

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, 22nd NOVEMBER, 2021

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

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

Officers

- | | |
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| Mr P. Rankin | - Deputy Director of Children's Services |
| Ms G. Whitehead | - Assistant Director of Children's Services – Inclusive Education and Learning |
| Ms T. Minshull | - Assistant Director for Commissioning |
| Mr I. Walker | - Assistant Director of Children's Services - Children's Social Care and Early Help |
| Ms L. Hargreaves | - Principal Group Accountant |
| Ms A. Kelly | - Senior Lawyer |
| Mrs. S. Bailey | - Principal Democratic Services Officer |

19. 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.

20. DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN'S FINANCIAL MONITORING 2021/22 AS AT QUARTER TWO

The Director of Children's Services and the Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report which provided the Executive Member with information relating to the expected financial position for the Children's Department for the 2021/22 Financial Year as at Quarter Two.

The revenue outturn position for the Local Authority block was expected to be in line with budget following a contribution from reserves of £412k.

Revenue expenditure for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was to be £1.796m greater than the grant available.

The original Capital Programme approved at Council in February 2021 totalled £17.573m. Expenditure as at 30th September, 2021 was £1.481m against a revised programme of £9.882m.

Reserves were expected to be £20.323m as at 31st March, 2022.

Of the £20.323m reserves, £19.195m related to capital monies held for future work on schools and -£3.477m related to schools balances and other DSG reserves. The remaining £4.605m was Children' Services Revenue Reserves.

With regard to Strategic redirections, the report advised that the Children Services departmental savings programme of

£9.291m was identified in the February 2021 budget report to Council, full details of which were provided in Appendix C to the report. Of these savings, £3.482m remained to be achieved.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED -

- (i) The expected financial position of the portfolio as at 31st March 2022 and the changes within the Capital Programme as detailed and the Revenue Budget changes in year and APPROVED -**
- (ii) The Director of Children Services being given delegated authority to call off on the framework(s) for the Capital Programme as detailed in section 3; and**
- (iii) The strategic options proposed in section 2.2. of the report now submitted.**

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The background papers and reports in relation to the following items were considered confidential as defined in paragraphs 1 and 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.

21. SEND OUTREACH SERVICES TENDER

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval to tender the Special Educational Needs and Disability Outreach Services with a redesigned specification that had been co-produced with children and young people.

The report provided details of the proposed tender arrangements including associated costs and timescales.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED -

- (i) The commencement of the SEND outreach service tender with a specification codesigned with children,**

- young people, parents, and schools, as detailed within Appendix 1 of the report now submitted;
- (ii) **The delegation of authority to the Director of Children's Services to tender and approve the contract award in accordance with the terms of the tender on the basis detailed in the report now submitted; and**
 - (iii) **The authorisation of the Borough Solicitor to carry out any necessary legal formalities in this regard.**

22. REVIEW OF HARVEY NURSERY POST CONSULTATION REPORT

Further to Minute 14 of the meeting of the Executive Cabinet Member for Children's Services held on 13th September, 2021, the Director of Children's Services submitted a report which set out the results of consultation on proposals to review Harvey Nursery and sought approval to implement the final proposals.

Consultation on the proposed changes to the service was carried out for a period of 30 days from 20th September, 2021. A summary of the key issues raised during consultation and the response from management was included at Appendix 2 of the report.

The formal Trades Unions response to the proposals was attached in full at Appendix 3.

The report now sought approval to implement the final proposals on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) **The final proposals, having due regard to the consultation feedback and the Equality Impact Assessment;**
- (ii) **The closure of Harvey Nursery in response to ongoing budget pressures at the end of the academic year August 2022; and**
- (iii) **Subject to the approval of the Head of Paid Service, the delegation of the implementation of the closure,**

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including details of redundancy arrangements, to the Chief Executive and Director of Children's Services.

In accordance with Article 5 of the Council's Constitution, this decision was called in by Councillor Donaghy for consideration by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.