

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of **CABINET** held on 8 July 2021 at County Hall, Matlock.

PRESENT

Councillor B Lewis (in the Chair)

Councillors K S Athwal, C A Hart, N Hoy, T King, J Patten, C Renwick and S A Spencer.

Apologies for Absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor A Dale.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor B Lewis declared a personal interest in minute reference 113/21 – Outcome of the statutory consultation on the proposed conversion of Mickley Infant School to a Primary School.

106/21 MINORITY GROUP LEADERS' QUESTIONS

The following questions had been submitted by Councillor J Dixon:

AGENDA ITEM 4 – To confirm minutes of non-exempt minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 17 June 2021

Minute 91/21 – Update on East Midlands Freeport

It is good to see that the East Midlands Freeport was one of 8 to be shortlisted to the next stage of the bidding process. It is also noted that DCC as transport and highways authority for the EMIP area would need to contribute directly to these arrangements and existing resources within the Economy and Regeneration Service were being re-aligned accordingly. However at the last Cabinet meeting on 17th June, with regards to Kickstart funding, it was reported scarce officer resource time has left Derbyshire County Council in a position where it is effectively not in a position to put together bids to access new pots of money which are desperately needed such as the Levelling Up Fund and the Community Renewal Fund. It is also noted that the East Midlands Development Corporation which is closely aligned with EMIP has submitted a bid to HM Treasury for three sites around the airport, but none of these are in Derbyshire, but in Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. The concern is that scarce resources within the Place directorate mean that we are not currently able to respond to funding opportunities for Derbyshire when they arise, and the county is missing out. Furthermore if that scarce capacity

is re-aligned to EMIP, what does that mean for other economic development and regeneration projects throughout the county?

Minute 94/21 – Refresh of the Local Outbreak Management Plan

As set out on page 30 of the Derbyshire Local Outbreak Management Plan, healthcare in Glossop is managed by the Tameside and Glossop CCG. It has been reported in the Glossop Chronicle that Derbyshire County Council have requested that Glossop is included in the Derby and Derbyshire ICS. What assessment of the needs and wishes of the residents and local healthcare providers in Glossop were made before this request? Will the Council be withdrawing the request as the overwhelming views of the patients and healthcare providers consulted were to retain the alignment with Manchester services which serve them well geographically?

Minute 97/21 – Report of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman – Complaint against the Council

The Ombudsman Review case highlights the need for support for children with special needs when they move from primary to secondary school. Those with emotional and behavioural issues need more support on moving to a new school. It's essential that the GRIP review includes funding from day one at a new school for any children who need it, and there is provision for transitional funding rather than the automatic cessation of funding, with a requirement for a new school to start a new application process as currently proposed. What is being done to ensure all children with special needs have the necessary support to transition to a new school, especially to secondary school?

Minute 99/21 – Impact of the National Bus Strategy on the future development of bus services in Derbyshire

National Bus Strategy and ZEBRA funding. We need to ensure bus services are supported after such a difficult time, and to use all available funding to support greener and cheaper bus travel across Derbyshire. With Greater Manchester introducing a Clean Air Zone and daily charges for non-compliant buses from June 2022, will the Council be bidding for ZEBRA funding to provide cleaner buses for cross border services into Greater Manchester and into Sheffield region for when a Clean Air Zone is introduced there, to ensure these important services can comply with requirements and continue to serve the people of Derbyshire who need them to continue to work, study and access services including healthcare?

AGENDA ITEM 6 (a) – Derbyshire County Council's People Strategy

At the heart of the strategy is the importance of employee engagement, with an emphasis on listening, shaping and responding. The current pandemic has

affected many of our staff differently and depending upon their circumstances there needs to be a flexible approach how as a responsible employer we respond that. Whilst some staff welcome the opportunity to continue to work from home, others are struggling to work in isolation, in sub-optimal conditions and without the ongoing teamwork they are used to. This particularly affects staff who work with people who are vulnerable and whose workload affects their mental health. The council needs to accommodate the need for staff to get together in person for peer support and to work from an office where they are struggling to work from home. What is being done to assess the needs of all those staff and to facilitate the ongoing teamwork and contact they need? Similarly there may be staff who have themselves health and mental issues (physical and mental) or members of their immediate family affected who are apprehensive about the return to the office in light of Covid-19. Can there be reassurance that their concerns are adequately addressed and that they can feel safe and supported?

The Chairman confirmed that it was not normal procedure to answer questions in relation to the minutes of the previous meeting and therefore a written response would be sent in response to the last question only, Agenda Item 6(a) Derbyshire County Council's People Strategy.

107/21 **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the non-exempt minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 17 June 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

108/21 **CABINET MEMBER MEETINGS - MINUTES RESOLVED** to receive the non-exempt minutes of Cabinet Member meetings as follows:

- (a) Health and Communities – 3 and 17 June 2021
- (b) Children's Services and Safeguarding – 8 June 2021
- (c) Education – 8 June 2021
- (d) Adult Care – 11 June 2021
- (e) Highways Assets and Transport – 17 June 2021
- (f) Infrastructure and Environment – 17 June 2021

109/21 **PEOPLE STRATEGY** (Corporate Services and Budget)

The Managing Executive Director for Commissioning, Communities and Policy provided Cabinet with a report which provided an update and sought approval for the Council's People Strategy.

Following Cabinet approval in September 2019, the organisation had successfully reshaped its HR service offering, with key benefits already being visible despite the impacts of the current pandemic.

The key aims of the review had been to deliver a HR model with the capability to:

- Ensure all elements of 'people' management within the Council

- support transformational change and a 'whole Council' approach.
- Develop and implement the behaviours and competencies necessary for culture change.
- Manage the risk and anxiety generated by change within the existing workforce across the Council.
- Ensure we have a workforce of the right shape/size and skill set now, and in the future
- Cultivate an environment which attracts, retains and develops talent
- Maintain the Council's reputation as a fair and transparent employer, resilient to scrutiny.

Running concurrently with the second phase of the HR transformation programme, coupled with the accelerated need for a clear workforce agenda as organisational recovery was undertaken, work had been underway during the last 12 months to develop an organisational people strategy owned and led by senior leaders across the organisation and supported by the HR function.

The People Strategy attached to the report at appendix 2, incorporated the organisation's people ambition which reflected what we were trying to achieve with the overarching aim to be a diverse employer, an innovative employer and an employer of choice.

Coupled with a diverse range of roles and services, the Council's People Strategy had been developed with consideration of the Council's strategic programmes, aiming to capture the people ambitions within these:

- Enterprising Council
- Thriving Communities
- Vision Derbyshire

It was intended that the People Strategy supported the Council Plan, being the 'what' we aim to achieve. The People Strategy aimed to outline 'how' the Council would enable and support our workforce to deliver the council's strategic aims, delivering change through five people priorities.

The People Strategy assumed that the leaders of the organisation at all levels would own the relationship with their people and it aligned to the employee lifecycle. Employee engagement was crucial throughout the employee lifecycle and was central to the People Strategy, with continued focus on 'Our Spirit' ensuring that we 'Listen and Engage' and 'Shape and Respond', coupled with our organisational culture, employee values and behaviours.

The following five people priorities focused on the employee lifecycle ensuring a holistic approach to our workforce agenda and people ambition in being an employer of choice, recognising the interdependencies within these priorities:

- Attract and retain the best people in the most effective way possible;
- Promote diversity and inclusion, enable responsive workforce plans and develop credible reward strategies;
- Engage, nurture and develop our people and our future potential;
- Enable organisational transformation and effective employee relations; and
- Enable and ensure the wellbeing and safety of our people.

To ensure the strategy was delivered and embedded, the people priorities would not only enable the development of the organisation wide workforce agenda but would also enable departmental and localised people plans to be developed by leaders at all levels of the organisation.

In addition to supporting the people priorities there were HR led delivery plans for 2021-25.

The people priorities were underpinned by our employee values and behaviours which encompassed what our organisation stands for and how our people would deliver their roles in the best possible way. The development of the Council's competency framework was also key to the success of the People Strategy and work continued to refine and further develop this in readiness for expansion across the organisation.

The development of our culture through a clear Employee Value Proposition (EVP) aligned to our people ambition of being an employer of choice, our Employee Value Proposition (EVP) would provide clarity on the Council's offer and what was expected from our people as we developed a culture of mutual trust.

The Council's workforce represented the organisation and the aim was to ensure our workforce reflected our communities.

In addition, the Council's EVP aligned to the five people priorities, supported by clear expected outcomes and engagement drivers. The EVP would connect to our future recruitment approaches, the total reward offering, the Council's Learning and Development Strategy and the ongoing implementation of the Council's Wellbeing Strategy. The engagement drivers were central to our ongoing 'Our Spirit' engagement approach.

The report referred to consultation undertaken, alternative options considered and relevant implications that had been taken into account in its preparation.

RESOLVED to note the development of and approve the Council's People Strategy and its associated five people priorities.

110/21 URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY THE MANAGING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND APPROVAL FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY RELATING TO GRANT EXPENDITURE (Health and Communities) The

Managing Executive Director submitted a report that provided an update on the new statutory duties placed on the Council by the new Domestic Abuse Act 2021, asked Cabinet to note the urgent decision taken by the Managing Executive Director to accept the new burdens grant 2021/22 associated with the Act from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MHCLG) and sought approval to extend grant funding to existing services providing support to victims with complex needs from October 2021 to March 2022.

On 20 April 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (the Act) had received Royal Assent.

The Act placed new statutory duties on local authorities. In two tier authorities, there were implications for both upper and lower tier authorities. However, as an upper tier authority, the Act required the Council to:

- Provide accommodation-based support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation, in accordance with statutory guidance;
- Convene a Local Partnership Board (LPB);
- Undertake a needs assessment establishing any gaps in service provision, by June 2021;
- Publish a strategy by August/September 2021;
- Commission accommodation-based services based on the findings of the needs accommodation; and
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the strategy and any associated commissioning of services and report annually to central government.

The Act also provided for a number of other changes which were summarised in the report. The Council would need to take account of these changes in the work undertaken with partners to address domestic abuse. The Act had implications for the Council and these were detailed in the report.

In April 2021, the Council had received notification of a new grant award from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

totalling £1.47 million which related to the new burdens associated with the implementation of the Act. The timescales relating to the acceptance of this grant and the expectation that the grant should be utilised in 2021/22, required that an urgent officer decision, by the Managing Executive Director was taken to secure the funding. This decision was taken in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities. Any delays, at that time, might have impacted the Council's ability to deliver against the new statutory duty in the current financial year and might have impacted on grant allocations in subsequent years.

Cabinet were asked to note the urgent decision taken by the Managing Executive Director, and details were appended to the report at Appendix 2.

Since 2015/16 the Council had successfully secured grant funding from MHCLG of approximately £0.52m pa to enhance the commissioned services. This grant had been utilised by a range of local providers to make specialist services more visible and accessible to those under-represented, and to provide more intensive support to clients with complex needs in emergency accommodation. This competitive grant had been replaced by the new grant award as outlined in the report.

Arrangements had been implemented for the extension of the previous grant funding up until end September 2021. In order to ensure the continuity of provision whilst longer-term commissioning decisions were taken following completion of the needs assessment, agreement was sought to further extend these grants up to the end of March 2022. The cost of this additional extension would be £262k and would be met by the grant funding received by the Council for 2021/22.

In anticipation of the Act, the Council had been working with partners for a number of months to ensure a robust and timely response to the new requirements. Despite this, and the existing governance structures and services in place, the timescales outlined in the statutory guidance were challenging. Not least because the grant funding available to support this duty would need to be utilised in year. The focus to date had therefore been on undertaking the needs assessment as this was a critical document which would inform strategy development, commissioning decisions, governance structures and the development of partnership arrangements as follows. These were detailed in the report along with their implications.

Following the completion of, and in response to the needs assessment, a programme of work which identifies potential future activity, will be established. The most appropriate delivery option/s will need to be assessed at this point but may include the requirement to commission additional services, to enter into grant agreements directly with service providers and/or to implement variations to existing contracts.

The programme of work would need to take account for the fact that whilst MHCLG had committed to provide funding in future years, this would be dependent on the spending review and how grant funding allocated to the Council in the current financial year had been utilised.

To avoid delays in delivering the new statutory duty in the current financial year, and negatively affect grant allocations in subsequent years, it was therefore requested that decisions relating to expenditure of the grant be delegated to the Managing Executive Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities.

The report referred to the relevant consultation that had been undertaken, alternative options that had been considered and relevant implications that had been taken into account in its preparation.

RESOLVED to (1) note the new statutory duties placed on the Council by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and the broader changes which have been outlined in the Act;

(2) note the Urgent Officer Decision to accept the 2021/22 grant of £1.47m to support the implementation of the new statutory duty to provide emergency accommodation for victims of domestic abuse and their families;

(3) note the work that has been taking place within the Council on the development of a need's assessments and the establishment of new governance arrangements to support delivery;

(4) receive a further report in October 2021, outlining progress on the development of a new local strategy;

(5) delegate decisions relating to the future commissioning and/or grant funding of services to the Managing Executive Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities on completion of the needs assessment as outlined in the report; and

(6) approve the extension of grant funding to specialist providers from October 2021 – end March 2022 at a cost of £262,000 to be met by the MHCLG grant, as set out in the report.

111/21 REPORT SEEKING APPROVAL TO PROCURE PROJECTS IN ADDITION TO LATEST DEPARTMENTAL FORWARD PLAN STRATEGY (Highways, Asset and Transport)

The Executive Director for Place submitted a report that sought to obtain permission to procure three projects which had not been included in the latest 2021-2023 departmental Forward Plan. This approval would allow the Award of Contract to be approved by the Executive Director in line with DCC Financial Regulations and the Scheme of Delegation.

Details of the proposed procurements were as follows:

Contract Title	Estimated Value over 4 years £	Key Decision
Supply & Fitment of Vehicle Tyres	360,000	No
Provision of Lubricants, Oils and Greases (CETE047)	140,000	No
Provision of Managed Vehicle Breakdown and Recovery service	310,000	No

Note – Estimated values are based on a four-year framework period.

The report included details of all of the relevant implications that had been considered in its preparation.

RESOLVED that Cabinet (1) grants permission to procure the three projects outlined in the report; and
(2) acknowledges that approval to award can be granted by the Executive Director for Place under the scheme of delegation.

112/21 **A61 GROWTH CORRIDOR STRATEGY – FUNDING FOR CHESTERFIELD STATION MASTERPLAN (HOLLIS LANE LINK ROAD PHASE 1)** (Highways Assets and Infrastructure) Cabinet gave consideration to a report prepared by the Executive Director for Place that asked Cabinet to note the Urgent Officer Decision made to confirm an additional contribution of £0.992 million towards delivery of the Hollis Lane Link Road Phase 1 (with an equal contribution from Chesterfield Borough Council). This fell within the context of an increase in the required budget for the project of £1.983 million (from £8.808 million to £10.791 million) to accommodate an increase in the design and delivery costs. This also included an additional contingency amount of £191,000 (i.e. an increase from £363,000 to £554,000), based upon a revised assessment of project risks.

In recent years, Cabinet had received a number of reports relating to the A61 Growth Corridor programme of works which have benefitted from financial support totalling £8.5m via the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (D2N2 LEP) in the form of Local Growth Fund (LGF) grant. This grant funding programme had closed on 31 March 2021. Although all available LGF monies had been spent within the required timescales, delivery of some of the projects was still in progress:

- Ashbourne Airfield Link Road and Roundabout (£1m)

- Woodville to Swadlincote Regeneration Route (£6.4m)
- A61 Growth Corridor
 - Standard Gauge for Sustainable Travel (£1.69m)
 - 21st Century Transport Corridor (£3.0m)
 - Hollis Lane Link Road Phase 1 (within the Chesterfield Station Masterplan) (£3.81m)

Each of the above projects had been complex, requiring planning consents, land assembly (often from multiple vendors), multiple legal agreements, design and construction. Working over the last year under the challenges of Covid-19 had impacted upon costs and delivery programmes, and Government had offered no relaxation of the requirement for all LGF grant to be drawn down by the end of the 2020-21 financial year. This had meant that, with the delivery of projects already committed, any shortfall in grant funding draw-down would have had to be met from other sources, or the projects cancelled and 'sunk' costs met from revenue budgets. Fortunately, each of these projects had progressed sufficiently to allow all allocated LGF to have been drawn down in full, prior to 31 March 2021, thereby protecting the Council's investment and maximising access to external funding.

In respect of the Hollis Lane Link Road Phase 1, the County Council and Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) had been working together, alongside other partners such as Network Rail, for a number of years to bring forward the Chesterfield Station Masterplan, and particularly since the Government announced that HS2 services would call at Chesterfield Rail Station from 2033.T

The Masterplan, showing wholesale regeneration and redevelopment of the station area, had been drafted by CBC and had been the subject of public consultation earlier in 2021. The results of this were currently being assessed by CBC. The regeneration ambitions required an appropriate balance of housing and employment development, new highways infrastructure, public realm at the railway station entrance gateway, car parking and a high standard of pedestrian and cycle connection to the town centre.

The delivery of enabling highways infrastructure within the Masterplan area would bring forward brownfield land that was currently largely unused or underused (e.g. for car parking). Local people would benefit from the creation of a significant number of new jobs through the delivery of employment growth areas and accelerating the completion of new housing to support growth, including the delivery of more affordable homes.

The first phase of the Hollis Lane Link Road was to create a new southern access to the railway station car park and had been able to proceed

ahead of the Masterplan adoption as it delivered highway and connectivity benefits in its own right, without prejudicing other proposals. Its alignment was fixed by the adjacent A61 Inner Relief Road to the west and the Midland Mainline to the east, so would not be altered by any decisions taken over land to the north.

Cabinet had last considered a report on the Hollis Lane Link Road Phase 1 at its meeting of 10 December 2020 (Minute No. 229/20 refers), where the total project budget had been reported as £8.808 million. The activities covered by this budget included highway construction at Spa Lane, for which enabling works were already on site, and the acquisition and preparation of a second site (on Sheffield Road) onto which a displaced business was being relocated.

The Sheffield Road site had been acquired pro-actively by Chesterfield Borough Council, but its preparation for occupation had been particularly complex, given the need for legal agreements with its intended occupant and also with third parties, in order to ensure a means of access and utilities supplies and diversions. All these issues had needed to be resolved within the LGF timescales which had resulted in cost estimates having to be carried out in a 'pre-contract environment', with the contract itself only issued on completion of the required legal agreements.

Since the project had been reported to Cabinet in December 2020, the Hollis Lane Project Team (County and Borough Council officers, plus specialist advisors) had carried out a thorough review of the project costs, and as a result of this it had been necessary to increase the budget.

The specific areas identified were:

Project Component	Previous Budget	Revised Budget	Increase
Sheffield Road (Relocation Site)	£4,091,662	£5,289,108	£1,197,446
Hollis Lane Link Road (Construction)	£3,595,896	£3,659,106	£63,210
Design & Project Management Costs	£757,610	£972,880	£215,270
Governance, Legal Agreements & Advice (including disbursements such as stamp duty)	Previously split across above figures	£315,329	£315,329
Contingency	£362,590	£553,970	£191,280
Total	£8,807,758	£10,790,293	£1,982,535

This had been a significant increase in costs and an initial review had already taken place to understand how project costs could have been forecast earlier in the development process. This review was not yet complete and more work was planned over the coming months.

Under the terms of the Collaboration Agreement which the County Council and CBC had signed to ensure robust partnership working, this increase of £1.98m would be shared equally by the two authorities (i.e. a 50/50 split of additional costs). Cabinet should also note that previously agreed contributions from CBC exceed those from the County Council.

As detailed in the report, the absolute requirement to draw down all LGF monies by 31 March 2020 had put pressure on the timescales for issuing the contract for preparation of the Sheffield Rd site (equivalent to £1.2m, the amount of LGF remaining to spent) and hence a need to increase the project budget. An Urgent Officer Decision had therefore been taken on 22 March 2021 to allow virement of £0.992 million (50% of the cost increase) to the project budget, which Cabinet was now asked to note. The other 50% of the increased budget was provided by Chesterfield Borough Council under the terms of a Collaboration Agreement between the two Councils. This Urgent Officer Decision report contained details of the construction contract for the Sheffield Road site and was attached as an exempt appendix at Appendix 2.

The report referred to the relevant financial implications involved, alternative options that had been considered and other relevant implications that had been taken into account in its preparation.

RESOLVED to note the Urgent Officer Decision to confirm a further £0.992 million contribution from Derbyshire County Council towards the Chesterfield Station Masterplan (Hollis Lane Link Road Phase 1) Project, which forms part of the A61 Growth Corridor Strategy.

113/21 **OUTCOME OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CONVERSION OF MICKLEY INFANT SCHOOL TO A PRIMARY SCHOOL** (Education) The Executive Director for Children's Services submitted a report that gave the Cabinet the outcome of the statutory consultation carried out for Mickley Infant School to propose the conversion to a Primary School, and that sought Cabinet's approval to expand the school and to increase the age range of pupils at the school for the new primary phase.

Mickley Infant and Nursery School currently provided education for children aged 3 to 7 years. The school had been designed as an infant only site to accommodate 40 infant age pupils and a 20-place nursery. The nursery numbers were fluid dependent on the number of reception children already in

school as the class was run as an Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) unit. The school also offered 30 hour funded places for those parents who could access this. The core facilities accommodated their existing pupils. It was noted that there was no library or separate physical education facility.

The expansion of the school and the change of age range would support the housing development in the locality with land potentially being available to expand the site next to the school or at the rear of the school as it backs onto farmland.

The school and local community recognised and supported the need for the expansion of the age range to become a primary school and last year a petition in support of the expansion had been forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Young People. Currently most children attended Shirland Primary School for their junior provision.

The situation of the estate where Mickley Infant & Nursery School was had poor public transport links and this had been exacerbated by the fact that the bus that they currently used has been stopped in the evenings. Historically, the parents had organised and funded this but it had become no longer financially viable. As a result, parents were struggling to ensure that their children arrived and returned from Shirland Primary School in time for the school day. As a response to this, Mickley Infant School had been forced to shorten its school day as parents could not be in two places at once.

There was a planning application for 120 dwellings in the normal area of the school which would yield an additional 24 primary school aged children. Shirland Primary School was unable to expand any further and following the DfE Building Bulletin 103 guidance on accommodation requirements, Mickley Infant School had space to become a Primary School with a pupil admission number of 10 per year group and a capacity of 70.

A non-statutory consultation had taken place from 24 September 2020 until 12 November 2021 to gauge opinion on the proposal to change Mickley Infant School to a Primary School. The outcome of that consultation had been reported to Cabinet on 11 March 2021 (minute number 56/21 refers) and members had approved the proposal to undertake a statutory consultation.

The statutory consultation had been undertaken for a four-week period between the 18 April 2021 to 19 May 2021 in accordance with the formal statutory process as set out in the DfE statutory guidance, '*Making Significant Changes (prescribed alterations) to Maintained Schools*' (October 2018). There had been 53 responses to the consultation. 52 responses were in overwhelming support of the proposal. There were common themes to the responses and the full details of these were contained in the report along with the Local Authority's response to concerns raised.

The report referred to the relevant the alternative options that had been considered and other relevant implications that had been taken into account in its preparation.

RESOLVED that following consideration of the statutory consultation responses and the publication of the statutory notice Cabinet approve the proposal to change the status of Mickley Infant School to a Primary School by expansion of the school premises to increase the age range of pupils at the School.

114/21 **OUTCOME OF THE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED ALTERATION OF THE LOWER AGE LIMIT AT BRACKENFIELD SPECIAL SCHOOL** (Education) The Executive Director for Children's Services submitted a report which provided Cabinet with the outcome of the statutory consultation that had been undertaken for Brackenfield School to alter the lower age range from 4 years to 3 years so that the school could offer Nursery provision and sought Cabinet's decision on the proposal.

A non-statutory consultation had taken place from 15 December 2020 until 26 January 2021 to gauge opinion on the proposal to change the age range at Brackenfield Special School from 4 years to 3 years by extending the provision to include both Foundation Stage 1 and Foundation Stage 2 children. The outcome of that consultation had been reported to Cabinet on 11 March 2021 (minute number 55/21 refers) and members had approved the proposal moving to statutory consultation. The Authority had confirmed that the school already has adequate staffing and premises for a maximum 8-place Nursery. If implemented, this proposal would allow the school to offer families a seamless and comprehensive education program for children from 3 years. During the four-week consultation period one response had been received in support of the proposal.

The report referred to alternative options that had been considered and relevant implications that had been taken into account in its preparation.

RESOLVED (1) following consideration of the responses to the statutory consultation;

(2) to approve the publication of the statutory notice to lower the age range at Brackenfield School from 4 years to 3 years so that it can offer nursery provision.

115/21 **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM THE MEETING**
RESOLVED that under Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of

business on the grounds that in view of the nature of the items of business, that if members of the public were present, exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 would be disclosed to them.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING

1. To consider Minority Group Leaders' Questions (if any).
2. To confirm the Exempt Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 17 June 2021.
3. To consider the following exempt report:
 - (a) Appendix 2 – A61 Growth Corridor Strategy – Funding for Chesterfield Station Masterplan (Hollis Lane Link Road Phase 1) – Executive Director Place (contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information))