

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – YOUNG PEOPLE** held on 3 October 2017 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor A Dale (in the Chair)

Also in attendance was Councillor J Coyle.

27/17 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meetings held on 5 September and 11 September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

28/17 **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SPENDING 2017/18** The current year-end forecast position for Children's Services funded by the Council was an overspend of £5.040m. The residual Children's Services prior year underspend was able to contribute £2.154 million towards this overspend leaving £2.886 million to be met from the Council's general reserve.

In addition to strict vacancy control measures, actions that were being taken by officers included delivery of budget reductions when agreed by Cabinet; increasing income to Children's Services by trading and maximising the use of other grants such as funding for adoption and assistance to troubled families; and a determined focus and challenge to all expenditure by senior managers within Children's Services with a comprehensive review of all spend.

The major variances included budget reductions still to be received (overspend £0.878m), Finance/HR/Information & ICT/Business Services (underspend of £0.476m), Allocations from Grants (overspend £0.449m), Child Protection (overspend £0.183m), Early Help and Safeguarding (overspend £7.070), Advisory Service (overspend £1.163m) 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 (UASC) was £0.519 million, net of grant funding from the Home Office. At August 2017 32 were supported by the Council of which 15 have transferred to Derbyshire from other local authorities or direct from Calais.

The projected outturn for the Dedicated Schools Grant was an underspend of £0.106 million. This included a projected overspend of £0.186 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. Early Years expenditure was projected to exceed the grant allocated by £0.595 million due to increased numbers of 2, 3 and 4 year olds accessing provision with PVI providers. The Department for Education mechanism for adjusting funding might result in this shortfall being corrected in 2018/19. The High Needs block was projected to underspend by £0.931 million. Centrally provided services were projected to overspend by £0.036 million whilst top-ups for pupils were projected to be below budget by £0.368 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 initial budget monitoring for 2017/18.

29/17 SCHOOL BUDGETS : DEFICIT BALANCES AND RECOVERY PLANS TO BRING BUDGETS INTO BALANCE OVER MORE THAN ONE FINANCIAL YEAR The report detailed Governing bodies of schools with deficit budgets who have requested approval to implement budget plans to repay the deficit over more than one year and schools which have still to agree a deficit recovery plan.

Before making such a request, the school must demonstrate to officers from Children's Services and Corporate Finance that all other options have been exhausted. Approval to repay a deficit over a three-year period would only be given in exceptional circumstances where the Cabinet Member was satisfied that the school's ability to deliver the national curriculum would otherwise be seriously jeopardised and that no other reasonable course of action was available.

The balances and pupil numbers of the schools included in the report were included at Appendices 1 & 2.

In relation to requests to balance the budget over more than one year there were seven schools in this group, namely Cavendish Junior (2 year plan); Furness Vale Primary (2 year plan); Heath Fields Primary (2 year Plan); William Levick Primary (2 year plan); Blackwell Primary (3 year plan); Charlesworth Primary (3 year plan) and Somercotes Infant (3 year plan).

Despite best efforts, there were two secondary schools, Anthony Gell and New Mills, that have been unable to produce plans to bring their budgets back into balance. Anthony Gell incurred an in-year overspend of £0.285m in 2016-17 leaving an accumulated deficit at 31 March 2017 of £0.129m. The school has made reductions in its staffing and implemented other cost saving measures and, whilst the deficit was forecast to increase slightly to £0.22m by the end of this year, thereafter it was expected to reduce. New Mills School has had significant financial difficulties for some time, and in 2016, the

Authority agreed to a request from the School's governing body to close the sixth form. However, the closure would not take full effect until July 2018 and the school was continuing to subsidise the provision. Both schools were fully participating with Team Around The School (TATS).

The Authority's support for New Mills was likely to include a significant financial contribution from the school contingency fund created from re-pooled monies deducted from LA maintained schools' budgets and which could be used to help individual schools in financial difficulty. However, the level of support has yet to be agreed. It would take several years before the school's accumulated deficit was eliminated and if the school convert to academy status, then an accumulated deficit would be a charge against the Authority's General Reserve.

RESOLVED (1) to allow the schools detailed in section 2.1 of the report to recover their budget deficits over two to four financial years;

(2) to note the position of the two secondary schools in section 2.2 that are currently unable to submit a balanced budget recovery plan; and

(3) to require the governing bodies of the two secondary schools in 2.2 to agree and submit plans to the Authority by the end of the current financial year that eliminate the accumulated deficits within a timeframe acceptable to the Authority.

30/17 ROWSLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL – FORMER SCHOOL HOUSE
The County Council purchased the former school house at Rowsley Primary School in 1978 when it acquired all the land and buildings on the site. The accommodation was not required for use by the school and has been empty since November 2012.

It was proposed that Listed Building Consent and planning permission should be applied for to provide dedicated pedestrian access to the property without accessing the school grounds. A price has been obtained to undertake the required works of £13,420, including contingencies and professional fees. These costs and the cost of securing the necessary approvals would be offset against the capital receipt from the subsequent sale of the property. The Authority would allocate 50% of the capital receipt, after all costs have been deducted, to a capital project at the school, provided the project was approved by the Authority.

RESOLVED that (1) the former School House at Rowsley CE Primary School be declared surplus to the requirements of the Strategic Director for Children's Services and be disposed of by the County Council; and

(2) 50% of the capital receipt from the sale of the property be allocated to undertake priority condition works at Rowsley CE Primary School.

31/17 CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATIONS OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS RESOLVED to approve the nomination of the following persons to serve as Local Authority Governors:-

P Wilkinson – Fritchley CE Aided Primary Centre
C Hendry – Darley Dale Primary School
G Wardle – Risley Lower Grammar School

32/17 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items 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 5 September 2017.

33/17 EXEMPT MINUTES RESOLVED that the exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 5 September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.