

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **CABINET MEMBER – YOUNG PEOPLE** held on 5 November 2019 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Cabinet Member - Councillor A Dale

Also in attendance – Councillors J Patten and J Twigg

67/19 **MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Young People held on 8 October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.

68/19 **CONFIRMATION OF NOMINATIONS OF SCHOOL GOVERNORS** **RESOLVED** to approve the nomination of the following person to serve as Local Authority Governors:-

R Binns - Heage Primary School
M Emmens - Holmesdale Infant School

69/19 **BUDGET MONITORING 2019-20 – PERIOD 5** The Cabinet Member was informed of the Revenue budget position of the Young People portfolio for 2019-29 up to the end of August 2019 (Period 5), budget savings, growth and one-off funding, risks, earmarked reserves and debt position.

The net controllable budget for the Young People portfolio is £109.704m and the Revenue Budget Monitoring Statement prepared at period 5 indicated that there was a projected year-end overspend of £6.200m to £7.600m depending on whether the rate of placements for children in care levels off or continued the trajectory seen over the past six months. No earmarked reserves were available to support this overspend. The Dedicated Schools Grant income transferred to contribute to costs incurred within Children's Services supporting Early Help services and children with additional needs (£6.756 million) may not continue at the same level in future years.

The key variances included Placements for Children in Care/Unable to remain at home (overspend £3.898m), Support for children with disabilities (overspend £0.809m), Children's Safeguarding services (underspend £0.093m), Early Help and Preventative services (overspend £0.499m), Home to School Transport (overspend £0.836m), Education Support services (overspend £1.185m), Pensions payable to former staff (overspend £0.210m), Redundancies (break-even), and Unallocated budget (underspend £2.015m).

The value of the savings initiatives identified for implementation in the current year was £3.013m and it was forecast that £2.264m of savings will have been achieved by the year-end.

The portfolio received additional budget allocations in 2019-20 for Social Worker recruitment (£1.300m ongoing, £2.600m one-off), Placement demand pressures (£3.000m ongoing, £5.000m one-off), Home to School Transport SEN (£1.450m ongoing), SEND assessment and planning (£0.275m ongoing), Increase in Special Guardianship placements (£1.097m ongoing), Children's Homes (£0.450m ongoing), Foster Carers (£0.060m ongoing), Care Leavers (£0.402m one-off), Children's Participation (£0.080m one-off), Child Protection (£0.105m one-off), Complex Case pooled budget (£0.250m one-off), Mobile Working (£0.260m one-off), and Children in Care Legal Proceedings (£1.050m one-off).

The report also detailed the services that could negatively impact on the portfolio's forecast outturn position reported in the Forecast Summary, the earmarked reserves totalling £8.865m that were currently held to support future expenditure and the profile of the debt position.

RESOLVED to note the report.

70/19 DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT MONITORING 2019-20 – PERIOD 5

The Cabinet Member was provided with an update of the Revenue Budget position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (Young People portfolio) for 2019-20 up to the end of August 2019 (Period 5).

The expected Dedicated Schools Grant and 6th form grant income due to the Authority in 2019-20 was £373.016m, plus the expected use of reserves for 2019-20 of £2.161m covering planned expenditure, makes a total income available to fund expenditure of £375.177m.

The Revenue Budget Monitoring Statement prepared at period 5 indicated a projected year-end expenditure of £377.391m. The expected overspend compared to income was £2.215m, however this included the benefit of £0.452m underspend which was ring-fenced to schools. The overspend falling to the Authority was therefore £2.667m. Earmarked reserves of £0.551m were available to support this overspend.

The Department for Education have confirmed in the spending round that all Authorities would see an increase of between 8% and 17% per head of population to their High Needs Block funding for 2020-21. Looking at total allocated High Needs Block funding and the 2-18 population for 2019-20, the increase for Derbyshire in 2019/20 could be between £5.598m and £11.895m however, currently, the precise details of the methodology and the data to be used were not known in sufficient detail.

The key variances were Central School Services Block (underspend £0.184m), Re-pooled school funding (underspend £0.452m) and High Needs Block (overspend £2.812m).

There was a risk that the High needs block placements and top-ups could negatively impact on the portfolio's forecast outturn position reported in the Forecast Summary.

RESOLVED to note the report.

71/19 **NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS AT BOULTON MOOR AND HIGHFIELDS FARM**

Following the selection of the Spencer Academy Trust by the Department for Education (DfE) to run the new primary school at Boulton Moor, the Authority has been working with the Trust to develop the project with a view to opening the school in September 2020. Under the terms of the Section 106 agreement, the developer was required to provide £4,149,170 in capital funds for the primary school and those funds were reported to Cabinet on 14 September 2017 and 21 March 2019. On 26 July 2018, Cabinet approved an additional £1,761,590 to provide a total of £5,910,760 to build a one form entry school with core facilities to allow it to be expanded to a 2 form entry school if necessary to meet the demand from later phases of the housing development. The contract for the school was awarded under the SCAPE framework and construction was due to start over the Autumn. There were delays gaining access to the site and it has been agreed with the Trust that the school should open in September 2021.

The Spencer Academy Trust was also selected to run a new primary school at Highfields Farm. Under the terms of the Section 106 agreement, the developer was required to provide £4,384,581 in capital funds for the primary school and those funds were reported to Cabinet on 11 July 2019. On 26 July 2018, Cabinet approved an additional £1,126,000 to provide a total of £5,510,581 to build a one form entry school. The final contract price exceeded the available budget and on 16 September 2019, a further £689,419 was approved by the Executive Director through an urgent paper making the final budget £6,200,000. The contract for the school was also awarded under the SCAPE framework.

Under the 'free school presumption' process the successful Multi Academy Trust was entitled to a project development fund for each school however, where the same trust was opening two schools in the same year economies of scale were expected and the second payment was reduced. The payments were in line with funding paid by the DfE for Free Schools delivered directly by the Department and were £212,750 for the first school and £150,000 for the second. The total for these two schools would therefore be £362,750 payable from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Growth Fund Reserve.

Once the schools were open, the Authority also became responsible for providing growth funding whilst the schools' pupil rolls increased towards their full capacities. It was difficult to state precisely the level of post-opening support required, however a figure of £0.350 million per school, spread over the 7 years after opening would be a reasonable estimate. This funding would be met from the current and future years' Growth Fund allocations within the Schools Block and the allocations were a matter for the Schools Forum.

The schools would be funded by the local authority's approved mainstream funding formula, however, due to timing issues, children starting in each September would not trigger DSG funding until the following April. Funding for each new year group for the period September to March would have to be met from the Growth Fund and it was estimated that an average of around £0.060 million per school per year would be required for the next 7 years. The estimated level of financial support to the new schools should be affordable, however, if future years' Growth Fund allocations were to reduce the post-opening support and formula funding allocations might have to be met partially by a reduction in other schools' formula budgets.

RESOLVED to (1) note the progress on the new primary schools at Boulton Moor and Highfields Farm;

(2) approve the funding of the Project Development Fund amounting to £362,750 to be paid to Spencer Academy Trust; and

(3) to approve the payment of post-opening support in line with DfE guidance referred to in section 2 of the report.

72/19 REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL NON SCHOOL BASED PROVISION FOR THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The County Council's support for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (Derbyshire) was administered by the Sports and Outdoor Education Services (SORE) and until April 2018 the service administered the county-wide award for Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) under licence from the central charity. However, in 2018 the Charity switched from geographically administered awards operated by local authorities under licence, to a new system of directly licencing individual schools for the delivery of DofE award scheme. The DofE also informed the council that it would need to obtain a Derbyshire targeted licence to continue any work with existing voluntary or open award centres or continue its work with targeted groups of young people outside of any provision in schools.

The SORE Service has reviewed the current situation and undertaken a consultation process. The overwhelming response to the consultation has indicated that award scheme leaders, young people and their parents / carers, would like to see a continuation of some form of non-schools based provision in Derbyshire. However, they identified a potential sustainability issue with the current provision and support for voluntary groups and a sustainable operation of at least 2-3 years should enable groups to recruit, deliver activities and follow participants through to completion of their awards. The impact investigation and analysis indicated that approximately 10 – 12 participants would be directly affected if the current licence was not renewed in 2019/20.

The major changes to the national DofE Award appeared to be directly impacting young people who either did not have access to directly licenced schools or for whom a school based award was not necessarily appropriate to meet their needs. In addition to this the current licence system and the need for ongoing financial reviews for non-statutory provision, due to the cost of the support provision and its impact on Council financial constraints, were also impacting voluntary and

community led groups and currently was affecting the long term sustainability of developing opportunities for young people. It was therefore considered that the current licence and model of council led provision for non-schools groups was not currently the best available model. It was recommended that a community development approach be adopted to support the existing voluntary centres to create a directly licensed provision, thereby creating a community based independently operating structure.

RESOLVED (1) to approve the decision not to maintain the current licence structure;

(2) to authorise officers to work in partnership with voluntary and community groups for a period of six months (to April 2020) to investigate creating a more sustainable community led provision for young people in Derbyshire to access the DofE Award scheme; and

(3) that officers work with partners to explore options for the 10/12 young people who will not achieve completion of the award and are directly affected by the changes.

73/19 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC** **RESOLVED** that the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the remaining item on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of the kind of exempt information detailed in the following summary of proceedings:-

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING THE PRESS, WERE EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

1. To confirm the exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member – Young People held on 8 October 2019.

74/19 **EXEMPT MINUTES** **RESOLVED** that the exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Young People held on 8 October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Cabinet Member.