed via TfGM Mayors Challenge grant funding.**

18. CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE CAPITAL SCHEMES UPDATE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Executive Leader / Assistant Director for Children's Social Care, which provided an update on the Children's Social Care Property Scheme and set out details of the major approved capital schemes in the Directorate.

The Director of Children's Services delivered a progress update on the capital projects and advised Members that the purchase of a respite property had been delayed due to the fast movement of the housing market and had proved difficult as properties were being vended rapidly, either by investors or private purchases. Following conversation with Growth and housing partners' there appeared to be suitable properties within the Tameside housing portfolio to deliver a respite unit and this was currently being explored. At this stage, the cost was still unknown therefore, it was proposed the remaining budget was utilised to purchase a property for the respite unit.

In respect of St Lawrence Road (Assessment Unit), it was reported that works on the unit had now completed and the unit was in the process of being handed over to Children's Services and the Ofsted registration process was now underway. Furnishing of the building was also underway and expected to come in on budget.

Discussion ensued and Members raised concerns in respect of the ending of stamp duty relief on 30 September 2021 and the possibility that delays in purchasing a property could result in increased costs. Officers agreed to seek further clarity on this matter and forward information to Members of the Panel expediently, following the meeting.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to note the content of the report.

19. EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member for Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Executive Member for Finance and Growth / Director of Education / Assistant Director of Strategic Property, providing an overview of the Council's Education Capital Programme.

The funding and financial position was explained and details of existing and proposed schemes for the Basic Needs funding were given. In order to utilise funding in the most effective way, it was proposed that the Special Provision and High Needs Provision grants be used to support the Special Provision projects for Hawthorns, Oakfield Primary and Greenside Primary, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

In terms of School Condition Grant funding, it was explained that Schools Forum agreed a contribution protocol for schools condition works that was implemented from 1 October 2020. The protocol asked for a contribution towards all school condition schemes. The contributions were £10,000 for primary schools and £25,000 for secondary schools. This would ensure that the limited School Condition Funding received from central government could be maximised.

Schools would contribute towards all school condition schemes. Discussions would be held with schools to confirm their contributions and how they planned to finance it. This would then replace the school condition funding requested for those schools. This related to the following schools:

- Audenshaw Primary School
- Broadbent Fold
- Fairfield Primary School
- Gee Cross Holy Trinity
- Gorse Hall Primary School
- Hurst Knoll
- Stalyhill Infants School

In respect of Devolved Formula Capital funding, it was reported that the DFE had now provided the actual allocations. The funding for Tameside schools in 2021/22 was £337,001 and £174,553 for Voluntary Aided schools. The maintained allocation was £72,757 more than originally announced as there were five schools that currently had academy orders in place but had not yet converted.

Details of Special Provision Allocation funding were set out and, in order to utilise funding in the most effective way, it was proposed that the Special Provision grant be used to support the Special Provision projects for Hawthorns, Oakfield Primary and Greenside Primary, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

With regard to High Needs Provision Capital Allocation, Members were advised that in April 2021 the Government announced an allocation for Tameside of £1,223,336 for 2021/22. Work was underway to establish how the funding could be utilised and an update would be included in future reports. It was further proposed that the High Needs Provision grant be used to support the RIBA Stage 3 costs for the new Hawthorns scheme, as detailed in Appendix 5 to the report.

In respect of Section 106 monies, it was reported that there was currently £99,931 Section 106 monies remaining from the £491,007 that was approved by panel and subsequently endorsed by Executive Cabinet at the meetings in March 2020. There had been Section 106 monies received from a developer of £59,370 (planning application number 11/00669/OUT). Discussions were being held as to how this could be best used to support schools within the development area.

The Assistant Director commented on a revised approach to presenting information to assist the Panel in monitoring the Education Capital Programme, going forward and made reference to a draft format at Appendix 6 to the report. It was proposed that this approach be agreed for future reports to Panel.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to approve:

- (i) The proposed changes of (£728,800) to and re-profiling of (£11,500,000) the Basic Need Funding as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;**
- (ii) The proposed changes of (£8,160) to and re-profiling of (£150,000) the School Condition Funding as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report;**
- (iii) The proposed changes of £316,000 to the Special Provision Funding as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report;**
- (iv) The proposed changes of £264,800 to the High Needs Provision Funding as detailed in Appendix 5 to the report;**
- (v) The additional £72,757 Devolved Formula Capital is added to the Capital Programme as discussed in paragraph 2.11 of the report; and**
- (vi) A revised approach to presenting the information to assist the Panel in monitoring the Education Capital Programme to understand progress and variations as set out in draft format at Appendix 6 to the report, which will replace all other appendices going forward.**

20. GROWTH CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member of Finance and Economic Growth / Director for Growth, which provided an update on the 2021/22 Growth Capital Programme and set out details of the major approved capital schemes.

It was reported that the proposed Garden Village at Godley Green was the key strategic site for residential development in Tameside. The Council had secured an additional £0.030m capacity funding from Homes England to support the ongoing project management function, which was yet to be received. A similar bid for capacity funding would be made in 2021/22.

In respect of Stalybridge Heritage Action Zone, Members were advised that Stalybridge town centre was selected as Tameside's focus for the GM Mayor's Town Centre Challenge in 2018. Initial work to plan and progress the delivery of Stalybridge's Town Centre Challenge was co-ordinated by the Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge (STCC) Board and a Stalybridge Town Centre Challenge Action Plan now set out the aspirations for the town centre.

A bid for external funding to deliver on the ambitions for Stalybridge secured £1.275m High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) funding through Historic England with £1.275m match funding by the

Council. The Grant Funding Agreement was completed on 16 February 2021. The Project Officer had been appointed and, with Heritage England, a detailed capital programme plan was under review, which would outline the projects and spend of the funding up to 31 March 2024.

Part of the proposed HSHAZ funded scheme was a replacement roof on Stalybridge Civic / Market in 2021/22 for which a budget of £0.559m was allowed. However, as survey work to inform the contract had identified additional works that should be carried out, this included replacement of the extensive roof lights, which were in too poor a condition to re-use and the replacement of an essential health and safety access system, which was also unable to be reused. The estimate for the contract was £1.7m and the July meeting of Executive Cabinet approved an additional £1.139m of Capital funding.

Information was also provided relating to statutory compliance works. These costs were scheduled in Appendix 3 to the report.

A summary of the financial position as at 30 April 2021 with regard to receipts for Section 106 (s106) Agreements and Developer Contributions, was provided.

In terms of land disposals, it was explained that a second batch of surplus sites had been identified. Consultation had taken place with the Cabinet Member initially, with further consultation completed with Ward Councillors. The feedback responses were being captured for inclusion in a report that would be considered by Executive Cabinet in October 2021.

Progress updates were also provided in respect of decarbonisation of the public estate.

RESOLVED

That EXECUTIVE CABINET be RECOMMENDED to note the report and:

That £0.126m of Corporate Landlord - Capital Expenditure be approved from the earmarked budget, for works detailed in Appendix 3 to the report.

21. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR