

## EXECUTIVE CABINET

24 November 2021

Commenced: 1.45pm

Terminated: 2.30pm

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

**In Attendance:**

Steven Pleasant	Chief Executive
Sandra Stewart	Director of Governance & Pensions
Kathy Roe	Director of Finance
Steph Butterworth	Director of Adult Services
Caroline Barlow	Assistant Director (Finance)
Emma Varnam	Assistant Director (Operations and Neighbourhoods)
James Mallion	Assistant Director (Population Health)
Greg Stott	Assistant Director (Investment, Development and Housing)
Catherine Moseley	Head of Access Services

### 82. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Member	Subject Matter	Type of Interest	Nature of Interest
Councillor Cooney	Item 7 - Changes to the Provision of a Statutory Housing Options Service	Prejudicial	Trustee/Director – Jigsaw Homes
Councillor Ryan	Item 7 - Changes to the Provision of a Statutory Housing Options Service	Prejudicial	Housing North Board Member – Jigsaw Homes

### 83. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE CABINET

#### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet meeting held on 27 October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

### 84. MINUTES OF STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

#### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 27 October 2021 be noted.

### 85. MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

#### RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings of Executive Board held on: 13 October 2021 and 3 November 2021, be noted.

## **86. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY WORKING GROUP**

### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Climate Emergency Working Group held on 17 November 2021 be noted.

## **87. STRATEGIC PLANNING AND CAPITAL MONITORING PANEL**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel meeting held on 22 November 2021. Approval was sought of recommendations of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel arising from the meeting.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel held on 22 November 2021, be noted; and**
- (b) That the following recommendations be approved:**

#### **Month 6 Capital Monitoring Report:**

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

#### **Education Capital Programme:**

- (i) The proposed changes to return (£208,000) the Basic Need funding as detailed in paragraph 2.2 be approved;**
- (ii) The proposed changes to return (£104,500) the School Condition funding as detailed in paragraph 2.7 be approved;**
- (iii) Contributions from schools of £90,000 to be added to the programme and replace the condition funding as detailed in paragraph 2.9 be approved.**

#### **Adults Capital Plan:**

That the report be noted;

#### **Children Social Care Capital Schemes:**

- (i) The progress update in the report be noted; and**
- (ii) The drawdown of £30k, from the remaining capital reserves has been approved and works underway on the refurbishment of 66 Chester Avenue be noted.**

#### **Capital Programme - Operations and Neighbourhoods (Place Directorate):**

- (i) The completion of the scheme Flooding: Flood Prevention and Consequential Repairs be noted;**
- (ii) The progress with regard to the Slope Stability Programme and potential additional works required be noted;**
- (iii) The progress with regards to the replacement of Cremators and Mercury Abatement, Filtration Plant and Heat Recovery Facilities be noted;**
- (iv) The progress of capital schemes in section 2.18-2.29, and external grant schemes in sections 3 and 4 be noted;**
- (v) The progress of the Walking and Cycling infrastructure schemes set out in section 3 of the report be noted.**

- (vi) **The addition of £0.060m to the Capital Programme for the provision of a pedestrian controlled crossing, associated road markings, traffic calming, bus stops review, bus stop clearway markings and school keep clear road markings for Laurus Ryecroft School, Lumb Lane Droylsden (Section 3.19) be approved. This scheme will be financed by funds secured under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, for the siting of the new Laurus Ryecroft School.**

**Growth Capital Programme – Update:**

- (i) **The report including the consolidation of various remaining funding streams for Godley Green to create one capital scheme with a total value of £12.599m (section 2.7 table 1 refers) be noted;**
- (ii) **That it be noted that a £1m budget was approved by Executive Cabinet on 29 September 2021 for statutory compliance (section 2.18 refers).**
- (iii) **An uplift to the Planning Obligation Calculator of 11% be approved (in line with CPIH, March 2016-August 2021, section 3.12 table 2 refers).**

**88. CONSOLIDATED 2021/22 REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Lead Clinical GP / Director of Finance. The report detailed actual expenditure to 30 September 2021 (Month 6) and forecasts to 31 March 2022 for the Council and 30 September 2021 for the CCG.

Members were advised that at the halfway point in the financial year, the forecast outturn position for the council was beginning to look more positive for 2021/22. This was largely due to non-recurrent, pandemic related funding streams which would not be available next year.

It was reported that while the council position had improved, due to the allocation of one-off funding streams there continued to be significant financial pressures, particularly in Children's Social Care services. These needed to be addressed in order to balance the in-year financial position and address the longer term financial challenge.

It was stated that the NHS financial regime had still not fully normalised following the command and control response to the pandemic last year. Funding had been allocated in order to cover the current costs in the system and was being monitored at a system level (i.e. Greater Manchester). Both the ICFT and the CCG had managed within the required financial envelopes in the first half of this year. Financial and operational guidance for the second half of the year was recently published. This included a system level allocation and confirmation that HDP & ERF funding would continue into H2. But detailed budgets or financial envelopes were not yet agreed at a locality/organisation level. As such this report only included NHS financial information for the first 6 months of the financial year.

It was explained that in 2020/21 the deficit on Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) increased from £0.557m to £1.686m mainly due to funding the overspend on the High Needs Block. If the 2021/22 projections materialised, there would be a deficit of £3.124m on the DSG reserve by 31 March 2022. Under DfE regulations a deficit recovery plan would be required, which would be submitted to the DfE outlining how the deficit would be recovered and spending would be managed. This would require discussions and agreement of the Schools Forum.

**RESOLVED**

- (i) **That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;**
- (ii) **That the detailed analysis of budget forecasts and variances set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;**
- (iii) **That the forecast position on the Collection Fund in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be noted;**

- (iv) That the forecast position in respect of Dedicated Schools Grant as set out in Appendix 4 to the report, be noted; and
- (v) That the write-off of irrecoverable debts for the period 1 July to 30 September 2021 as set out in Appendix 5 to the report, be approved.

#### **89. TAMESIDE & GLOSSOP INEQUALITIES REFERENCE GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Director of Transformation, which explained that Tameside & Glossop Inequalities Reference Group (IRG) was established in November 2020 and aimed to reduce inequality in Tameside & Glossop by providing advisory recommendations on tackling key issues within the community. When established, the group's terms of reference committed to the publication of an annual update. The report discharged that obligation and provided an overview of the group's activities in the last 12 months

#### **RESOLVED**

**That the content of the report be noted, ensuring the council and CCG work with partners to address the recommendations made in the two reports published to date and support future activity of the Inequalities Reference Group.**

#### **90. ASHTON TOWN CENTRE LEVELLING UP FUND**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / Director of Place / Assistant Director for Investment, Development & Housing, providing an update on the successful bid by the Council to the Levelling Up Fund for Ashton Town Centre and sought approval to progress the Ashton Town Centre Regeneration Programme.

Members were advised that the Council had been successful in its £19.87m bid to the Levelling Up Fund. The bid and the specific interventions proposed within it had been prepared in the context of an emerging wider strategic vision for Ashton Town Centre. The interventions proposed were critical to unlocking the comprehensive redevelopment of the Town Centre and integrating with other as part of a coherent vision, completing of the final phase of Vision Tameside. This in turn would help deliver a catalytic economic and social impact to the local community.

It was explained that the items identified within the bid to the Fund aimed to address the key priorities identified in the engagement and building on the investment delivered in the Town Centre to date focused on:

- Land remediation and enabling infrastructure works on the former interchange site
- Walking/cycling and public realm improvements
- Support the restoration of Ashton Town Hall

This had been set within the context of emerging wider Town Centre master planning work and would provide the enabling works to act as a catalyst for significantly accelerating delivery of the comprehensive transformation of the Town Centre and unlock its full potential.

It was concluded that the interventions supported by the Fund and the wider Ashton Town Centre Regeneration Programme would support delivery of the Council's strategic priorities as set out in the Tameside Corporate Plan and Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy. The funding secured provided a significant financial contribution to Ashton Town Centre and provided a proactive and positive response to the impact of the recent COVID-19 pandemic in terms of economic recovery and future inclusive growth.

## RESOLVED

- (i) That the successful £19.87m Levelling Up Fund bid for Ashton Town Centre (Appendix A refers), be noted;
- (ii) That approval be delegated to the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth to enter into the formal agreements for the receipt of Levelling Up Fund monies once further documentation is received from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and reviewed by Legal and Finance, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance and Economic Growth;
- (iii) That the Director of Place manage the programme of works associated with the Levelling Up Fund, the Town Centre Regeneration Programme and to drawdown and incur all Levelling Up Fund expenditure related to delivery. On-going performance and reporting will be provided to the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel; and
- (iv) That the use of £4.8m from the GM Mayors Challenge Fund (MCF) associated with the Ashton Streetscape and Ashton South projects as match funding to the Levelling Up Fund, be approved.

## 91. CHANGES TO THE PROVISION OF A STATUTORY HOUSING OPTIONS SERVICE

*At this juncture, Councillor Cooney and Ryan left the meeting and took no further part in the consideration of the following item of business, having declared a prejudicial interest as Trustee/Director and Housing North Board Member for Jigsaw Homes, respectively.*

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Housing, Planning and Employment / Director of Place / Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods outlining the current provision of a Housing Options Service in Tameside, the need for a change to the way in which the service was provided and the three options available to the Council for the future of the House Options Service.

Members were advised that in light of increasing financial pressure, increasing demand on services and the desire to introduce new and innovative working practices, the Authority should consider the three options detailed in the report, in respect of the Council's Housing Options Service. It was for the consideration of Members to decide which option would provide the best service to the residents of Tameside in the most cost-effective way.

It was explained that the current position, contracting the service out to an external provider, did not fit with the changes required to the service or with the increasing demand.

It was further explained that keeping the service contracted-out, either with the existing provider or with a new provider, significantly reduced the opportunities to redevelop the service into a more flexible and responsive service. It did not offer the level of control that the Council should have over how the service was managed or the financial aspect of the provision. In addition, it would limit opportunities to reduce costs and make significant changes to how temporary accommodation is managed in Tameside.

The three options available to the authority in respect of the Housing Options Service were detailed as follows:

1. Implement no changes to the service currently contracted out to Jigsaw Homes;
2. Serve six months' notice of termination on Jigsaw Homes, in respect of the current contract and re-tender for provision of a service, which was closer aligned with the ambitions and changing demands of the service; or
3. Serve six months' notice of termination on Jigsaw Homes in respect of the current contract and move the service "in house", to be operated and managed by Tameside Council within the existing Community Safety and Homelessness Service.

Option 3 was proposed as the chosen option. It was explained that should Option 3 be chosen, the working group established to oversee the process had drafted a timetable for change:

- November 2021: Service of 6 months' notice on Jigsaw Homes for early termination of the contract;
- December 2021: Consultation with existing THAS staff over TUPE process, terms & conditions;
- March 2022: Report to ECG for TUPE process;
- May 2022: Service & staff transfer to TMBC; and
- September 2022: Service redesign process undertaken.

## **RESOLVED**

**That permission be granted to serve 6 months' notice of termination on Jigsaw Homes in respect of the current contract and move the service "in house", to be operated and managed as a Tameside Council service within the existing Community Safety & Homelessness Service.**

## **92. EDUCATION SPECIALIST AND BASIC NEED PROJECTS UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Lifelong Learning, Equalities, Culture and Heritage / Director of Education for Tameside and Stockport, which provided an update on the Education Specialist and Basic Need Capital projects. The report sought approval to move a number of schemes forward and outlined the projected costs of the schemes and sought approval for grant agreements with the academies.

Members were advised that All Saints Catholic College had a chronic shortage of suitable accommodation to meet the increased need for the specialist physical education curriculum that additional pupils would need.

It was explained that All Saints and their consultants Atkins had undertaken a tender exercise and wished to appoint contractors to undertake the work described and were requesting a drawdown of £258,887 against the previously agreed £2 million budget. The total cost of all phases of the work (Appendix 1 to the report) was estimated to be £2m and which had previously been agreed through Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel and Executive Cabinet on 29 July 2020. This had been allocated to the project from Basic Need Funding. If the recommendation to enter into a grant agreement for this work was agreed, All Saints Catholic College would have £1,741,110 for further phases of work.

It was reported that the works would be commissioned by the Shrewsbury Diocese with oversight within the Council's Capital Projects Team and a grant agreement would be put in place to fund the project. It was recommended that a grant agreement of £258,890 be agreed with the St Anselm's Catholic Multi Academy Trust to support this work. Ongoing monitoring of the project would be through the grant agreement and reported to the Strategic Planning and Capital Monitoring Panel.

The report also proposed a grant agreement be agreed with The Epworth Education Trust for £23,000. It was explained that the school had been identified as a site where the current resource base provision could be expanded for September 2021.

## **RESOLVED**

- (i) That a grant agreement be approved for an initial £258,890 with St Anselm's Catholic Multi Academy Trust to enable All Saints Catholic College to accommodate additional school places from September 2021. The capital scheme focusses on remodelling two classrooms into a fitness studio and dance studio to support the additional places;**
- (ii) That a grant agreement be approved for £23,000 with The Epworth Education Trust to refurbish an external play area at Rosehill Primary Academy, allowing children in the resourced provision to have dedicated access to a suitable play area. This will provide 10 additional resourced pupil places for at least 10 years from September 2021; and**
- (iii) That a further report be received on the projects for Hawthorns Primary School and Cromwell School to ensure sufficient funding and on track to deliver.**

### **93. CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) MANDATORY VACCINATION OF PEOPLE WORKING OR DEPLOYED IN CARE HOMES**

A report was submitted by the Executive Leader / Assistant Director, People and Workforce Development summarising the legislative requirements in relation to mandatory vaccinations of workers who may be deployed or work within a care home setting during their employment/engagement. This would be applicable for both Council and Tameside and Glossop CCG workers and would see the implementation of a Vaccination Policy to support the legislative changes, which would come into effect from 11 November 2021.

The report gave details of:

- Workforce implications;
- Identified job roles in scope of the legislation;
- Refusal of vaccine in roles where it was mandated;
- Recruitment pre-employment screening;
- Medical exemption;
- Required evidence of vaccination status;
- Recording vaccination/exemption status information;
- If an individual had been vaccinated outside of the UK; and
- Implementation of the legislation.

A copy of Tameside MBC and Tameside and Glossop CCG's Vaccination Policy was appended to the report.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That implementation of the Vaccination Policy detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved across the Council and Tameside & Glossop CCG, in line with legislative requirements.**

### **94. GM MINIMUM LICENSING STANDARDS – STAGE 2 (VEHICLES)**

The Executive Member, Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Director of Place submitted a report in respect of the GM Minimum Licensing Standards – Stage 2 (Vehicles).

It was explained that the GM Minimum Licensing Standards (MLS) were ready to be consulted on when the Department for Transport published statutory guidance for taxi and private hire licensing authorities in July 2020. The MLS project had regard for that guidance, which largely mirrored what was already proposed across GM. To that end, it was important to recognise that Taxis and Private Hire services were unique in the potential opportunity and risks they presented to the travelling public. In no other mode of public transport were passengers as vulnerable or at risk to those who had mal-intent; risks that were increased for children and vulnerable adults. The sector itself was also vulnerable to being used for criminal activity such as child sexual exploitation, county lines and other drug dealing/money laundering activity.

It was with public safety as the primary duty in mind as Licensing Authorities that the MLS were proposed. Overall, the GM approach looked to provide:

- the public with safe, visible, accessible and high-quality hackney and private hire services;
- the hackney and private hire trades with clarity over what the required standards would be over the long term, and through the GM Clean Air Plan, with unprecedented investment to help renew the fleet; and
- local authorities with the continued regulatory role in relation to driver, vehicle and operator licensing whilst retaining scope to exceed the MLS as agreed locally by elected members.

The MLS were divided into four distinct sections, which were detailed in the report.

Members were advised that an important element of the overall approach was to provide clarity and long term certainty for vehicle owners, so that they were able to plan the upgrade of their vehicles in a way that met and contributed positively to GM's Air Quality, Carbon and other environmental obligations

Members were further advised that a summary of the GM wide public consultation that took place between 8 October and 3 December 2020, had been provided in the Stage 1 Report.

The GM consultation report, including a full breakdown of demographics could be viewed at [www.gmtaxistandards.com](http://www.gmtaxistandards.com). The response breakdown for Tameside was also provided. Higher level summaries of the consultation responses at a GM level were detailed, including comments and district specific feedback on individual standards.

The report concluded that the consultation had demonstrated that the public were overwhelmingly in support of the additional safeguards and protection that the project could deliver. As well as the local policy strengthening that minimum licensing standards would bring across Greater Manchester it delivered on the implementation of the statutory standards on safeguarding that the Government had introduced.

The vision of Greater Manchester was to continue to work closely together, influence policy change and support the licensed trade by delivering on its promise to provide financial support to move to greener vehicles. This was the start of a journey to continue to deliver excellence in licensing regulation in Greater Manchester. This in turn would help drive more business and passengers to a well-regulated, safe and efficient locally licensed hackney and private hire trade, for example by GM local authorities, TfGM and the GMCA delivering PR and other campaigns encouraging the public to only use and book local licensed services.

However, it was important not to underestimate the challenges the trade continued to face and the balance that must be struck in order to continue to support the trade whilst safeguarding the public; delivering a licensing regime that offered journeys in safe licensed vehicles, driven by safe licensed drivers. The 10 GM licensing authorities would continue to work with the hackney and private hire trade to provide that ever-important support and guidance whilst ensuring that public protection was at the forefront of considerations.

#### **RESOLVED**

**That it be RECOMMENDED that Council approve the implementation of the Minimum Licensing Standards as outlined in paragraph 4 of the report and in the appendices.**

#### **95. URGENT ITEMS**

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

**CHAIR**