

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – YOUNG PEOPLE** held on 8 July 2019 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Cabinet Member - Councillor A Dale

Also in attendance – Councillor J Coyle

39/19 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Young People held on 4 June 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

40/19 **NEW INSTRUMENTS OF GOVERNMENT** Under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012; proposals had been received from school Governing Bodies for an amendment to their Instrument of Government.

RESOLVED that the new Instruments of Government be made for Middleton Community Primary School as detailed in the report.

41/19 **CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATIONS OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS** **RESOLVED** to approve the nomination of the following persons to serve as Local Authority Governors:-

A Clayton	-	Brassington Primary School
G Hart	-	Anthony Gell School
S Revie	-	St Oswalds Primary School
N Compton	-	Edale CofE Primary School
S Lonsdale	-	Taxal and Fernilee Primary School
S Haigh	-	St George's Primary School, Castle Gresley

42/19 **CONSULTATION ON THE ORGANISATION OF PRIMARY EDUCATION IN TIBSHELF** The Cabinet Member was informed of the outcome of the consultation on the organisation of primary education in Tibshelf.

Derbyshire County Council made a significant investment in building a new secondary school for Tibshelf, providing modern facilities that enhance high-quality education. Tibshelf School moved to its new location on the edge of the village in November 2013. The former Tibshelf School site (to the rear of the Infant & Nursery School) occupied an area of 58,839 square metres in the centre of the village of Tibshelf. Since the school's departure, the buildings, with the exception of the changing block, have been demolished on

safety grounds. The changing block and playing fields have continued to be used by a local football club and the athletics club. There was access across the site to the allotments.

In April/May 2016, there was a pre-publication consultation to consider the future of primary education in Tibshelf and the disposal of surplus land on the former Tibshelf School site. Derbyshire County Council's Cabinet considered the outcome of that consultation in July 2016 and the decision was made to apply for permission to dispose of the surplus land. The decision on the future of primary education in Tibshelf would be the subject of further consultation. The Education and Skills Funding Agency approved the disposal of surplus land in 2018. The remaining site, together with the capital receipt from the surplus land, provided an opportunity to invest in new school premises. It was, however, necessary to determine the organisation of primary education in the village before a design could proceed. The decision would also determine the correct statutory or non-statutory procedure for re-organisation.

When the initial consultation took place, it was thought that access to the former Tibshelf School site could be achieved without impacting on the existing Infant School. Further discussion with the Highways Department had determined that that was not the case and a section of the Infant School building would have to be demolished to provide acceptable access for any development on the available site. As a consequence, if the decision was made to utilise the site for a school, the new building would be required to house both the junior and infant pupils regardless of the organisation of the school.

Town End Junior School was located on the edge of the village. It had a net capacity of 196 with 174 on roll. The site was very restricted and did not provide sufficient playing fields to meet current DfE standards. There was a maintenance backlog of £636,555. There was no scope for enlargement of the school on its present site.

Tibshelf Infant School was centrally located. It had a net capacity of 130 and 130 on roll. It was on a constrained site and the condition backlog was £389,261.

The projections showed a small decrease in numbers at the Junior School but an increase to 153 by 2023 for the Infant School (23 above capacity). In addition, planning approval had been granted for 227 houses in the village which could generate 45 primary-aged pupils. The Infant School was also eager to extend its age range to provide pre-school education to 2 year-olds.

On 28 February 2019, Cabinet agreed to a further consultation on the organisation of primary education in Tibshelf, and it took place from 14 March

2019 to 10 May 2019. A copy of the consultation paper was appended to the Executive Director's report.

There were 17 responses to the consultation. There was general support for moving to the new site but a mix of views as to whether the new school should remain as two schools but be federated or become a primary school. Details of the responses were given in the Executive Director's report.

RESOLVED to approve (1) the progression of the design of a new school on the former Tibshelf School site with consideration of an alternative entrance to the site; and

(2) the proposal to enter into discussion with the governing bodies of the infant and junior school to consider the options of either federation, the formation of a primary school or joint occupation as separate school in the new school building and report the outcome of those discussions to the Cabinet Member for a decision.

43/19 RESERVE CAPITAL FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE CATERING SERVICE PROGRAMME 2019-20 Approval was sought to create an earmarked reserve for capital expenditure on routine replacement and upgrading of school catering equipment within Derbyshire schools.

Derbyshire's Catering Service provided approximately 55,000 meals per day to 369 primary, special and secondary schools and Academies' across Derbyshire. These were delivered through kitchen facilities on school premises or through feeder schools. The service currently employed 1,500 staff to ensure quality meals are provided to schools in accordance with the contracts. Turnover (Revenue) for 2018/19 was £25.5 million.

In 2012, funding for primary school budgets was reviewed by central Government. The Government's aim was to move to a national funding formula and to simplify local funding arrangements with as much funding as possible delegated to schools.

Delegated budgets meant schools had the choice to buy-in the school meal provision with Derbyshire County Council, manage the service themselves or contract to a private sector provider (normally via a formal tender process or a framework). Buy-back of the Authority's meals service was strong at present, however it was operating in an increasingly competitive environment, especially in the secondary sector. The market was changing as Multi-Academy Trusts operated across the Authority and groups of schools look to commission services in different ways.

With the implementation of Universal Infant Free School Meals in 2014, more than 85.3% of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were taking up the offer of a healthy school lunch every day. As such, several private sector

companies were now beginning to compete to provide these services when schools go out to tender.

As part of this process and under the terms stated in the contracts between Derbyshire Catering Services (DCS) and individual schools, it was the responsibility of DCS to purchase and replace catering equipment that required upgrading as part of a scheduled replacement programme.

To continue to offer a competitive service to schools, there was a need for further additional work to be carried out to upgrade related catering equipment within the service which would improve the working conditions within kitchens and dining areas, and continued to support the increased uptake of school meals.

Catering aimed to cover all its costs including overheads and investment in service upgrades over a period of years and therefore requires that any catering surpluses can be earmarked and ring-fenced to fund upgrades and equipment replacement in future years. This could be achieved by the use of an earmarked reserve.

The Catering Service was proposing to invest £240,000 of its traded income to facilitate essential future upgrades and replacement of equipment.

Expenditure on routine replacement of equipment where the replacement value exceeded £10,000 must be treated as capital expenditure in the Authority's accounts and was therefore required to be approved by the Executive Director and included within the Authority's Capital Programme.

It was proposed that the investment would be made across two schools these being Anthony Gell and Highfields School. Details of this investment were given in the Executive Director's report.

RESOLVED to approve an earmarked reserve of £240,000 for capital expenditure on routine replacement and upgrading of school catering equipment at Anthony Gell School and Highfields School.

44/19 REQUEST TO SET THE RECOMMENDED SELLING PRICE OF SCHOOL MEALS FOR 2019-20 The Cabinet Member was informed that it was proposed that there would be no increase in the recommended selling price of a school meal to children and adults in Secondary, Primary Special and Nursery pupils from 3 September 2019.

The school catering budget was delegated to Primary schools from April 2013, having already been delegated to Secondary schools. Under delegation, the responsibility for charging now lay with schools. However, Derbyshire County Council would continue to recommend a selling price to aid schools and to provide consistency. As part of this recommendation, schools would be reminded that, under Section 533 of the Education Act 1996, the

price they charge to pupils for school meals must not exceed the cost of providing them.

The recommended prices for all school meals were last reviewed and increased (by 10p for Primary & Nursery Schools and 5p in Secondary & Special Schools) in September 2018. The current recommended prices for meals were:

Primary/Nursery Schools	£2.10
Secondary/Special Schools	£2.40
Adult Meals	£2.88 including VAT

In September 2014, the Universal Infant Free School (UIFSM) provision started for all Key Stage 1 pupils (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils). This was funded directly to eligible schools at £2.30 per pupil.

Changes to the free school meals funding means that schools have a specified funding rate of £2.30 per meal for free school meals (eligible) from 1 April 2018.

Derbyshire County Council School Meals Service currently provided approximately 55,000 meals across the county each day. Although the service faced significant budget pressures, it had been possible to mitigate these through the development of efficiencies and an income generation programme. However, the service continued to face further challenges, some of which had been mitigated through the continuation of improved performance which had ensured the sustainability of the Service.

During the past 12 months, the take-up had remained consistent with the previous year for Primaries and increased for Secondaries. The figures showed an overall take-up figure of 66.7% for Primary and Special Schools. Secondary Schools had increased by 2.8% to a total of 60.2%.

To ensure that the Service was delivering on the Department for Education's promise to prioritise children's health and wellbeing, it was important that the Service remained commercially competitive, retaining market share and maximising business opportunities. In the main, this was achieved by operating in a fair and transparent manner, ensuring that the selling price continued to be very low compared to near and statistical neighbours after the increases.

It was recognised that the meal price was increased last year following a 3 year period of being frozen and, how any such increase could impact on family finances. It was the desire of the administration to keep costs to families as low as possible, however acknowledgement had to be made to the fact that the Service must operate in a viable manner.

It was also expected that the price freeze would prevent the trend for a 2% fall in demand following increases as reflected in previous years. This would help to ensure the Service maintained a good take up of meals in order to support the Catering Service Plan.

In the event of a surplus, the Authority was committed to reinvesting in business improvements within the Catering Service.

A benchmarking review of selling prices had been undertaken and the Authority's prices compared favourably with other authorities. These comparisons were shown in the Appendices to the Executive Director's report.

RESOLVED to note that the recommended selling price of meals in all schools from 3 September was to remain the same at:

Primary/Nursery Schools	£2.10
Secondary/Special Schools	£2.40
Adult Meals	£2.88 including VAT