

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – YOUNG PEOPLE** held on 4 September 2018 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Cabinet Member - Councillor A Dale

Also in attendance - Councillors A Fox and J Twigg.

70/18 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Young People held on 7 August 2018 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

71/18 **CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATIONS OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS** **RESOLVED** to approve the nomination of the following persons to serve as Local Authority Governors:-

S Cooper	-	Brookfield Primary School
E Tidd	-	Woodthorpe CoE Primary School
G Harrison	-	Parwich Primary School
C Bisknell	-	Fairfield Endowed Junior School

72/18 **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SPENDING 2018/19**

The Cabinet Member was informed of the results of the latest Children's Services budget monitoring for 2018/19 with the major variances highlighted.

The current forecast year-end position for Children's Services expenditure funded by the Council was an £0.444 million overspend against allocated budget.

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 have exceeded the capacity of the current Children's Services budget for some years and the additional funding approved by Council for 2018/19 has ensured that the projected overspend was much lower than the £6.389 million overspend reported for 2017/18. A breakdown by service area was attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report.

The major variances included Unallocated budget (underspend £6.670m); SMT and Resources (overspend £0.165m); Safeguarding and Early (overspend £6.561m); Schools and Learning (overspend £1.242m); Countywide Commissioning (overspend £0.383m); Pay Award Budget Allocation (underspend £1.260m). The main reasons for the overspends were detailed in the report.

The current additional allocations to the Children's Services revenue budget for 2018/19 was as follows – Children's Services Demographics (£7.000m plus one-off funding of £4.000m); Children's Social Care Remodelling (£1.300m plus one-off funding of £4.000m); Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (£1.000m); Care Leavers (£0.402m); Child Protection Staff (£0.150m); Organisation models for small schools (£0.380m one-off for two years); and the utilisation was detailed in the report.

Of the net overspend for Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), a £0.303m underspend was projected on de-delegated budgets of mainstream schools due projected expenditure on reimbursing maternity leave costs to primary schools being below budget. It was intended that the Schools Forum be asked that the outturn on these budgets be combined with the accumulated reserves from previous years' de-delegated budgets, which currently stand at £1.213 million.

An underspend of £0.025 million was projected on Early Years block budgets. The DSG Early Years block budget and forecast has been set based on the Department for Education's (DfE) expected attendance hours based on the January 2017 census data and an estimate of the take-up of the additional 15 hours available to working parents. The DfE would recalculate the amount of DSG due to the Authority in July 2019 based on the January 2018 and January 2019 census data.

The High Needs Block budgets was projected to overspend by £1.109 million. Assuming that the re-pooled budget underspend was ring-fenced to maintained schools, the projected High Needs Block overspend would have to be covered from the residual DSG balance.

The most significant area of overspend was on top-up payments for post-16 placements at colleges and independent providers, and was due to the impact of a number of tribunal decisions and an increase in the number of learners or the number of hours' provision for learners, compared with the expectation when the plan was set.

RESOLVED to note the outcome of the latest budget monitoring and Dedicated Schools Grant projections for 2018/19, and that progress on delivery of budget reductions.

73/18 SCHOOL BUDGETS: DEFICIT BALANCES AND RECOVERY PLANS BRINGING BUDGETS INTO BALANCE OVER MORE THAN ONE FINANCIAL YEAR

The report detailed Governing bodies of schools with budget deficits who have requested approval to implement budget plans in order 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 was normally only allowed over a maximum of three-years. Additional years might be granted if, in the opinion of the Strategic Director for Children's Services, 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 estimated balances and pupil numbers of the schools included in the report were included at Appendix 1.

In relation to requests to balance the budget over more than one year there were six schools in this group, namely Wirksworth Junior (2 year budget plan); Anthony Gell Secondary (3 year plan); Fairmeadows Foundation Primary (3 year Plan); Charlesworth Primary (3 year plan); Coton in the Elms CE Controlled Primary (3 year plan) and Glossopdale Community College (4 year plan).

Despite best efforts, a small number of schools have been unable to produce plans to bring their budgets back into balance, namely Brookfield Primary, Highfields School, New Mills Secondary and William Allitt Secondary. The accumulated deficits of New Mills Secondary and Brookfield Primary, were expected to reduce. The projections for William Allitt and Highfields, continued to show steady increases over the medium term and more work would be needed. All four schools were being supported by the Authority's Team Around The School (TATS) processes.

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 four 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 four 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.

74/18 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 – Young People held on 7 August 2018.

- (2) To consider the Exempt Reports of the Strategic Director for Children's Services and Director of Finance and ICT On:-
- (a) School Staff Redundancies 2018 (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual)
 - (b) Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (DACES) (contains information relating to labour relations consultations or negotiations with council employees and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information)