

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 8 August 2017

3pm to 4.16pm

Date of publication: 9 August 2017

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 17 August 2017
The record of decisions is subject to approval at the next meeting of the Cabinet.**

Present:	Councillor Alan Jarrett	Leader of the Council
	Councillor Howard Doe	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services
	Councillor David Brake	Portfolio Holder for Adults' Services
	Councillor Rodney Chambers, OBE	Portfolio Holder for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships
	Councillor Jane Chitty	Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation
	Councillor Phil Filmer	Portfolio Holder for Front Line Services
	Councillor Adrian Gulvin	Portfolio Holder for Resources
	Councillor Andrew Mackness	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services - Lead Member (statutory responsibility, including education)
	Councillor Martin Potter	Portfolio Holder for Educational Attainment and Improvement
	Councillor Rupert Turpin	Portfolio Holder for Business Management
In Attendance:	Joseph Dance, Democratic Services Officer	
	Neil Davies, Chief Executive	
	Ann Domeney, Interim Deputy Director, Children and Adults Services	
	Richard Hicks, Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation	
	Perry Holmes, Chief Legal Officer/Monitoring Officer	
	Helen Jones, Assistant Director – Commissioning, Business and Intelligence	
	Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services	
	Ian Sutherland, Director of Children and Adults Services	
Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer		
James Williams, Director of Public Health		

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Apologies for absence

None.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 11 July 2017 was agreed and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

The record of the urgent decision taken by the Leader on 28 July 2017 was agreed and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

In relation to item 6 on the agenda, Councillor Mackness stated that his wife held a tenancy in 95 High Street, Rochester (The Medway Visitor Information Centre), which he had registered as a disclosable pecuniary interest. Councillor Mackness stated that he would participate in the discussion and vote because he had taken advice from the Monitoring Officer that the matter being considered was not closely aligned to his registered disclosable pecuniary interest.

Other interests

In relation to item 4 on the agenda, Councillor Turpin stated that he was the parent of a disabled child and, as such, accesses some children's services. He said, having discussed this with the Monitoring Officer, he considered he could participate in the discussion and vote on the matter.

Transformation of Early Help Services - Outcome of the Consultation and Business Case

Background:

The Cabinet accepted this report as urgent to enable consideration of the outcome of consultation, the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the business case prior to making a final decision on the way forward at the earliest possible time in the light of the budget agreed by Full Council on 23 February 2017.

This report provided details of the outcome of the Transformation of Early Help Services' public consultation carried out between 31 May and 12 July 2017. It also provided an overview of the business case, which analysed all the counter proposals together with the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The report stated that the consultation captured a broad range of views and included ten public consultation meetings, five meetings with professional representatives from education and health, a direct e-mail address for comments, 19 meetings at

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existing centres with staff and users and an online and paper based survey. The consultation process was summarised in paragraph 3 of the report and the outcome of consultation was set out in Appendix 2 to the report. In addition, a petition was submitted to Full Council, details of which were set out in paragraph 3.10 of the report. The Lead Petitioner addressed the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in accordance with the Petition Scheme, details of which were set out in paragraph 6 of the report.

The Business Case examined each option (A-G) and recommended that Option G (Children and Family Hub and Children and Family Wellbeing Centres) be implemented, as detailed in section 5 of the report.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the proposals, as set out in Appendix 3 to the report.

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services asked for his thanks to the officers who had organised the consultation exercise and analysis of outcomes to be placed on record.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

The Cabinet noted the outcome of the consultation, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

The Cabinet noted the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in section 6 of the report.

79/2017 The Cabinet approved the option to establish four integrated Family and Children Hubs (Designated Children's Centres) and nine Children and Family Wellbeing Centres as set out in the Business Case (Appendix 1 to the report).

80/2017 The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Children and Adults Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member), to decide the final location of the Children and Family Hubs and Children and Family Wellbeing Centres within the agreed capital budget.

Reasons:

The agreed option will allow Medway Council to continue to deliver flexible and effective Early Help services within a significantly diminished revenue budget. Creation of four new Family Hubs will allow the extension of services to a wider range of families. The proposed model delivers the most effective and far-reaching service within the reduced budget envelope.

Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017-19

Background:

This report provided details of the background to Medway Council's Homelessness Prevention Strategy 2017-19, the consultation process, and the refinement of the strategy based on feedback received.

The report set out the background to the review process, which was undertaken between June – August 2016, following which the Strategy was drafted and was subject to consultation between March 2017-April 2017. The outcome of consultation was summarised in paragraph 2.5 of the report and detailed in Appendix 2 to the report.

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 6 July 2017 and its comments were set out in section 6 of the report.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the Strategy, as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

Decision number:

The Cabinet noted the comments of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in paragraph 6 of the report.

81/2017 The Cabinet approved the Homelessness Prevention Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Reasons:

Approval of the Strategy will allow Medway Council to meet the legal requirements of the Homelessness Act 2002.

Corporate Property Strategy 2017-2022

Background:

This report provided details of the Corporate Property Strategy 2017-2022. The Strategy set out the broad aims of the Council in the management of an extensive and varied portfolio which included 157 operational buildings, 682 operational sites (including 71 Car parks, 506 parks and greenspaces), 40 shops and business centres, 3 major regeneration sites, 3 civic amenity sites, 13 cemeteries and a crematorium.

The broad aims of the Strategy included rationalisation of surplus estate and better space utilisation, as well as a series of key actions to be delivered over the medium

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term together with the aim to realise £20 million of capital receipts over the life of the Strategy.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the Strategy, as set out in Appendix B to the report.

Decision number: **Decision:**

82/2017 **The Cabinet approved the Corporate Property Strategy 2017-2022 as set out in Appendix A to the report.**

Reasons:

To enable a co-ordinated approach to estate management that encourages partnership working and joint local estate solutions.

Outcomes of Statutory Consultation for the Proposed Prescribed Alterations at St Mary's Island Church of England Primary School

Background:

This report provided details of the outcomes of the formal consultation (statutory representation) period on the Council's proposals to enlarge the premises and change the lower age limit at St Mary's Island CE Primary School, by way of statutory prescribed alterations.

At the Cabinet meeting on 4 April 2017, the Cabinet had authorised the Director of Children and Adults Services to commence the formal consultation stage of the statutory process (decision no. 35/2017 refers). This took place over a five-week period between 15 May and 18 June 2017. There were three responses to the formal consultation, including one formal objection on the issues of parking, traffic and children coming from off St Mary's Island. These objections were responded to in paragraphs 5.8 and 5.9 of the report.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the proposals, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

Decision number: **Decision:**

83/2017 **The Cabinet noted the responses to the formal and informal consultations, together with the advice and analysis from officers and approved the proposals:**

- (i) For the enlargement of the Premises at St Mary's Island CE Primary School to provide adequate accommodation for the additional children who will attend the school as a result of an increase in the**

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Published Admission number (PAN) from 60 to 90;

- (ii) **To lower the age limit from four to two to enable the school to operate a nursery class.**

For implementation from 1 September 2018.

Reasons:

Where an objection has been made during formal consultation to the proposals for prescribed alterations to a School, the Cabinet must consider the objection(s) and decide whether to approve the proposals.

Approval to proceed with the proposals will ensure that the Council meets its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2017/18 - Quarter 1

Background:

This report detailed the revenue budget forecasts as at the end of June 2017. The report noted that, after management action, the forecast outturn for 2017/18 was a potential overspend of £1.909m, with an expectation that this figure would be reduced further as the financial year progressed.

The report set out an explanation of the pressures being faced and the corrective management action proposed by directorate management teams.

Decision number: **Decision:**

84/2017 **The Cabinet noted the result of the first round of revenue monitoring for 2017/18 and agreed the forecast position and proposed management action.**

Reasons

Cabinet has the responsibility to ensure effective budgetary control to contain expenditure within the approved limits set by Council.

Capital Budget Monitoring 2017/18 - Quarter 1

Background

This report presented the capital monitoring information for the first quarter of the financial year, including outturn forecasts and reference to any new schemes for approval. The approved capital programme for 2017/18, and future years, was £78.305m, comprising £64.526m in respect of brought forward schemes and £13,779m of new approvals.

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Decision number: **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the additional funding identified in section 4 of the report, to be added to the programme in quarter 2 under the Chief Finance Officer's delegation.

The Cabinet noted the spending forecasts summarised at Table 1 in the report.

Reasons

Cabinet has the responsibility to ensure effective budgetary control to contain expenditure within the approved limits set by Council.

Recruitment Freeze

Background:

This report presented information on vacancies that officers had requested approval to commence recruitment for, following the process agreed by Cabinet on 7 January 2003 (decision number 9/2003).

Details of the posts were set out within Appendix 1 to the report.

Decision number: **Decision:**

85/2017 The Cabinet agreed to unfreeze the following posts, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report and tabled at the meeting:

Business Support Department

- a) Audit and Counter Fraud Officer
- b) Head of Audit and Counter Fraud
- c) Lawyer, Planning and Licensing, Place Team, Legal Services
- d) Principal Lawyer, Place Team, Legal Services

Children and Adults

- e) Programme Lead (Children's Services Transformation)
- f) Finance Assistant
- g) Senior Commissioning Officer

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- h) Complex Care Coordinator**
- i) Executive Support Assistant X 2**
- j) Placement Officer (Children)**
- k) Project Manager (Adults Social Care Improvement Programme)**

Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation

- l) Work Programme Job Broker Advisor X 2**
- m) Press Officer.**

Reasons:

The posts presented to Cabinet would support the efficient running of the Council.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

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