

COUNCIL
18 JULY 2019**REPORT OF CABINET - SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN**

Future provision of overnight unit-based short breaks for children with disabilities and adults replacement/respice care

1. Further to the report to Cabinet in July 2018, Cabinet received information at the meeting on 6 June 2019, about a proposed model for the future delivery by the Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (WHCT) of overnight short breaks/replacement care provision and the launch of a consultation with families, professionals and wider stakeholders.
2. Officers from both Children, Families & Communities and Adult Services have worked collaboratively and with Worcestershire Health and Care Trust to provide clarity on the cost, capacity and monitoring arrangements for the current service delivery of overnight short breaks provision. They have worked together to consider the changes needed to remodel the way services are provided to meet current and future needs and ensure maximum value for money. The proposed model was to develop Osborne Court by creating an extra 4 bedrooms for children (two exclusively for Worcestershire and two which could be used by Worcestershire or other areas), refurbish an empty building for adult bedrooms creating one additional adult bed and improve support for young people moving to adult Services. It was proposed to close the short breaks unit at Ludlow Road, Kidderminster.
3. Cabinet was minded to agree the proposed future delivery model for the delivery by Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust of short breaks provision, and authorised the Director of Children, Families and Communities to carry out a consultation on the proposed changes to overnight short breaks provision to ensure future sufficiency, sustainability and quality of provision. The Director of Children, Families and Communities and Director of Adult Services were authorised to continue co-design activity with parents, carers and wider stakeholders on short break/respice provision, as part of the continuous review of provision, including the provision for young people approaching the age of 18 to ensure appropriate transition to adult services and/or independent living. Cabinet agreed to receive a further report once the consultation had been completed in order to make a final decision on the future delivery model.

Worcestershire Passenger Transport Review and Strategy Public Consultation

4. The Council spends £30 million gross per annum on a range of transport Services and needs to have a robust Passenger Transport Strategy that sets out a sustainable strategy for the next 10 to 20 years, in line with the Council's Corporate Plan and Local Transport Plan 4 2018-2030. Key to the success of the Strategy will be gaining the views of key stakeholders and users. The final Strategy will then inform a review of existing operational policies.

5. The Strategy will set out the general policies that will be delivered and will provide a methodology specifically on which to measure the requirement for passenger transport, the relative priority for delivering services and the threshold for funding services. In areas where conventional passenger transport cannot be provided, the Strategy will provide options for alternative types of provision.

6. Cabinet agreed that a public consultation on the Passenger Transport Strategy should begin on 13 June 2019 for a period of 13 weeks and would cover Home to School Transport, Public Transport, Community Transport and Social Care Transport. Details of the consultation would be finalised by the Director of Economy and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Highways and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Education and Skills. A further report would be brought back to Cabinet in November 2019 to consider the formal approval of the Strategy having regard to the outcome of that consultation. It was noted that a review of the operational policies in relation to the transport report would follow once the Strategy was finalised.

Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring

7. Cabinet received a report regarding the provisional financial results for the year ending 31 March 2019 and the progress made on the savings and reforms programme.

8. The headlines were that the Council net budget of £324 million faced a number of cost pressures during 2018/19 and the overall outturn was a net overspend of £2 million. The net overspend had fallen by £0.9 million since last reported to Cabinet as a result of continued management actions undertaken during the year to reduce expenditure. There was a net £8.4 million forecast overspend on services, with Adult Services overspending by £12.4 million, and Children, Families and Communities services overspending by £1 million. There have, however, been increases in the underlying cost pressures on adults and children's social care placements and work is underway to analyse financial trends looking forward. The non-schools Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) overspent by £7.7 million and that had been covered by reserves. The Council will continue to lobby Central Government for a fair allocation of funding. At the same time as facing in-year pressures the Council has also sought to deliver its original savings plan, and it was confirmed that £27.7 million had been achieved this year. The updates to earmarked reserves and general balances were approved

9. The Provisional Financial Results for the year ending 31 March 2019 were endorsed along with the unaudited Annual Financial Report and Statement of Accounts for 2018/19. The draft Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 was considered before it was sent to the Audit and Governance Committee in July 2019 for final approval.

Mr S E Geraghty
Chairman

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Kate Griffiths, Committee Officer

Tel: 01905 846630

Email: kgriffiths@worcestershire.gov.uk

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 meeting of the Cabinet held on 6 June 2019.