

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**CSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 12 FEBURARY 2019  
CABINET – 14 FEBRUARY 2019**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 For members to receive the first part of the Final Commission from the Commissioning Body (CB) and to note the general update as to progress of the CB.
- 1.2 In accordance with the originally proposed process, and based on the initial planning on the part of the CB they will deliver the Final Commission in two parts, Part A and Part B:
  - 1.2.1 Part A, for comment by the Members' Advisory Group in this Report, and subject to approval by Cabinet on 14 February 2019, details the process for the recruitment of the Independent Chair of the Inquiry (IC).
  - 1.2.2 Part B of the Final Commission involves preparing the final terms of reference and design of the inquiry process, with input from the Independent Chair, once appointed. Part B will take more time and planning and consultation with other parties, and to a significant extent, is contingent upon the appointment of an IC and input from survivors, particularly the Survivors' Committee.
- 1.3 Splitting the Final Commission in two enables the recruitment of the IC to take place now, so that they are in post to allow progress on settling the Terms of Reference and the design of the inquiry process to be made. This will ensure that any delay in the process is minimised, than would otherwise have been the case if the Final Commission was not split in this way.
- 1.4 In addition to delivering Part A of the Final Commission, since formal appointment the CB has also taken a number of initial steps to establish the Inquiry, in order to progress work on Part B as soon as possible. This information is contained in the appended report from the CB, Appendix B.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 Members comment upon Part A of the Final Commission, the recruitment pack for the position of IC, as proposed by the CB in Appendix A, and pass those comments on to Cabinet**

**2.2 Members note that they will receive, for comment Part B of the Final Commission in due course, once the IC has been appointed and provided input on the terms of reference and draft design of the inquiry process**

**2.3 Members note the general update on progress of the CB in Appendix B**

### 3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-operative Council priorities?	
	Yes	<i>Putting our Children and Young People first Protecting and supporting our vulnerable adults and children Ensuring that neighbourhoods are clean, safe and well-maintained</i>
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	Yes	<i>Eliminating child sexual exploitation is important for the entire community but particularly supports our children and survivors who have been impacted by this crime.</i>
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE</b>	<i>On-going</i>	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	<i>Provision for the expected costs of the initial stages of the Inquiry has been made within the Council's Service &amp; Financial Planning strategy. The position will be kept under review and any additional requirements for funding will be considered as part of the Council's normal service and financial planning process.</i>
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	<i>This is being provided in accordance with the contract with the Commissioning Body.</i>
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Yes	<i>As detailed in the report</i>
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	Yes	<i>Borough wide impact</i>

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Following contract award, as confirmed by the Members Advisory Group (MAG) on 21 November 2018, a final form contract was signed by the Council and the CB on 22 January 2019.
- 4.2 The CB has been working to deliver the Inquiry, best balancing the need to do this quickly against the need to make sure that it is done properly and with the required input from the IC and survivors, particularly the Survivors' Committee.
- 4.3 Members will recall that the process that they have approved requires the CB to produce a Final Commission. This Final Commission was the way in which the Council secured its double independence from the process, securing an independent party, the CB, to recruit an IC and finalise the arrangements for the Inquiry, including the final terms of reference for the Inquiry.
- 4.4 Appendix 2 of the Cabinet Report dated 19 April 2018 detailed the proposed remit of the Final Commission. As the process has been refined by the CB these principles have been reproduced, with some minor amendments and are now included in the contract between the Council and the CB.
- 4.5 As part of its early planning the CB has decided to split the Final Commission into two parts to balance the need to progress the inquiry in a timely manner and the need to make sure that stakeholders, notably survivors, are properly engaged in the process going forward, as was always the requirement. The CB's view is that approaching the Final Commission in this way ensures that a Chair can be appointed as soon as possible, to avoid delay, but that Part B of the Final Commission is carried out as originally intended.
- 4.6 The Final Commission will therefore be delivered in two parts; firstly a recruitment pack for the position of Chair and secondly, final terms of reference and design of the inquiry process. Both elements will go to Cabinet, via the MAG for comment.
- 4.7 The recruitment pack is included for members to consider, note and pass on any observations to Cabinet for approval. Members are asked to note that the Council, in any forum, will not influence either Part A or Part B of the proposed process. However, as the organisation commissioning the Inquiry, the Council would be in breach of their fiduciary duty if they did not retain the right to be briefed on and approve proposals from the CB. Whilst retaining their distance from the process they have the right to be assured that they are getting value for money from the CB.

4.8 The transparent nature of this approval process provides the necessary check and balance to ensure that the Council is not attempting to influence the recruitment of the IC, the terms of reference or the inquiry process.

## **5 PREVIOUS MINUTES**

## **6 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

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**Appendix A – Recruitment Pack**

**Appendix B – Commissioning Body Progress Report**