

## **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, 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2021**

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

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Councillor Galloway | - Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services |
| Councillor Donaghy  | - Major Opposition Spokesperson                  |
| Councillor McGeown  | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson                  |
| Councillor Sanders  | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson                  |

### **Officers**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Ms B. Brown    | - Director of Children's Services   |
| Mr P. Rankin   | - Assistant Director of Children's Services – Performance, Planning and Resources |
| Ms T. Minshull | - Assistant Director of Children's Services - Commissioning                       |
| Mr I. Walker   | - Assistant Director of Children's Services – Social Care and Early Help          |
| Ms L. Butcher  | - Head of Finance   |
| Mrs. S. Bailey | - Principal Democratic Services Officer   |

**33. 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.**

**34. UPDATE TO THE PROPOSED INCREASE TO PUPIL NUMBERS AT RUMWORTH SPECIAL SCHOOL**

Further to Minute 25 of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, the Director of Children's Services submitted a report which detailed the representations received following the publication of the Statutory Notice in respect of the proposal to permanently enlarge the physical capacity and increase the number of pupil places at Rumworth Special School, and sought approval to confirm the proposed increase in the number of pupils at the school.

The report advised that following the publication of the Statutory Notice on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, no representations had been received. Approval was now sought to implement the changes to pupil numbers.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED -**

**An increase in pupil capacity at Rumworth School, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted, and to permanently raise the pupil numbers from 150 to 250 in Years 7-11 and from 90 to 150 in years 12-14 thus creating 400 Year 7-14 pupil places overall with effect from 1st September, 2021.**

### **35. INCREASE IN AGE RANGE AT HIGH LAWN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which advised the Executive Cabinet Member of the outcome of a recent formal consultation representation exercise on proposals to increase the age range at High Lawn CP School to offer educational support for two-year-olds.

The report stated that demand for high quality care from parents for two-year-old nursery provision had increased over the past few years and in response to this demand, High Lawn CP School had begun to offer places for two-year old children in September, 2019.

Following its success, it was now proposed to make this provision permanent by formally extending the age at the school, in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 2 of The School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2013.

The report stated that the School Organisation – Making Significant Changes (Prescribed Alterations) to Maintained Schools October 2018 set out the different stages that needed to be adopted when undertaking prescribed alteration changes at a maintained school where the proposal was to alter the upper or lower age range by 1 year or more, including adding or the removal of nursery provision. The proposal to increase the age range at High Lawn CP School was deemed to be a significant change and therefore required the statutory process to be followed. Full details of the process that had been undertaken were provided in the report and included the publication of a statutory notice and a period for representations.

In this regard, the report stated that the statutory process had been completed and approval was sought to formally increase the age range at the School.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

**The Significant Change Alteration to increase the age range at High Lawn Primary to offer educational support for two-year-olds, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**

**36. MOORGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER UNIT CONSULTATION**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which advised the Executive Cabinet Member of the outcome of a recent formal consultation representation exercise on proposals to provide an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Resourced Provision unit at Moorgate CP School.

The report provided details in relation to proposals to create a Resourced ASD Provision unit to accommodate six to eight primary age pupils at Moorgate County Primary School to help young children throughout their primary education by providing targeted support for those with Autism Spectrum Disorders within a mainstream school setting. To accommodate this resourced provision, the Council was proposing to build a facility as an extension to the existing school building which would be created within a discrete setting but with immediate access to the main school when required. This will be created with a separate dedicated access, together with a drop off/ pick up facility and a proposed new discrete secure outdoor play area.

The report stated that the School Organisation – Making Significant Changes (Prescribed Alterations) to Maintained Schools October 2018 set out the different stages that needed to be adopted when undertaking prescribed alteration changes at a maintained school. The proposal to create a Resourced ASD unit at Moorgate CP was deemed to be a significant change and therefore required the statutory process to be followed. Full details of the statutory process that had been undertaken were provided in the report and included the publication of a statutory notice and a period for representations.

In this regard, the report stated that the statutory process had been completed and approval was sought to provide a Resourced ASD Unit at the School.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

**The Significant Change Alteration to provide an Autism Spectrum Disorder Resourced Provision unit at Moorgate CP School, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

**The background papers and reports in relation to the following item were 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.**

**37. CAPITAL UPDATE – PROPOSED EXPANSION OF GASKELL SCHOOL**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which provided an update on the progress of the proposed expansion of Gaskell County Primary School and associated issues and sought approval of further capital funding support following a recent design review and financial appraisal.

**The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the update provided and APPROVED –**

**The allocation of further capital support in the sum of £980k to meet the expected revised costs to expand the school, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**