

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – CHILDREN'S SERVICES** held on 6 September 2016 at County Hall, Matlock.

**PRESENT**

Councillor J Coyle (in the Chair)

In attendance - Councillors C Bisknell and J Street.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Greenhalgh.

**86/16** **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 August 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

**87/16** **CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATIONS OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS** **RESOLVED** to approve the nomination of the following persons to serve as Local Authority Governors under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012:-

N Page – Clowne Junior School

S Whitaker – Newton Primary School

M Burkitt – Whittington Green School

C Flower – The Village Federation of Carsington & HoptonCE (VA) Primary School and Kirk Ireton CE (VC) Primary School

J Wood – Winster CE Primary School

R Blanchard – Brooklands Primary School

**88/16** **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SPENDING 2016/17** The Cabinet Member was informed of the results of the latest Children's Services budget monitoring and made aware of major variances.

Details were also given of the progress on delivery of budget reductions and provided an analysis of the latest forecast year end position for 2016/17 based on income and expenditure up to the end of June 2016.

The current forecast year-end position for Children's Services expenditure funded by the Council was an overspend of £7.105 million. A number of actions were in place to minimise any overspend. Any shortfall in closing the gap would be met by the use of Children's Services' earmarked reserves. The department was committed to implementing the budget reductions agreed by Council so that it did not need to rely on one-off sources of funding.

A breakdown by service area was attached as Appendix 1 to the Strategic Director's report.

Should expenditure continue to be above budget by the end of 2016/17, Children's Services would draw down from its earmarked reserve of prior year underspends to provide the additional resources. The available balance of that reserve after covering the 2015-16 overspend was £6.266 million.

The performance of the department against the allocated budget and the main reasons for the overspend were detailed in the joint report

Although an initial review of the expenditure against the Dedicated Schools Grant had been undertaken, many of the assumptions remained the same as those used when the budget was prepared and no new information would be available until the start of the new Academic Year. A projection was therefore not reported here but would be reported at a future meeting

**RESOLVED** to note the outcome of the latest budget and earmarked reserves monitoring for 2016-17.

**89/16      SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS** The Cabinet member was asked to consider a proposal for a consultation on a change to the measurement system within the Authority's published school admission oversubscription criteria, from using the shortest available home to school route to a straight line measurement for the purpose of the assessment of school admission applications for community and voluntary controlled schools

Measuring distance by a straight line would remove a number of long standing difficulties and present a more transparent system for parents. Fewer complaints would be a consequence of such a change and it would be a more accurate way of assessing admission applications. This method of measurement was already used by all our neighbouring local authorities in the East Midlands as well as two secondary academy schools within Derbyshire.

The matter was discussed at the School Admission Forum on 20 June 2016 and no objection was raised by its members. The next process would be for the Authority to consult upon the change in the next admissions consultation period of 01 October 2016 to 31 January 2017 and then determine by 28 February 2017.

**RESOLVED** (1) to approve a proposed consultation, to determine a change to the Authority's home to school distance measurement criteria. The intention being to implement a straight line measuring method for the 2018-19 admissions round onwards; and

(2) that a further report on the outcome of the consultation, be presented to the Cabinet Member at the end of the consultation period.

**90/16**      **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’s Services held on 9 August 2016 (contains exempt information).
- (2) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children’s Services on Interim arrangements following the High Court Judgement on Unauthorised Pupil Absence (contains information which reveals that the Authority proposes – to make an Order of Direction under any enactment )
- (3) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children’s Services on Integration Pathways Team, Out of School Tuition and Virtual Classroom Structure (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual)
- (4) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children’s Services on Childrens Services Capital Programme 2016-17 – Schools Access Initiative (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual)
- (5) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children’s Services on Framework of Providers – Specialist Services for Disabled Children, Young People and Young Adults (contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular organisation)