

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services, Looked after Children, Safeguarding for Children and Young People, Schools and Early Years:-

MONDAY, 19TH AUGUST, 2019

Following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

Councillor C. Wild	- Executive Cabinet Member – Children
Councillor Cunliffe	- Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor McGeown	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Heslop	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Hornby	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Wright	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson

Officers

Ms R. Tanner	- Deputy Director of People
Ms S. Alexander	- Assistant Director - Staying Safe
Mr P. Rankin	- Assistant Director - Performance, Planning and Resources
Ms L. Butcher	- Head of Finance
Ms. C. Owen	- Acting Head of Legal Services
Mrs S. Bailey	- Principal Democratic Services Officer

8. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Executive Cabinet Member.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

9. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER ONE 2019/20

A joint report of the Interim Director of People and the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted which provided information relating to the financial position for the People Directorate for Quarter One of the 2019/20 Financial Year.

With regard to revenue expenditure, the revenue outturn position for the Local Authority block was expected to be in line with budget following use of reserves of £8.093m.

Revenue expenditure for the Dedicated Schools Grant was projected to be £1.795m greater than the grant available.

In relation to Capital Expenditure, the report advised that the original Capital Programme approved at Council in February 2019 totalled £23.2m. The programme had now decreased to £22.6m due to reprogramming of schemes resulting in a reduction of £3.34m. Slippage from 2018/19 and new schemes had resulted in an increase of £2.743m. Expenditure at Quarter One was £1.84m.

Reserves were expected to be £26.8m at 31st March 2020. Of the £26.8m reserves, £17.5m related to capital monies held for future work on schools and £4.56m related to schools' balances and other Dedicated Schools Grant reserves.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the financial position and the changes within the Capital Programme; and APPROVED –

- (i) The Revenue Budget changes and savings options realised in Quarter; and**
- (ii) The delegation of authority to the Director of People to call off on the framework(s) for the Capital Programme, as detailed in Section 3 of the report now submitted.**

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

The background papers and reports in relation to the following item was considered confidential as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

10. SUFFICIENCY OF SCHOOL PLACES

The Interim Director of People submitted a report which provided an update on pupil pressures in Bolton and put forward various options to address this.

The report provided details of the steady and rapid increase of pupils in Bolton Schools since 2009 with demand for places remaining high despite the falling birth rates nationally. Such demand had not been evenly distributed and there was still high pressure in the central areas of the Borough and the area immediately south of the Town Centre.

The report advised that, despite ambitious proposals to address the issue involving a secondary school expansion programme involving six schools and the opening of a new DfE Academy in September, 2019, demand for places across all sectors remained high and additional expansion proposals were required.

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In this regard, the report put forward various options to address future secondary school place need, full details of which were provided.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report and the options detailed therein to address future secondary school place need.