

## **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, 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 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 Pattison | - 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 T. Birch         | - Assistant Director - Education and Learning              |
| Mr P. Rankin        | - Assistant Director - Performance, Planning and Resources |
| Ms L. Butcher       | - Head of Finance  |
| Ms. S. Hymes        | - Senior Lawyer  |
| Mr I. D. Mulholland | - Principal Democratic Services Officer                    |

**1. 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.**

**2. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT – QUARTER FOUR 2018/19**

The Interim Director of People submitted a report which gave an update on the latest available 2018/19 performance information for the Children's Services section of the People Department.

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

**3. FINANCIAL MONITORING OUTTURN REPORT 2018/19**

The Interim Director of People submitted a report which provided information relating to the financial position for Children's Services for the 2018/19 Financial Year.

With regard to revenue expenditure, the report advised that the revenue outturn position for the Local Authority block was in line with budget following reserves of £4.465m. Revenue expenditure for the Dedicated Schools Grant was £1.209m greater than the grant available.

With regard to Capital Expenditure, the report stated that the original Capital Programme approved at Council in February, 2018 totalled £38.3m. Expenditure at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019 was £17.09m against a revised programme of £18.3m. The change was primarily due to slippage of schemes into 2019/20.

Reserves, including schools, were £57.87m as at 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2019. There had been a reduction of £2.64m in revenue reserves. There had been an increase in Schools Capital

Reserves of £4.84m and a reduction in Adult's Capital Reserves of £0.076m which had led to an overall Reserves increase of £2.12m. Of the £57.87m, £34m related to capital monies held for future work on schools and £7.856m related to schools' balances and other Dedicated Schools Grant reserves.

**The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report and associated budget changes and APPROVED –**

- (i) The changes within the Capital Programme for 2019/20; and**
- (ii) That the Director of People be given delegated authority to call off on the Frameworks for the Capital Programme, as detailed in Section 3 of the report now submitted.**

#### **4. UPDATE ON PROPOSED SCHOOL CAPITAL PROJECTS – VARIOUS**

The Interim Director of People submitted a report which updated the Executive Cabinet Member on the progress of various previously approved school capital projects and sought permission for additional funding in respect of increased costs.

The report outlined the current situation with regard to the projects and the reasons for the increasing costs.

**The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the increased and revised costs associated with the School Capital Projects referred to in the report now submitted, and APPROVED additional funding for the following works at:**

- Lostock Primary School - £350k (building maintenance works)**
- Sunning Hill Primary School - £450k (building maintenance works)**
- Gaskell Primary School - £1.72m – (proposed expansion);**
- Westhoughton High School - £2.685m – (proposed expansion); and**

- **Ladybridge High School - £3.385m (proposed expansion)**

## **CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

**The background papers and reports in relation to the following items were considered confidential as defined in paragraphs 7A (Minute 5 refers) and 1 and 3 (Minutes 6 and 7 refer) 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.**

## **5. CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL PROVISION**

The Interim Director of People submitted a report which put forward proposals to revise the structure for Children's Residential provision as part of the Department of People's commitment to delivering a review of Early Help.

The report provided details of the current arrangements for delivery of the children's residential service which provided support, care and accommodation to young people aged 10 to 17 who were unable to live within their own family, and outlined proposals for change to the existing provision which would ensure that children were:

- supported to remain or return to parental care, preventing the need for separation from family when it was safe to do so;
- accommodated in local placements whenever possible that met the individual needs of children and their families; and
- progressed through the care system in a timely way and supported into permanency through an informed assessment of need.

The report also provided details of the financial, legal and human resources implications associated with the proposals together with timescales for consultation.

If agreed, the report would form the basis for consultation with trades unions, staff, elected members and key service users.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the report for consultation purposes with trades unions, staff and stakeholders.**

## **6. SCHOOLS FINANCE UNIT – SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES REVIEW**

The Interim Director of People submitted a report which outlined proposals to review the operation of the Schools Finance Unit as part of the Departmental savings and efficiencies programme.

The report outlined the reasons for change, the proposed changes, potential savings and the associated timescales for consultation.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

**The report, for the purposes of consultation with trades unions and staff.**

## **7. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT – SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCIES REVIEW**

The Interim Director of People submitted a report which sought approval to undertake a review of the Workforce Development Service as part of the 2019/21 Departmental savings and efficiencies programme.

The report outlined the reasons for change, the proposed changes, potential savings and the associated timescales for consultation.

**The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –**

**The report, for the purposes of consultation with trades unions and staff.**

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