

COUNCIL
17 MAY 2018**REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

Children's Social Care Services Alternative Delivery Model - Business Case Approval

1. Further to the report to Council in January 2018, preparations had been made to take forward to Full Business Case (FBC) the two options of the Wholly Owned Council Company and the Strategic Partnership with another Local Authority as the outline recommended Alternative Delivery Models (ADM). However, it soon became clear that a viable partner could not be found for the Strategic Partnership Model and therefore it was not developed in detail within the FBC.

2. The development of the FBC for the Wholly Owned Council Company was taken forward using the 'Five Case Model' which comprised the strategic case; economic case; commercial case; financial case, and the management case. The FBC demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the proposed Wholly Owned Council Company model, activities required, technical and financial considerations and risks associated with implementing this option. The Cabinet has therefore approved the development of a Wholly Owned Council Company (the Company) as the ADM to deliver children's social care, subject to agreement and funding support from the Department for Education. It has also agreed the proposed scope of services for transfer to the Company, including the likely support model, as suitable for formalising into a detailed implementation and consultation plan and as the basis for establishing the Company.

3. The development and implementation of the detailed programme and consultation plan to establish the Company has been delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Children and Families and for Transformation and Commissioning. A further programme update report will be received by the Cabinet in October 2018 and will include recommendations relating to the draft contract, any modifications in scope and confirmation of VAT implications in order to help inform Council budget planning for 2019/20 and to determine the model for transfer of staff within scope. The ambition is that at the point of transferring services into the Company the Service will be performing well and the Company will have a positive platform to sustain the improvement and further improve outcomes for children and young people.

Plastics and Non-Recyclable Cups - Notices of Motion from Council 15 February 2018

4. In February 2018, the Council referred the following Notice of Motion to Cabinet for determination:

"This Council recognises that discarded plastics and non-recyclable cups are a major environmental pollutant.

Council therefore resolved to:

1. Cease the use of single plastic water cups and replace them with washable, reusable alternatives
 2. Request our caterers to replace all non-recyclable hot drink containers with suitable environmentally friendly alternatives."
5. At the same meeting, the Council also agreed the following Notice of Motion and asked Cabinet to consider the request:

"That this Council asks Cabinet to join others in the battle against single-use plastic by encouraging the use of alternative materials for cups, bottles, cutlery and straws at all its buildings, cafes and public events."

6. The Cabinet has received details of actions relevant to the Notices of Motion that are currently being taken by Council officers and has agreed that a full and detailed report will be made to its next meeting on 14 June 2018.

Use of Children's Centre Buildings - Transfer of the Outreach Centre at the Grove Primary School, Malvern

7. In 2016 the Cabinet agreed a range of recommendations relating to the provision of effective prevention services for children and young people including optimising the use of children centre buildings for delivery in localities. As part of the proposals approval was given for the children's centre outreach centre, locally named 'Sunshine at The Grove' located at the Grove Primary School in Malvern, to continue to be used by the Parenting and Family Support provider (Action for Children) for the delivery of services. Action for Children had since reviewed their use of the building and sought agreement to relinquish the lease on the centre as they do not have an ongoing need for it.

8. The Cabinet has therefore agreed proposals for the future use of the centre to be leased to the Grove Primary School for the continued provision of early childhood services. The proposal will increase sustainable efficiency and avoid the use of capital funds to create new spaces to meet the Council's duties in relation to the sufficiency of early years delivery. The Director of Children, Families and Communities has been given authority to take all necessary steps to effect the proposals.

Resources Report

9. The Cabinet has noted that an overall financial pressure of £6.3m has been forecast by the end of the financial year 2017/18. The Council has faced significant financial challenges, both with the need to support increased service provision for Children's Services Placements and Safeguarding and the impact of increased demographic and other cost pressures across Adult Services. Other areas of cost pressure include agency staffing costs for children's social care and increased waste disposal costs. The Council will use a number of one off measures to balance the 2017/18 financial year, including using earmarked reserves, capitalisation of costs, use of specific grants and Better Care Fund monies, and reviewing the Minimum Revenue Provision accounting policy. The Council plans to keep general balances the same at £12m with no future plans to add to or reduce this amount.

10. The Cabinet has also noted the response to the Government's consultation "Fair Funding Review: A review of relative needs and resources." The Government is looking to remove some of the complexity within the current formula and to increase transparency. The review will set new baseline funding allocations for local authorities and deliver an up-to-date assessment of their relative needs and relative resources. The implementation date for the review is currently set to be 2020/21. In general, the Council has welcomed the consultation proposals and agreed that a simple process is required. The Council continues to make a case for being included in an Area Cost Adjustment calculation, the omission of which reduces funding unfairly when many neighbouring authorities who have similar employment and labour costs do receive this support.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda and background papers for the meetings of the Cabinet held on 29 March and 19 April 2018