

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A record of decisions made by the Executive Member with responsibility for Children's Services on:-

TUESDAY, 22ND JANUARY, 2008

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

Councillor Mrs Thomas	Executive Member for Children's Services
Councillor A. Morgan (as deputy for Councillor A. Wilkinson)	Major Opposition Spokesperson (Children's Services)
Councillor Ashcroft	Major Opposition Spokesperson (Young People and Sport)
Councillor Mrs. Rothwell	Minor Opposition Spokesperson (Young People and Sport)
Mr. S. Fazal	Assistant Director, Access and Inclusion
Mr. T. Birch	Assistant Director, School Effectiveness
Ms. C. Davies	Head of Finance
Mr. P. Jones	Divisional Manager, Children and Families
Mr. J. Kerambrum	Head of Finance

51. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which contained information related to decisions taken at previous Executive Member meetings.

The Executive Member NOTED progress on the decisions previously taken as detailed in the Appendix to these minutes.

52. THOMASSON MEMORIAL SCHOOL – REVISED INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNANCE

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought the Executive Member's approval for the revised Instrument of Government for Thomasson Memorial School.

By way of background information from 1st September 2003, all schools were required to choose and adopt a new model for the size and membership of their governing body in accordance with the provisions of the School Governance Constitution Regulations 2003 and agreed a new Instrument of Government to give effect to the new constitution.

The report stated that since then, and in agreement with the Local Authority, the Head Teacher of the school now had additional responsibility for the management of the Authority's Service for the Hearing and Visually Impaired. The Head Teacher reported on the exercise of this responsibility to the Governing Body.

The Executive Member was informed that as a consequence of this arrangement, the Head Teacher and Governing Body had reviewed the governance arrangements with a view to ensuring representation of the Service for the Hearing and Visually Impaired on the Governing Body.

The report stated that in order to achieve this representation, the Head Teacher and Governing Body had proposed to increase the number of Parent Governors by one, in addition the number of Staff Governors would also be increased by one. As a consequence of these adjustments, it would also be necessary to increase the number of Community Governors by one in order to ensure the correct proportion was maintained in that category.

Attached to the report was the revised Instrument of Government for the Thomasson Memorial School.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

(i) The revised Instrument of Government, as detailed in the report; and AGREED –

(ii) To the sealing of the revised Instrument by the Council's Legal Services Unit.

52. THE SCHOOL GOVERNANCE REGULATIONS 2007 – RECONSTITUTION OF PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which informed the Executive Member of the final Regulations and guidance on revised constitutions and procedures for Management Committees of Pupil Referral Units (PRU). The report also sought approval for new Instruments of Government for the PRU Management Committees and for new arrangements for appointing LA representatives to the PRU Management Committees.

By way of background information, the report advised that at the Executive Member meeting on 7th August, 2007, a report was submitted for information on draft Regulations under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996, making it a statutory duty for local authorities to establish Management Committees for PRU from 1st November 2007.

The report stated that The Department for Children, Families and School guidance received in September 2007 stated that the Division of Family and Children Services had decided that, to avoid placing local authorities under unreasonable pressure, the date from which all statutory management committees must be in place will be the 1st February, 2008 to allow all local authorities sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements for the appointment and election of members and to finalise the instruments of government.

The report stated that the final regulations and accompanying guidance had now been issued, which contained no significant changes from the draft.

Following consultation with the existing PRU Management Committees, the Executive Member was informed of the proposal for a new constitution for the new Management Committees with effect from 1st February, 2008.

The report also provided the Executive Member with details of the proposed instruments of Government as well as the proposed arrangements for the appointment of Local Education Authority representatives.

The Executive Member NOTED –

(i) The recommendations reached by the current Management Committees about their constitutions in order to comply with requirements to establish new Management Committees for all Pupil Referral Unit Management Committees; APPROVED -

(ii) The new Instruments of Government for the PRU Management Committees; and

(iii) The new arrangements for appointing Local Education Authority representatives to the PRU Management Committees and that Council be recommended to confirm that this will be undertaken via the School Governors' Appointments Panel.

53. UPDATE ON CHILDREN LEAVING CARE SCRUTINY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which provided an update in relation to the recommendations made by the Leaving Care Scrutiny Panel.

The report stated that the Children Leaving Care Scrutiny Panel was established by Members because of concerns about

the lack of success of children and young people leaving local authority care, and a desire to improve outcomes for this group. The focus of the Panel was primarily in relation to accommodation and support issues, but there was also concerns about the education, training and employment needs of care leavers.

The report provided the Executive Member with details of the work undertaken towards the implementation of the Scrutiny Panel recommendations as well highlighting a number of actions that had been identified for 2008.

The Executive Member AGREED –

That the responses to the Children Leaving Care Scrutiny Panel as detailed in the report go to the next meeting of the Children's Services Young People and Sport Scrutiny Committee.

**DECISION MONITORING
EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

DATE OF MEETING	ITEM AND DECISION	ACTION/ PROGRESS
26th November, 2007	International Recruitment of Social Care Staff	
	The Executive Member APPROVED –	
	<p>(i) The Adoption of the Code of Practice on International Recruitment of Social Care Staff; and</p> <p>(ii) That discussions be opened to ensure that all agencies and suppliers of Social Care work within this Code of Practice as a standard contractual clause.</p>	On the agenda for 18th December, 2007 meeting of the Executive Member for Human Resources, Performance and Diversity
11 th December, 2007	Extended Services Small Capital Project Funding	
	The Executive Member APPROVED -	
	The recommendations of the Children's Centre and Extended Services Project Board as detailed at Appendix One to the report.	

11 th December, 2007	Children's Services Portfolio – Initial Strategic Budget Options 2008/09	
	The Executive Member APPROVED -	
	Consultation with Schools and the Schools Forum with regard to the strategic budget options, now detailed.	