

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – YOUNG PEOPLE** held on 5 December 2017 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor A Dale (in the Chair)

Also in attendance was Councillor Julie Patten.

43/17 MINUTES **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings held on 7 November 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

44/17 NEW INSTRUMENTS OF GOVERNMENT Under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012; proposals had been received from school Governing Bodies for an amendment to their Instrument of Government.

RESOLVED that approval be given for new Instruments of Government to be made for the six schools detailed in the Director of Legal Services' report.

45/17 PAY AWARDS – SCHOOL TEACHERS' PAY AWARDS W.E.F. 1 SEPTEMBER 2017 The Cabinet Member was informed of the details of the nationally agreed School Teachers' Pay Award from 1 September W.E.F 1 September 2017.

RESOLVED (1) to agree to the award of a 2% increase in all points on the main pay range and 1% to all points on the other teachers' pay ranges and 1% uplift to classroom teacher allowances (Teaching and Learning Responsibility payments and Special Educational Needs allowances), backdated to 1 September 2017, to all teachers employed by Derbyshire County Council, but not attached to schools, the costs of which will be met from the Dedicated Schools Grant; and

(2) to agree to recommend to Governing Boards that a 2% uplift in all pay points on the main pay range and 1% increase to all other pay points on the other teachers' pay ranges and to classroom teacher allowances (TLR payments and SEN allowances) is awarded to teachers employed in schools, backdated to 1 September 2017.

46/17 STRATEGIC REVIEW OF HIGH NEEDS PROVISION IN DERBYSHIRE Approval was sought to undertake a procurement exercise for a comprehensive strategic review of High Needs Provision in Derbyshire and to holding the un-ring-fenced grant funding allocated from the Department for

Education (DfE) to carry out a strategic review of High Needs Provision within an earmarked reserve if it remains unspent at the end of 2017-18.

The DfE had allocated funding to Local Authorities to carry out a strategic review of High Needs Provision in their area. The DfE defines High Needs pupils and students as those whose special educational needs require a provision costing more than £10,000 per year.

The funding allocated by the DfE for the review may also be used to help implement any changes or initiatives which were identified from the outcomes of the review. Local authorities were expected to publish the outcomes of the reviews in the form of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategic Plans.

Derbyshire, working as a Local Area and involving partners from across agencies, had already undertaken work to develop elements of High Needs Provision within the County. The Derbyshire Local Area included Derbyshire County Council, the five Clinical Commissioning Groups and the full range of stakeholders including young people and parent/carers such as Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice. The DfE funding provided an excellent opportunity for Derbyshire to build upon this work by enabling the Council to have the capacity to undertake a comprehensive review of High Needs Provision in the Local Area, and to make recommendations to inform the Local Area Strategic Plan.

The SEND Stakeholder Group which included parent and carer representatives had been involved in the initial scoping work for this project. There was an expectation that a wide range of stakeholders including children, young people, parents and carers would be closely engaged and be part of the co-production of the outcomes of the proposed project.

The proposed project would be split in to three distinct phases and would be monitored by a Steering Group that would report to the SEND Strategic Board. The expected outcomes from each phase were detailed in the Strategic Director's report

Given the scale and scope of the project, it was not considered that there were sufficient resources in-house to deliver this. In addition, through initial scoping work with stakeholders, there was a clear preference to have an independent assessment and analysis completed and recommendations made using an external organisation who could undertake this work on an impartial basis.

Therefore the recommendation was that a procurement exercise be undertaken to outsource the work to a suitably qualified and experienced organisation.

It was proposed that the Strategic Review of High Needs Provision would be funded from the grant that has been made available by the DfE for this purpose.

The total amount of the grant was £305,280. Details of how these grant monies would be allocated were given in the financial considerations contained within the Strategic Director's report.

RESOLVED (1) that a procurement exercise be undertaken for the strategic review of High Needs Provision; and

(2) to approve the holding of the un-ring-fenced grant funding allocated from the DfE to carry out a strategic review of High Needs Provision within an earmarked reserve if it remained unspent at the end of 2017-18.

47/17 REPORTING OF BUILDING CONTRACTS The Cabinet Member was informed of recent building contracts awarded by the Strategic Director – Children's Services in accordance with Financial Regulations, which were detailed in the appendices to the Strategic Director's report.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

48/17 CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATIONS OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS **RESOLVED** to approve the nomination of the following persons to serve as Local Authority Governors:-

A Tabony – Ashbourne Primary School
L Turner – Stanton Vale Special School
D Scott – Draycott Community Primary School
F Russell - Egginton Primary School

49/17 CAPITAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE INCREASE IN PROVISION OF FREE ENTITLEMENT TO EARLY YEARS PLACES
Approval was sought to allocate funding to the conversion of children's centre properties to create additional; early years places.

On 22 November 2016, Cabinet approved the sum of £250,000 for minor alterations to children's centre buildings to meet Ofsted requirements for the delivery of early years places. This was reduced to £244,580 by the approval of a non-Capital project at Ripley Nursery School. The Cabinet Member reports of 14 March 2017 and 1 August approved works at a further six centres, to the value of £87,799.95. A further two Capital and one non-Capital scheme had now been identified at three centres the details of which were given in the Strategic Director's report.

RESOLVED to approve the allocations for the Capital projects at the former children's centres at Scargill (£39,415) and Tupton (£16,750), and notes the non-Capital scheme at Brampton (£3,500).

50/17 HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT – HAZARDOUS ROUTES

The Cabinet Member was asked to consider a request for a route from home to a contracted vehicle bus stop be declared 'hazardous'. This designation is used when determining the 'eligibility' of children to whom the statutory duty to make suitable travel arrangements applies and the extent of the transport support provided.

The route in question was from the Leadmill, Hathersage under the railway bridge on the B6001.

The request for the route to be assessed in accordance with the Authority's criteria for route safety for the purposes of home to school transport has been made by a parent who resides just off the B6001, Leadmill, (opposite The Plough Inn) and whose child is entitled to assistance with transport to Hope Valley College in accordance with the defined criteria The Authority's contracted vehicle transported students from Hathersage to Hope Valley College and the bus stop was less than one mile from the student's home address - 'Children would normally be expected to walk up to a mile, accompanied as necessary, to meet a service vehicle to school' as stated in Derbyshire's Transport Policy for Children and Young People.

In this case, the parent had cited concerns with regard to the route between the student's home and the bus stop and specifically travelling under the railway bridge which crossed the B6001.

The route from the property was paved along both sides of the B6001 to the junction Leach House and the Sewage Works, where the pavement on the right hand side travelling towards Hathersage then becomes a grass verge. This verge narrows towards the railway bridge. The pavement on the left hand side of the road travelling towards Hathersage continued to the railway bridge. There was no pavement on either side of the road travelling under the railway bridge. The pavement continued after the bridge on the left hand side travelling into Hathersage. The right hand side of the road had a grass verge to the junction with Station Approach. The remainder of the route into Hathersage was either pavement or a wide grass verge. The Hazardous routes Panel Inspected the route on 4 October 2017 and recommended that the route be declared not hazardous.

RESOLVED (1) to confirm the Hazardous Route Panel's recommendation to declare the route indicated in the report not hazardous for the purposes of home to school transport; and

(2) to note the Panel's suggestion and recommend to the Strategic Director for Environment, Transport and Communities some further improvements to the route including improving the footway under the bridge and moving the 50mph signs

to the other side of the bridge to slow traffic down approaching the bridge from Hathersage village.

51/17 CHILDREN'S SERVICES SPENDING 2017/18 The Cabinet Member was informed of the results of the latest Children's Services budget monitoring for 2017/18 with the major variances highlighted.

The current forecast year-end position for Children's Services expenditure funded by the Council was an overspend of £6.441 million, an increase of £0.535 million from the previous reported projection due to a further increase in the expenditure pressures driven by increased numbers of children in care and children in need.

The residual Children's Services prior year underspend was able to contribute £2.053 million towards this overspend leaving £4.388 million to be met from the Council's general reserve. The department was committed to implementing the budget reductions agreed by Council and would continue to control spend by other measures such as vacancy control. However, increases in demand for statutory services had exceeded the capacity of the current Children's Services budget for some years. A breakdown by service area is attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report.

The major variances included budget reductions still to be received (overspend £0.028m), Finance/HR/Information & ICT/Business Services (underspend of £0.811m), Allocations from Grants (overspend £0.185m), Child Protection (overspend £0.147m), Early Help and Safeguarding (overspend £7.520), Advisory Service (overspend £0.889m) and Capital adjustment (underspend £0.671). The main reasons for the overspends were detailed in the report.

The current projected expenditure on Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children was £0.367 million, net of grant funding from the Home Office. This was within the current budget allocation. The number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) supported by the Council as at end September 2017 was 29, of which 20 had transferred to Derbyshire from other local authorities or direct from abroad.

The projected outturn for the Dedicated Schools Grant was an overspend of £0.214 million. This included a projected overspend of £0.225 million relating to local authority schools' re-pooled budgets. It was intended that this would be covered from the accumulated underspend of those budgets from previous years, subject to the approval of Schools Forum. The £0.009 million projected underspend across other budgets had arisen in the following areas.

Early Years expenditure was projected to be below the grant allocated by £0.545 million due to fewer 2, 3 and 4 year-olds accessing provision with PVI providers than the Authority had been funded for. The DfE had a

mechanism for adjusting funding based on actual take-up which was likely to result in this surplus being clawed back in 2018/19.

The High Needs block was projected to overspend by £0.910 million. Overall, centrally-provided services were projected to underspend by £0.051 million whilst top-ups for pupils were projected to be above budget by £1.530 million. The residual unallocated budget set aside for in-year and future pressures was projected to underspend by £0.599 million.

RESOLVED to note the outcome of the latest budget monitoring for 2017/18, and that progress on delivery of budget reductions be noted.

52/17 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC** **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining item on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of the kind of exempt information detailed in the following summary of proceedings:-

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

(1) To confirm the exempt minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 7 November 2017.

53/17 **EXEMPT MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 7 November 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.