

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – CHILDREN'S SERVICES** held on 9 February 2016 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor J Coyle (in the Chair)

In attendance - Councillors C Bisknell and C Hart

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of D Greenhalgh

08/16 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2016 be received..

09/16 **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 three schools detailed in the Director of Legal Services report.

10/16 **CHILDRENS SERVICES SPENDING 2015/16** 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 of the projected year-end earmarked reserves balances, taking into account anticipated drawdowns and additions during the year.

The current forecast year-end position for Children's Services expenditure funded by the Council was an overspend of £3.512 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.

The Dedicated Schools Grant was projected to underspend by £2.916 million and the underspend was permitted to be carried forward for future years and used in accordance with the School Finance Regulations applying in future years..

A breakdown by service area was attached as Appendix 1 to the joint report.

The expenditure against the Dedicated Schools Grant was projected to be £455.296 million against a grant of £458.212 million (before adjustment for academy conversions post 1 September 2015), an underspend of £2.916 million. The reasons for the underspend were detailed in the report.

The underspends were offset by a projected overspend of £0.150 million on top-ups for children with additional needs in secondary schools and £0.206 million for SEN placements out of county.

The forecast overspend for Children's Service's Budgets was £3.512 million which was net of the approved use of reserves to cover known delays in the achievement of specific budget reductions, as advised to Cabinet on 5 May 2015.

The forecast spend assumed that the numbers of children in care remain unchanged and that staff remained in post until the end of the financial year unless it is already known that they are leaving.

The latest forecast overspend includes an estimate of £1.000 million for a contingent liability and the impact of Academy conversions since 1 April 2015. Excluding these items, the underlying forecast overspend reduced to £2.488 million

Should the expenditure continue to be above budget by the end of 2015/16, 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 projected overspend, was estimated at £4.221 million.

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

The projected year-end position of the Children's Services earmarked reserves was shown in Appendix 2 to the joint report and predicted a closing balance of £17.395 million excluding reserves which were out of Children's Services' control and the DSG, a net reduction of £8.403 million since the start of the financial year.

RESOLVED to note the outcome of the latest budget and earmarked reserves monitoring for 2015-16.

11/16 APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS TO SERVE AS LA GOVERNORS ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES **RESOLVED** to approve the nomination of the following persons to serve as Local Authority Governors under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 20012:-

J Clare – Duffield Meadows Primary School
 N Hunt - Heage Primary School
 J Bennett – The Parks School Federation
 D Miller – Brampton Primary School
 R Whatley – Little Eaton Primary School
 E Burney – Charlesworth VC Primary School

12/16 CHILDRENS SERVICES CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015-16 BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS Approval was sought to budget adjustments to three schemes in the 2015-16 Children's Services Capital Programme.

The 2015-16 Children's Services Capital Programme was approved by Cabinet on 24 March 2015. It contained schemes to provide new kitchens at Ashover and Blackwell Primary Schools. On the 10 February 2015, Cabinet approved a scheme to provide a two-classroom block at Findern Primary School to replace an existing building with a budget of £310,000. Planning of these schemes had now advanced and the contracts were ready to be agreed.

The development of the schemes had resulted in a significant saving on the Blackwell scheme as the budget allowed for a more complex solution than the one that was finally agreed which had resulted in savings. On the other hand, the costs at Findern and Ashover were higher than the budgets allocated. The table below set out the proposed budget changes.

| Project | allocation | total allocation | allocation date | Final projected costs |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Blackwell Kitchen | £430,000 | | 2015/16 | |
| | £120,000 | £550,000 | 2014/15 | £262,321 |
| Findern replacement classrooms | £310,000 | £310,000 | 2014/15 | £362,010 |
| Ashover replacement kitchen | £120,000 | | 2015/16 | |
| | £150,000 | £270,000 | 2014/15 | £311,797 |
| total | £1,130,000 | | | £936,128 |

These changes result in a saving of £193,872 to the Children's Services Capital Programme 2015/16.

Somercotes Infant School had an allocation of £140,000 in the 2015/16 Capital Programme for re-roofing works to a building known as the 'barrel building'. Further survey work as part of this project had indicated that this building was now beyond economic repair and needed to be replaced. In addition, the building had recently suffered from significant flooding and was no longer usable. Investment to bring this life-expired building back into use for a short period would be poor value for money. The school could manage the current pupil numbers on an interim basis provided that additional toilets were provided to replace those lost in the barrel building. A project to achieve this had an estimated cost of £45,000. It was proposed to fund these works from the previous allocation of £140,000 resulting in an additional £95,000 returning to the Children's Services 2015/16 Capital Programme. A longer-term plan to replace the barrel building is now required.

A paper to Cabinet on 13 October 2015 identified that the 2015/16 and 2016/17 basic need allocation which had been previously announced by the Department for Education was being managed as a single programme and that there was a balance of £1,794,558 to allocate in 2016/17. The savings outlined above totalled £288,872 and therefore increased the unallocated amount to £2,083,430.

RESOLVED (1) that approval be given to change the project budgets of the schemes named above as follows: Blackwell kitchen, £262,321(reduced from £550,000); Findern replacement classrooms, £362,010 (increased from £310,000); Ashover replacement kitchen, £311,797 (increased from £270,000); and

(2) that approval be given to a project to provide replacement toilets at Somercotes Infant School at a total cost of £45,000, to be funded from a previous allocation of £140,000 which was no longer required.

13/16 **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 12 January 2015 (contains exempt information).
- (2) To consider the report of the Director of Legal Services – Chesterfield Schools Foundation – Annual Reports Accounts 2014 -15 (contains Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Authority holding that information)).

- (3) To consider the report of the Director of Legal Services on Nomination of Trustees to Educational Charities (contains Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Authority holding that information)).
- (4) To consider the joint report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services and Director of Finance on Children's Services Capital Programme 2015-16 – 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 Graduated Response for Individual Pupils and Enhanced Temporary Additional Early Years Support (contains Information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Authority holding that information)).
- (6) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services on Mr & Mrs S – Request for financial assistance with adaptations to home (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual).
- (7) To consider the report of the Strategic Director for Children's Services on Enhanced Fostering Allowance – Mr & Mrs H (contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of any individual).