

Cabinet – Supplementary agenda No.1

A meeting of the Cabinet will be held on:

Date: 29 September 2015

Time: 3.00pm

Venue: Civic Room - Level 2, Gun Wharf, Chatham ME4 4TR

Items

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| 4. | Youth Offending Team Strategic Plan 2014 - 2016 Refresh (Policy Framework) Addendum Report | (Pages 3 - 4) |
| 6. | Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Review Report 2015/2016 Addendum Report | (Pages 5 - 6) |

For further information please contact Wayne Hemingway/Anthony Law, Democratic Services Officers on Telephone: 01634 332509/332008 or Email: democratic.services@medway.gov.uk

Date: 25 September 2015



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CABINET

29 SEPTEMBER 2015

YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 - 2016 REFRESH – ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Mike O'Brien, Children's Services

Report from: Barbara Peacock, Director of Children and Adults Services

Author: Keith Gulvin, Youth Offending Team Manager
Teri Reynolds, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

To set out the comments and recommendations of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee following their consideration of the Youth Offending Team Strategic Plan.

1. Background

1.1 The Integrated Youth Support Service Manager introduced the report which outlined the Medway Youth Justice Plan Refresh 2014-16 and he directed the Committee to Appendix C which summarised the significant changes that had been made. He highlighted to the Committee, the full implementations of recommendations to the Youth Offending Team (YOT) following a Serious Case Review, the preventative work being undertaken in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation, work being undertaken in partnership with the Police in relation to risks of urban gangs in Medway area and managing reductions in funding. He also explained that the YOT had been nominated for a national award in relation to the apprenticeship scheme being run at Cookham Wood Young Offenders Institute.

1.2 Members then raised a number of points and questions, including: -

- **YOT's protocol with Police to reduce looked after children's involvement in the criminal justice system** – in response to a question on how effective and useful this protocol had been, officers explained that this was due to be reviewed imminently by officers from the YOT and Children's Social Care and the outcome of this would be reported back to the Corporate Parenting Board.
- **Urban gangs** – in response to a questions about the extent of this problem, officers explained that there was a multi-agency approach in monitoring this issue as there was concern that influential gang

members were settling in Medway from London and developing their own gangs locally.

- **Reduction of funding** – in response to a question about the impact of reduced funding, officers explained that the YOT had received reductions in funding over the last four year period and one of the strategies in managing this reduced budget was to develop closer partnership working with the youth service to have flexibility in its service delivery, with a focus on targeted work

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 The Committee recommended the Cabinet to recommend Council to approve the Youth Justice Plan Refresh 2014-16, as set out at Appendix A to the report.

Lead officer contact

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CABINET

29 SEPTEMBER 2015

TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2015/2016 ADDENDUM REPORT

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alan Jarrett, Leader

Report from: Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer

Author: Jonathan Lloyd, Principal Accountant
Michael Turner, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

To set out the comments and recommendations of the Audit Committee following their consideration of the Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Review Report 2015/2016.

1. Background

- 1.1 Members considered a report regarding the mid year review of the Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16. The report also proposed a change to the strategy to include property funds in the list of approved investments.
- 1.2 With regard to the latter (The Local Authorities Property Fund), Members discussed the volatile state of the global economy and the unlikelihood of interest rates rising. This therefore meant that returns would continue to be very low when compared with the consistent and higher annual yields provided by property funds of the type proposed. The committee were generally supportive of the proposal, although one Member, whilst not against the idea in principle, queried whether this was the right time to make the change given the current economic instability. In order to ensure that the slightly higher risks presented by the product were managed, a £5m counter party limit for such investments was proposed. This was supported by the Committee and the Chief Finance Officer.
- 1.3 One Member expressed some concern as to whether the proposal could potentially be used to undermine the current Constitutional safeguards regarding the capital programme. The Chief Finance Officer replied that the fund was a local authority property fund approved by HM Treasury and confirmed that he would be able to make investments without recourse to Members. He added that direct investment in property and most other property funds would be deemed to be capital expenditure and would still be subject to

the safeguards in the Constitution referred to. The Local Authorities Property Fund was however exempt from these rules.

- 1.4 Some Members asked for further details about the scheme, such as annual and historic returns (over the last 20 years), the scheme's credit rating and which Councils participated in the scheme.
- 1.5 In response to a question, the Chief Finance Officer stated that whilst the proposal represented an increased risk it was a measured risk in light of the likely returns and given the modest sums proposed he did not feel it affected the Council's risk profile significantly.

The Committee agreed to:

- 1) note the report;
- 2) ask Cabinet to recommend to Council the mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy 2015/16, as set out the report;
- 3) ask Cabinet to recommend to Council that the Treasury Management Strategy be revised to add property funds to the list of non-specified investments, subject to a £5m counter-party limit for such investments;
- 4) ask the Chief Finance Officer to provide further details of the property fund scheme/product to Cabinet.

2. Chief Finance Officer's Response

- 2.1 I would endorse the recommendations made by Audit Committee, however given the timescales between the Committee and Cabinet meetings I will resolve to provide the detailed information in relation to the CCLA Local Authorities Property Fund should Council be asked to approve the other recommendations on 15 October 2015.

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