

## **CHILDREN**

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

**MONDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2019**

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

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Councillor Cunliffe                                     | - Executive Cabinet Member – Children |
| Councillor C. Wild                                      | - Major Opposition Spokesperson       |
| Councillor Hornby                                       | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson       |
| Councillor Wilkinson (as deputy for Councillor Bagnall) | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson       |
| Councillor Flitcroft                                    | - Minor Opposition Spokesman          |

### **Officers**

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Ms B. Brown   | - Interim Director of People Services                     |
| Ms R. Tanner  | - Interim Deputy Director of People                       |
| Mr A. Crook   | - Assistant Director – Commissioning                      |
| Mr P. Rankin  | - Assistant Director, Performance, Planning and Resources |
| Ms L. Butcher | - Head of Finance   |
| Mrs S. Bailey | - Principal Democratic Services Officer                   |

**53. 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.**

**54. DEPARTMENT OF PEOPLE – STRATEGIC BUDGET REPORT 2019/20**

A joint report of the Director of Corporate Resources and the Interim Director of People was submitted which put forward the revenue and capital budgets for 2019/20 for the Children's Section of the People Department.

The report advised that the proposed revenue budget for the Children's Services – LA block amounted to £49,821,700.

The Capital Programme amounted to £22,898,500.

This was the first year of a two year savings programme which amounted to £13.803m. Budgets would be amended during the year when reviews were realised.

**The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.**

**55. STRATEGIC FINANCE POST CHANGES**

The Interim Director of People submitted a report which sought approval to amend the structure of the Strategic Finance Team following the retirement of two members of staff.

The report outlined the current and proposed staffing structures and advised that the changes would result in a small budget saving.

It was proposed to use the Apprenticeship Programme for recruitment to the post.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

- (i) The establishment of 1 FTE Accountancy Assistant post;**
- (ii) The deletion of the vacant 0.53FTE Expenditure Officer post; and**
- (iii) The deletion of the vacant 0.43 FTE Financial Administrator post.**

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

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

**56. UPDATE ON THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF LADYBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL AND ESSA SECONDARY SCHOOL**

Further to Minute 28 of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member held on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, the Interim Director of People submitted a report which provided an update on the proposed expansion of Ladybridge High and Essa Academy Schools and sought approval of the proposed funding and the proposed method of procurement together with the means of funding those schemes that would be delivered outside of the Council.

The report sought approval to progress the schemes in respect of funding and proposed means of procurement, on the basis now detailed.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

- (i) The proposed procurement to expand Ladybridge High School via the Council's development agreement with Robertson's through the Clear Sustainable Futures Framework or to appoint an**

**alternative contractor from another suitable framework and to meet the estimated capital cost of the scheme, as now detailed in the report, from the Basic Needs support, the Schools BMP Capital Programme and the contribution by the School, on the basis now detailed;**

- (ii) The funding of Phase 1 works at Essa (secondary) to increase pupil capacity at the capital cost now detailed, which will be met from Basic Need support and which would be provided to the School by way of formal funding agreement.**

## **57. PRIMARY SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

The Interim Director of People submitted a report which set out proposals for the implementation of a range of provisions and support for primary aged pupils with social, emotional and mental health difficulties to enable the needs of this cohort of children to be met in Bolton.

The report outlined the current provision in Bolton schools and the need to extend this given the increasing number of primary aged children who were presenting with significantly challenging behaviour in mainstream school settings.

Details of the associated costs together with timescales and examples of potential savings were provided in the report.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

**The implementation of the proposed Social, Emotional and Mental Health Strategy for primary aged children, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.**

**58. URGENT ITEM – CHURCH ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
PROPOSED BUILDING MAINTENANCE WORKS**

**In accordance with the Local Authority's Executive Arrangements and Access to Information Regulations 2000, the Chairman of the Children's Scrutiny Committee had agreed that the following item was urgent and could not reasonably await consideration until the next meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member.**

The Interim Director of People submitted a report which sought approval to commit capital funding from the School's Building Maintenance Capital Programme to support essential building maintenance works at Church Road Primary School.

The report advised that the proposed works would provide the structural integrity that was needed for ongoing future use.

Given the extent of the works, the report proposed that they be phased over a two year period and funded through the Schools Capital Building Maintenance Programme, on the basis now detailed.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

**The capital funding, on the basis now detailed, to undertake the replacement and upgrading of boilers and heating distribution pipework, electrical installation and essential structural works for Church Road Primary School and for this to be met from the Schools BMP Capital Programme, with a future commitment to the 2020/21 Programme plus school cost, as detailed in the report now submitted.**