

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE** held on 3 December 2013 at County Hall, Matlock.

**PRESENT**

Councillor K Gillott (in the Chair)

Also in attendance was Councillor M Longden.

**58/13** **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2013 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

**59/13** **NEW INSTRUMENTS OF GOVERNMENT** Under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012 the following Governing Bodies had requested amendments to their Instrument of Government.

**RESOLVED** (1) that the Instrument of Government for New Whittington Community Primary School be amended to provide for a new Governing Body of 11 members comprising 5 parents, 1 Local Authority, 1 Staff, 1 Headteacher and 3 co-opted governors; and

(2) that the Instrument of Government for Granville Sports College be amended to provide for a new Governing Body of 18 members comprising 4 parents, 1 Local Authority, 1 Staff, 1 Headteacher and 11 co-opted governors.

**60/13** **CHILDREN AND YOUNGER ADULTS (CAYA) SERVICE SPENDING 2013/14** The Cabinet Member was informed of the results of the latest CAYA service budget monitoring with major variances highlighted.

The report provided an analysis of the latest forecast year end position for CAYA's budget and expenditure funded by the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2013/14 based on income and expenditure up to the end of September.

The forecast year end position for CAYA's expenditure funded by the Council was an overspend of £3,408m. The projected overspend in year could be financed by the uncommitted balance from previous years brought forward although, since this resource was one-off in nature, urgent action was required to align the level of spend and available on-going resources.

A breakdown of the spend against budget by service area for the CAYA budget was detailed in Appendix 1 to the Strategic Director's report.

A breakdown of the spend against budget by service for the DSG was detailed in Appendix 2 to the Strategic Director's report.

**RESOLVED** to notes the outcome of the latest strategic budget monitoring for 2013/14.

**61/13      DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROTOCOL – INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICERS** Approval was sought to a dispute resolution protocol which outlined a clear and comprehensive way in which disputes between a child's allocated Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) and the district that held responsibility for the child was resolved.

Since the introduction of independent reviewing officers for children in care, it had been possible for them to challenge the case decisions made on behalf of the children they were responsible for. This would principally involve decisions about their care plan, placement or change of school. On the whole these decisions and challenges were resolved through good working relationships with the social workers, service managers and districts. However, since the introduction of the statutory guidance in the Independent Reviewing Officers (IRO) Handbook in March 2010, it had become necessary to have a formally written protocol to set out how these disputes were resolved.

The proposed protocol, which was appended to the Strategic Director's report, was an updated and refined version of one that previously existed and draws on examples working in other parts of the country. It pulled together all the new statutory requirements in the handbook and went some way to ensuring that the IRO team was complying with the requirements.

**RESOLVED** to note the report and approve the Dispute Resolution Protocol in full.

**62/13      SCHOOL BUDGETS: DEFICIT BALANCES AND RECOVERY PLANS** Approval was sought to requests from governing bodies for a licenced deficit to balance their budget over more than one financial year and to inform the Cabinet Member of schools for which a plan had still to be agreed.

Before making such a request the school must demonstrate to the Authority's officers that all alternatives had been exhausted. Approval to repay a deficit over a three year period may 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 course of action was available.

Requests to balance the budget over more than one year had been received from Ashbrook Infant and Nursery School; Barrow Hill Primary

School; Holbrook Centre for Autism; and St Joseph's RC Primary School (Matlock). Details of each request were given in the report.

The schools detailed below had not yet been able to produce plans to bring their budgets back into balance. These schools' positions, which were already challenging, have been adversely affected by reductions in pupil numbers and the impact of recent pay awards for teaching and support staff. The Authority is continuing to work closely with the schools' governing bodies and senior leadership teams to ensure that budgets are ultimately balanced whilst, at the same time, endeavouring to minimise the impact on students' learning.

The schools concerned were Aldercar Community Language College; Mill Hill School; New Mills Secondary; and Glossop St Philip Howard

The latest balances and pupil numbers of the schools included in this section were detailed in Appendix 1 to the Strategic Director's report.

**RESOLVED** (1) to allow the schools detailed above to recover their budget deficits over two or three financial years; and

(2) to note the position of those other schools yet to agree a plan and require the Strategic Director to continue to work with these schools to agree long term financial recovery plans.

**63/13      KILLAMARSH INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL –FUTURE DISPOSAL OF SCHOOL HOUSE** Approval was sought to declare the above school premises surplus to the requirements of the Children and Younger Adults Department.

The school house stood alone within the curtilage of Killamarsh Infant & Nursery School and was occupied by the site manager until his recent retirement. The school house was now vacant and the current site manager had no desire to move into the property. The school enjoyed ample space for the current and projected pupil numbers, and Governors had therefore decided that the school house was no longer required by them. The Department had not identified any alternative use for the premises and it was therefore recommended that they be declared surplus to needs and that the County Property Department be asked to manage its disposal.

**RESOLVED** (1) that Killamarsh Infant & Nursery School's School House be declared surplus to the requirements of the Children and Younger Adults Department ; and

(2) that 50% of the capital receipt from any sale be allocated to the School to fund future capital improvements to the school buildings, with such works being agreed by the Authority.

**64/13**      **APPOINTMENT OF SCHOOL GOVERNOR** (The Chair agreed to the consideration of this report as an urgent agenda item to avoid delay in the re-appointment of an LA Governor) **RESOLVED** that J Bishop be re-appointed to serve as Local Authority governor on the governing Body of Hope Primary School.

**65/13**      **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 – Children and Young People held on 14 November 2013.
- (2) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children and Younger Adults on School Staff Redundancies 2013 (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual).