

CABINET

Decision Notices and Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 17 November at 5.00pm at Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford

PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2016

(DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN: MONDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2016)

Present: Councillors S Davies (Leader and Chair), L D Carter, E A Clare, A R H England, A D McClements, R A Overton, G C W Reynolds, H Rhodes and P R Watling.

Also Present: Councillors A J Eade (Conservative Group Leader)

CB-043 **Apologies for Absence**

CB-044 **Declarations of Interest**

None.

CB-045 **Minutes**

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2016 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

CB-046 **Ensuring Children are Fully Protected in Telford and Wrekin – Getting to Good**

Key Decision identified as Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 19 October 2016.

Reserved for Council

Councillor P R Watling, Cabinet Member: Children, Young People & Communities presented the report of the Director of Children's and Adult Services and Independent Chair of the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board.

The report was presented in response to the motion carried at the Full Council Meeting on 22 September 2016, that the Council:

- Present a comprehensive plan at the November Full Council Meeting demonstrating a clear commitment to the improvement of Children's Services and detail exactly how the Administration intends to raise all Children's Services in the Borough to a minimum standard of 'Good'.
- Present details of measures the current Administration will now introduce to ensure that vulnerable children in the Borough are fully protected in future

and precisely how it will tackle the serious problems currently facing the Borough.

A draft action plan in line with recommendations from the Ofsted Single Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers was appended to the report.

Councillor Watling reported that the Council had always had an organisational priority of protecting vulnerable children and adults within the Borough and it ensured that the right help and interventions were and continued to be provided at the right time for children and families. In working in partnership with other agencies, the Council ensured that children in the Borough were and continued to be fully protected. The relationships were enhanced and supported by the Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board (TWSCB), which provided focussed and effective challenge to the Council and other agencies as well as supporting the Council in its improvement agenda. In the last year the Council had reviewed some key aspects of how children's services operated and implemented plans to improve services.

The report provided background on the Single Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers (SIF) arrangements. The Cabinet noted the major change in scope from previous inspection frameworks, as it covered the whole of children's social care plus a review of Local Safeguarding Children Board. Furthermore, the major change in timescale was acknowledged; previous one or two week inspections with notice had been replaced by month long inspections with 24 hours' notice.

Details of the national context were also provided; 2% (2) of the 116 Local Authorities inspected in England were judged to be 'outstanding', 25% (28) 'good', 49% (54) 'requires improvement' and 24% (26) 'inadequate'. Members were provided with the details of Telford & Wrekin Council's SIF, which took place between 13 June and 7 July 2016. A copy of the report published on 26 August 2016 was appended to the report.

Councillor Watling advised that the overall grading was that "Children's Services in Telford and Wrekin require improvement to be good". Out of the five judgement areas, two were found to be good already (adoption performance and experiences and progress of care leavers). This was the second best performance out of the nine West Midlands local authorities who had been inspected so far. The Cabinet was pleased to note that the inspection had recognised improvements in the quality of services and in the outcomes that children were achieving, commenting on strong leadership of the Director of Children's Services and the senior team, and the effective political backing and hands-on support of the Managing Director.

Councillor Watling went on to note that in the verbal feedback received from the inspection team, it was reported that significant improvements could be seen and that the Council should continue to do what it was doing to achieve consistently good services. Inspectors had found the Council to be self-aware, and the findings from the inspection reflected the strengths and areas for improvement identified in the 'Where We Are' self-assessment document. The Council had also received positive

feedback about the commitment and motivation of staff, and it had been acknowledged that staff felt supported by management at all levels.

In terms of the Council's response to tackling CSE and the role of partners, Ofsted had reported that work with children and young people at risk of sexual exploitation was very strong and Members noted that there had been no recommendations to further improve the Council's work on CSE. It was acknowledged that the Council and the TWSCB already had an action plan in place to continue to improve the work in this area. examples of which were highlighted in the report had acknowledged that the Council had been a champion for tackling CSE, leadership had been provided to partner agencies and the work had been found to be well co-ordinated.

Areas for improvement had been identified by Ofsted; the 11 recommendations were set out in Appendix 2 to the report. Members noted the large reduction on the 34 recommendations from the previous inspection in 2012. Ofsted's recommendations provided for actions to achieve 'Good'.

The Cabinet noted that there had also been a review of the effectiveness of the TWSCB, which was judged to be 'good' and identified 5 recommendations for improvement, details of which were appended to the report.

Councillor Watling noted the clear commitment of the Cabinet, which had recently proposed that three additional posts be funded (1 Senior Social Worker and 2 CSE Practitioners). This would enable the team to have the capacity to proactively be involved in education and raising awareness of CSE with children, families and professionals within the Borough.

Councillor Watling reported that a copy of the first draft of the action plan was attached to the report but that, following a recent meeting with Ofsted, some further refinement would be required prior to submission of the final draft by 5 December. The plan highlighted that some additional resource would be required to achieve the necessary improvements which included some one off and ongoing costs as detailed within the plan.

Following a question received, Councillor Watling reported that refinement of the draft action plan was a normal part of process, the meeting with Ofsted had been positive and reinforced previous comments for the Council to keep doing what it was doing.

Councillor A J Eade requested a copy of the final written submission.

Cabinet particularly welcomed aspects of the report relating to the Council's work with others, noting the importance of work to smooth the transition to adulthood, with particular praise for officers. Cabinet also thanked the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Communities for his dedication and leadership. The Leader informed the Cabinet that he had recently been in discussion with the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the high prioritisation of Child Sex Offences.

RESOLVED that -

- a) the measures to ensure that children in the Borough are fully protected be endorsed;
- b) the power to approve the final action plan be delegated to the Director of Children's and Adult Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People;
- c) the cost of implementing the action plan (£255k) which will be met initially from a combination of service one offs and the Corporate contingency in 2016/17 and will be built into the budget for 2017/18 and ongoing be endorsed.

CB-047 Proposed Consultation on School Organisation Including the Re - Designation of Attendance Areas

Key Decision identified as School Organisation Plan in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 19 October 2016.

Councillor G C W Reynolds, Cabinet Member: Education, Employment and Regeneration presented the report of the Assistant Director: Education and Corporate Parenting which provided details on the school organisation and attendance area consultation, which was proposed to run from 2 December 2017 to 27 January 2017 in line with the statutory requirement for a 6 week term time period of school admissions consultation for academic year 2018/19.

Details on the current position with regard to designated attendance areas for the vast majority of maintained schools and academies were provided. It was reported that whilst these attendance areas did not prevent parents or carers from expressing preference for other schools it was widely accepted that the practice of allocating an attendance area, usually linked to the school's proximity to local housing, helped to determine a range of issues which provided an efficient service for allocating school places. The attendance areas had remained largely unchanged since 2008 and it was proposed that it was a logical time to re-consider this due to new schools built as part of BSF and also the recent upturn in new housing developments.

Details of the implications for primary, secondary and special schools were provided in the report. In particular it was noted that;

- due to potential pressure on places in Newport priority would be given for available places to residents of Newport and its surrounding villages and alternative places would be identified for Muxton pupils elsewhere within the Telford north area which was geographically closer than Newport.
- Telford Priory School would become the attendance area for Muxton residents.
- the Lawley area would become a shared attendance area between Ercall Wood and Telford Langley School.

Councillor G C W Reynolds emphasised that there were sufficient school places across the borough and that the reorganisation did not prevent parents from

exercising their preference for their child to attend an alternative school, but that it would not be incumbent upon the Council to provide home to school transport.

The Cabinet noted that prior to consultation; discussions would be undertaken with key organisations including:

- Specifically affected schools
- Academy sponsors potentially affected by the proposals
- Diocesan representatives affected by the proposals

During the ensuing debate, Members noted that parental preference would be maintained as a result of any changes and that the savings on home to school transport which could be generated by the proposals could be redirected within childrens' services. Discussion took place on the approach to Building School for the Future which had been adopted by the administration and the robustness of the Local Plan.

The Assistant Director: Education and Corporate Parenting was invited to explain the calculation of developer contributions by the School Organisation Team and he noted government legislation which meant that any new school builds had to be designated Free Schools. The EFA had subsequently announced that those areas of the country where the impact of rising populations was such that the Council could not discharge its duty to provide school places would be enabled to build Free Schools. However, this Council was not in a position to claim such support and he believed this was due to the successful planning of the School Organisation Team.

RESOLVED - that

- a) the information relating to the proposed consultation on the changes to attendance contained within this report be noted; and**
- b) authority be delegated to the Assistant Director for Education, Employment & Regeneration to take all required actions and exercise all the Council's relevant powers to enable consultation on agreed issues contained within the report to be undertaken during December 2016 and January 2017.**

CB-048 Pride In Your High Street Update

Key Decision identified as Pride in the High Street in the Notice of Key Decisions published on 19 October 2016.

Councillor G C W Reynolds, Cabinet Member: Education, Employment and Regeneration presented the report of the Assistant Director: Business, Development & Employment, which provided Members with an update on the Pride in Your High Street (PIYHS) fund. The fund of £1m supported physical and social regeneration across our Borough High Streets; recognising the importance of thriving high streets and local centres to strengthen communities and local economies. The fund formed part of the Council's 'business winning and business supporting' agenda.

The Cabinet recalled that the Fund was launched in April 2015 and all nine eligible high streets and local centres submitted successful projects. Promoters had been notified about their successful applications in January 2016 and a number of great projects were now in delivery or had been completed, making a real difference to both the physical environment and vitality of the borough towns. It was clear already that Pride in Your High Street would have a lasting impact. Details of the projects were outlined in the report, including:

- the Newport the Food Frenzy, Carnival and Italian Market
- Social enterprise Wavelength opened 'The Forge' in Wellington
- Business support specialists Good2Great provided training to more than 50 businesses across 6 high streets, helping a wide range of businesses from florists to cafes, hardware shops and accountants.
- 10,000 attended the Oakengates Carnival and with PIYHS funding this would likely become an annual event.
- the Madeley a Band Concert, Queen's Birthday Tea Party and a Victorian fete, achieved the twin objectives of raising the profile of the Anstice and raising funds to pay for the refurbishment of the Ballroom floor.

It was report that at the close of the first bidding round there was an amount of unallocated funding and five high streets which had either experienced a lack of suitable applications, had received no applications for one or other of the elements of the fund or where projects were unable to proceed as a result of changes in circumstances, were each allocated a share of this funding. A second bidding round, open only to those five high streets (Wellington, Donnington, Oakengates, Newport and Dawley) with calls for projects led by the Parish and Town Councils in those areas had so far resulted in an additional eight successful projects supporting high street and local centre regeneration, with a project for Dawley to come forward for evaluation.

A number of physical regeneration projects from the first bidding round were still in delivery. The Council was supporting project sponsors to bring their projects forward as soon as possible, however where projects involve the design and commissioning of physical works, for example, it was likely that these would run beyond the original programme completion date of 31 March 2017. Given the investment being made by project sponsors including private and voluntary groups and the success of projects delivered to date it was proposed that flexibility be provided for extensions in the delivery period to be made, up to March 2018.

Members welcomed the report, particularly, noting the projects which had led to improvements in their own Ward areas and the links to well-being that could be made.

RESOLVED that -

- a) the success of the Pride In Your High Street programme to date be noted;**
- b) authority be delegated to the Managing Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, Employment & Regeneration, to extend**

the deadline for expenditure of Pride in Your High Street grants beyond 31 March 2017; and

- c) the 31 March 2018 be noted as the final deadline for completion of projects and receipt of financial and outcome monitoring information from organisations.**

The meeting ended at 5.38pm

Signed for the purposes of the Decision Notices

Jonathan Eatough
Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning
Date: 23 November 2016

Signed:

Date: