

COUNCIL

25 JANUARY 2018

LEADER'S REPORT

Councillor Alan Jarrett, Leader of the Council, will give a report on key developments since the last ordinary Council meeting on 12 October 2017.

He will include:

- Outcome of the Corporate Peer Challenge
- Decisions made by the Cabinet on 24 October 2017, 21 November 2017, 19 December 2017 and 16 January 2018.

Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 24 October 2017

3.00pm to 3.55pm

Date of publication: 25 October 2017

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 2 November 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 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 Martin Potter	Portfolio Holder for Educational Attainment and Improvement
	Councillor Rupert Turpin	Portfolio Holder for Business Management

In Attendance: Neil Davies, Chief Executive
Richard Hicks, Director Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive
Perry Holmes, Chief Legal Officer/Monitoring Officer
Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services
Jade Milnes, Democratic Services Officer
Ian Sutherland, Director of Children and Adults Services
Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Brake (Adults' Services) and Councillor Andrew Mackness (Children's Services – Lead Member).

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 26 September 2017 was agreed and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

Response to DCLG Consultation "Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places"

Background:

This report set out Medway Council's proposed response to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) consultation "Planning for the right homes in the right places".

The report articulated the Council's concerns and foreseeable implications in relation to the proposed changes to the Planning System. In particular, the report drew attention to the suggested introduction of a standard method for calculating Local Authorities' housing need and a statement of common ground over the housing market area, as well as proposed changes to planning application fees and the approach to viability assessments.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation proposed some amendments to the recommendations, set out in Section 8, of the report to strengthen the Cabinet's opposition to the proposals from DCLG which would increase the number of houses to be delivered within Medway to unacceptable and undeliverable levels.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 114/2017 | The Cabinet agreed that this report be sent to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) as Medway Council's formal response to concerns about the proposals contained in the consultation. |
| 115/2017 | The Cabinet agreed that the response to the direct questions in the consultation, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be finalised by the Director, Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation and Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships. |
| 116/2017 | The Cabinet instructed officers to work with other Kent Authorities and Kent Planning Officer Groups (KPOG) to |

Cabinet, 24 October 2017

promote joint responses expressing similar concerns to those set out in the report and Appendix 1 to the report.

- 117/2017** The Cabinet strongly requested that the three Medway MPs seek a meeting with the Secretary of State on behalf of Medway to express clearly the concerns of Medway and other Kent Authorities about the proposals in this consultation.
- 118/2017** The Cabinet instructed the Leader and Chief Executive to raise the concerns of Medway at their various Kent and Medway Group meetings and to promote similar joint responses to the consultation.
- 119/2017** The Cabinet recognised the need for housing, but cannot and will not support the Government proposals which increase the number of houses to be delivered within Medway to unacceptable and undeliverable levels.

Reasons:

Medway Council is concerned about the recommendations contained within the consultation and specifically the standard methodology for calculating housing need. The consequences of the recommendations within the consultation are set out in the body of the report and in the responses to the questions in Appendix 1 to the report.

The standard methodology recommended produces a housing target for Medway and other Kent Authorities that is not only unachievable but would have serious and unacceptable implications for infrastructure and the valued and nationally and internationally protected landscape within Medway.

The Interface Land Development Brief

Background:

This report presented the draft Interface Land Development Brief for consultation, as set out in Appendix A to the report. The Development Brief would update the Interface Land Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) approved by Cabinet on 19 October 2010 (decision no. 174/2010 refers).

The report explained that the draft Development Brief responded to changing economic and planning circumstances and would enable the development of the sites, located in the former Naval Base in Chatham to be brought forward.

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

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

120/2017

The Cabinet agreed to a programme of public consultation as set in section 3.2 of the report on the Interface Land Development Brief at Appendix A to the report.

121/2017

The Cabinet agreed:

- a) To delegate authority to the Director Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation and Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships to consider the outcome of the public consultation and agree the final version of the Interface Land Development Brief should no material issues be raised during the public consultation.
- b) That should material issues be raised during the public consultation, Cabinet will consider the outcome of the public consultation and agree the final version of the Interface Land Development Brief.

Reasons:

The updated Development Brief has been produced in light of the changing economic and planning circumstances and will provide developers and investors with clear guidance in relation to the development potential for the area.

Medway Commercial Group Limited 2017/2018 Six Monthly Report

Background:

This report provided details of Medway Commercial Group Limited's (MCG) achievements and performance over the preceding six months, and its plans for future growth and development.

In particular, the report stated that MCG was on target to achieve its agreed accumulated savings for the next two financial years, with a predicted surplus of £254,000 for this financial year (2017/18). In addition there had been key successes in relation to Telecare Services, business development relationships and the integration of TUPE transfers from Schools Traded Services, Governor Services and the Human Resources Team.

Cabinet, 24 October 2017

Decision number: **Decision:**

The Cabinet noted the achievements and performance of Medway Commercial Group Limited (MCG) for the first six months of 2017/18, as detailed in the report.

Reasons:

When Cabinet agreed to establish the Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) it was also agreed that regular monitoring reports would be provided to Cabinet.

Recruitment Freeze

Background:

This report presented information on vacancies that officers had requested approval to commence recruitment for, following the process agreed by the 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:**

122/2017 The Cabinet agreed to unfreeze the following posts, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Business Support Department

- a) Locum Childcare Lawyer**
- b) Locum Adults Lawyer**
- c) Senior Valuation Surveyor x2**

Reasons:

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

.....
Leader of the Council

.....
Date

Wayne Hemingway/Jade Milnes, Democratic Services Officers

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Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 21 November 2017

3.00pm to 4.49pm

Date of publication: 22 November 2017

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 30 November 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: Neil Davies, Chief Executive
Ann Domeney, Deputy Director, Children and Adults Services
Wayne Hemingway, Democratic Services Officer
Richard Hicks, Director Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive
Perry Holmes, Chief Legal Officer/Monitoring Officer
Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services
Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer
James Williams, Director of Public Health

Leader's Announcement

The Leader welcomed Councillor David Renard, Leader of Swindon Borough Council, to the meeting. Councillor Renard was part of the Review Team which was currently undertaking a Corporate Peer Challenge at Medway.

Apologies for absence

There were none.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 24 October 2017 was agreed and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other interests

Councillor Turpin declared an interest in agenda items 8 (Special Educational Needs Transport Budget, Proposed Home to School Transport Policy Changes and Associated Consultation) and 9 (Special Educational Needs Capital Programme) because he has a family member who is in receipt of Special Educational Needs (SEN) home to school transport. He left the room during consideration of these items.

Draft Capital and Revenue Budget 2018/19

Background:

This report provided an update on progress towards setting the Council's draft capital and revenue budgets for 2018/2019. It was noted that the draft budget was based on the principles contained in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2017/2022, which had been approved by Cabinet on 26 September 2017 and reflected the latest formula grant assumptions. Draft budget requirements for the directorates in 2018/2019 were set out in Appendices 1-4 to the report.

It was reported that there was a £4.101m revenue budget deficit for 2018/2019, increasing to £17.715m by 2021/2022 which would need to be addressed through the budget setting process. Whilst officers had been working with Portfolio Holders to formulate savings proposals to address the projected revenue budget deficit, none of this work had progressed sufficiently to be reflected in the draft budget proposals.

In relation to the capital programme, it was reported that the existing programme, totalling £92.002m, for the next three years, reflected planned capital expenditure over the medium term and incorporated everything currently known about capital grant allocations.

In accordance with the Constitution, this report was the first stage of the budget consultation process leading to further consideration by Cabinet on 6 February 2018 and formal budget and council tax setting by Council on 22 February 2018. Budget

Cabinet, 21 November 2017

proposals would now be submitted to the Council's overview and scrutiny committees.

Decision number: **Decision:**

123/2017 **The Cabinet instructed officers to continue to work with Portfolio Holders in formulating robust proposals to balance the budget for 2018/19 and beyond.**

124/2017 **The Cabinet agreed to refer the draft capital and revenue budgets to overview and scrutiny committees as work in progress, inviting them to offer comments on the proposals outlined.**

Reasons:

It is the responsibility of Cabinet to develop draft budget proposals for consideration by overview and scrutiny committees. These draft proposals are the first stage of the budget consultation process leading to further consideration by Cabinet on 6 February 2018 and formal council tax setting by Council on 22 February 2018.

The timetable for consideration by overview and scrutiny is as follows:

Business Support	30 November 2017
Children and Young People	5 December 2017
Regeneration, Culture and Environment	7 December 2017
Health and Adult Social Care	14 December 2017
Business Support	30 January 2018
Cabinet	6 February 2018
Council	22 February 2018

Public Consultation of Strood Waterfront Development Brief 2017

Background:

This report provided details of the draft 2017 Strood Waterfront Development Brief, which had been prepared for consultation. The report stated that the Council had adopted a Strood Riverside Development Brief in 2006, setting out the design principles and guidelines for land to the north of the railway line, along Canal Road, and how development could come forward on the site. There had been considerable changes, both locally and nationally since 2006 and this policy basis needed to be updated to reflect current conditions and opportunities.

The report stated that the updated policy would support the Council's ambitions to realise the regeneration opportunities presented by the sites in Strood. This could secure investment and deliver high quality development that would boost the area's economic, environmental and community wellbeing.

Cabinet, 21 November 2017

The report also provided details of the proposed consultation process. It was noted that a Diversity Impact Assessment would be carried out during the consultation stage.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

- 125/2017** **The Cabinet approved option 1 (consultation on the proposed Strood Waterfront Development Brief 2017, with the intent it will become a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)), as set out in section 3 and 6 of the report and to consider the outcome of the public consultation, by way of a report back to Cabinet to agree the final version of the SPD.**
- 126/2017** **The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Inward Investment, Strategic Regeneration and Partnerships and Planning, Economic Growth and Regulation, to approve any necessary minor amendments to the draft Strood Waterfront Development Brief 2017.**

Reasons:

Publicly consulting on the Strood Waterfront Development Brief 2017 is necessary in order for the Development Brief to be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document, forming part of the Council's development plan, and allow the marketing of the sites at Riverside and Civic to proceed and bring forward homes at pace.

6 Monthly Review of the Council's Corporate Business Risk Register and Annual Review of the Strategic Risk Framework

Background:

This report provided details of the six monthly review of the Council's Corporate Business Risk Register and the annual review of the Strategic Risk Framework. It was noted that the strategy was reviewed annually to ensure that it remained up-to-date and continued to reflect the Council's approach to risk management. In addition, the Corporate Risk Register, which accompanied the strategy, ensured that all relevant key risks were recorded and this was reviewed and managed every six months by both management and Members.

The report set out details of the Risk Management Audit which had been carried out in August 2017, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report.

The report set out the comments of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in paragraph 7 of the report.

Cabinet, 21 November 2017

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the comments of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in section 7 of the report.

127/2017

The Cabinet approved the amendments to the Council's Risk Register as detailed in section 3 and Appendices A and B to the report, subject to a change to the risk rating of Transformation from C2 to B2 and any consequential changes to Appendices A and B to the report.

128/2017

The Cabinet approved the revised Risk Management Framework as set out in Appendix C to the report.

Reasons:

The establishment of a corporate framework for risk management is recommended by CIPFA and SOLACE and will complement and support the work already being carried out within each directorate to manage risks.

English Heritage Local Management Agreement Renewal

Background:

This report provided details of the proposed renewal of the Local Management Agreement (LMA) with English Heritage for the operation and maintenance of Rochester Castle, Upnor Castle and Temple Manor for a five year period.

The report set out details of the draft heads of terms following discussions between the Council and English Heritage, which would cap the Council's commitment to £500,000 for the five year period (a maximum of £100,000 per annum). The report also set out details of the Council's proposed contribution of £80,000 towards the recent repair of the perimeter wall of Upnor Castle.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

129/2017

The Cabinet approved option B (renewal of the Local Management Agreement (LMA) with English Heritage on amended terms), as set out in paragraph 2.6 and 3.1(B) of the report.

130/2017

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community Services, to conclude negotiations and finalise the LMA, including the draft amended Heads of Terms, with

Cabinet, 21 November 2017

English Heritage subject to Full Council approval of the funding. However, should negotiations not be concluded on best terms then a report will be brought back to Cabinet accordingly.

131/2017 The Cabinet recommended to Full Council to approve a capital payment of £80,000 to English Heritage, as Medway Council's contribution to wall repairs undertaken at Upnor Castle.

The Cabinet noted that the Council's contribution of £500,000, capped at £100,000 per annum, under the draft amended Heads of Terms for the amended LMA will be considered as part of the Council's budget setting process, subject to the Council's contribution being matched by English Heritage.

Reasons:

The amended LMA will set out a binding service level agreement with English Heritage, providing a structured programme for the operation and maintenance of three historic properties in Medway and budgetary certainty.

The proposed capital payment of £80,000 recognises Medway's commitment to the maintenance of the Upnor Castle wall, while significantly reducing the original sum being requested. The proposed capital contribution of £500,000, over five years, capped at £100,000 per annum, recognises Medway's commitment to the ongoing management of these important heritage properties, in line with the Council Plan.

Special Educational Needs Transport Budget, Proposed Home to School Transport Policy Changes and Associated Consultation

Background:

This report provided details of a proposal to consult on changes to Medway's SEN Home to School Transport Policy to increase the flexibility of options, support potential cashable savings and cost avoidance and ensure spend would remain within the budget envelope.

The report provided details of the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) survey on home to school transport spend in 2015/16, the findings of which, in relation to Medway, were set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

The report also provided details of the proposed specific changes which would be subject to consultation, as set out in section 4 of the report.

Cabinet, 21 November 2017

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

132/2017

The Cabinet agreed to a 6 week consultation period commencing in December 2017 on changes to Special Educational Needs (SEN) Transport Policy as set out in section 4 to the report. The Medway Parents and Carers Forum will be invited to assist in facilitating this process in line with the Partnership Agreement endorsed by Cabinet in September 2017. Feedback will be reported through the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 March 2017 for further consideration and decision by Cabinet on 10 April 2017.

Reasons:

Changes are required in relation to the fulfilment of the Council's statutory duties to provide travel assistance to pupils with Special Educational Needs. This is in order to ensure financial sustainability. An open consultation process will help to inform the viability and acceptability of the proposed changes to parents and carers in receipt of travel assistance.

Special Educational Needs Capital Programme

Background:

This report provided details of the proposed Special Educational Needs (SEN) Capital Programme for the central government funding initiative, which would fund capital projects to support special educational provision in the local authority. Details of the criteria were set out in the report.

The report stated that Medway had been allocated £459,000 per annum between 2018-2020, totalling £1,377,000. It was anticipated that the first tranche of funding would not be received until the summer of 2018 subject to satisfactory completion of consultation.

Diversity Impact Assessments would be provided for individual proposals brought forward as a result of actions from this report.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

133/2017

The Cabinet authorised officers to commence the development of a programme of work meeting the criteria set out in the report in sections 2.2-2.4 and 3.1, and the consultation process, as set out in paragraph 2.5 and section 6 of the report.

Cabinet, 21 November 2017

134/2017 **The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Children and Adult Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services (Lead Member), to approve the programme following the period of consultation and to commence the design and tender process for the programme within the available budget and following the Council’s procurement processes.**

Reasons:

By following the process as set out Cabinet will be ensuring that the Council satisfies the criteria set by central government for the funding.

By approving the recommendations for projects included within the programme, Cabinet is ensuring that appropriate and sufficient SEN places are available to meet a variety of increasing demand.

Provisional Funding Formula for Mainstream Schools and Academies 2018-2019

Background:

This report advised the Cabinet that officers had formulated and consulted upon the 2018-19 schools and academies draft funding arrangements and set out the recommended changes to Medway’s mainstream schools and academies funding formula. The consultation had included three funding formula options which had been presented to the Schools Forum, as set out in section 3 of the report.

The Cabinet noted that during the consultation the Schools Forum had provisionally agreed to the implementation of funding formula option three (to use a Local Funding Formula which is moving towards the National Funding Formula).

It was noted that the Cabinet would receive a further report on 16 January 2018 which would set out proposals for the final funding formula, which would be updated to reflect the 2017 school census data.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

135/2017 **The Cabinet instructed officers to implement the 2018-19 provisional funding formula (option 3) and to note that the Schools Forum will recommend approval of the final funding formula to Cabinet on 16 January 2018.**

Reasons:

The local authority is required to implement the funding formula changes from 2018-19 in accordance with the regulations and to inform the Education Skills Funding Agency.

Update Regarding the Regional Adoption Agency

Background:

This report provided details of an update on progress to develop a Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) in line with the Government's expectations for Adoption Services and Cabinet decision 124/2016, on 25 October 2016, which, agreed in principle, to enter into formal dialogue, with a view to the establishment of the RAA with the local authority partners, London Borough of Bexley and Kent County Council, subject to formal agreement from the Cabinet on the findings.

The report stated that the three local authorities had increased partnership working to meet the longer term plan to implement an RAA. To date, the plan had not secured government funding to support this development, therefore, this was being completed within existing resources.

The report also provided details of key areas which had been progressed since October 2016 including new governance arrangements, undertaking of financial benchmarking to understand budget allocation, partnership working to ascertain agreed financial principles and integrating social work practice with shared policies and procedures.

Decision number:

The Cabinet noted the update report on the progress to develop a Regional Adoption Agency.

Reasons:

To enable continued partnership working with Kent County Council and the London Borough of Bexley to progress the development of a Regional Adoption Agency in line with the Government's expectations for Adoption Services.

Revenue Budget Monitoring 2017/2018 - Quarter 2

Background:

This report detailed the revenue budget forecasts as at the end of quarter 2 (September 2017). The report noted that, after management action, the forecast outturn for 2017/18 was a potential overspend of £1.507m, 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.

Cabinet, 21 November 2017

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

136/2017

The Cabinet noted the result of the second 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 2017/2018 - Quarter 2

Background

This report presented the capital monitoring information for the second quarter of the financial year, including outturn forecasts and reference to any new schemes. The approved capital programme for 2017/18, and future years, was £92.002m.

The report provided details of new schemes and virements, as set out in section 4 of the report.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

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.

Council Plan Performance Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2017/18

Background:

This report summarised the performance of the Council's Measures of Success for July-September (quarter 2) 2017/18 as set out in the Council Plan.

The report and accompanying appendix included progress reports on performance in quarter 2 2017/18 against the Council's three priorities using 40 measures of success and 13 programmes which supported the priorities.

However, this report only included information on 29 measures of success as 11 of these were either data only, or data was not expected until after the report was published.

Cabinet, 21 November 2017

The report highlighted the following:

Council Plan measures of success:

- 69% on target; and
- 53% improved over the long term.

Examples of new achievements in quarter 2 included:

- £3.7 million Local Growth Funding – successfully secured for Rochester Airport Technology Park;
- £200,000 Controlling Migration Funding – successfully secured;
- All 15 business units let – new Innovation Studios, Strood;
- Eastgate House – Grade 1 listed Elizabethan Town House – opened – July;
- New state of the art Medway Archive Centre opened – July;
- 312 private sector properties improved due to Medway intervention (target: 100)
- 7 sites awarded Green Flag status – July;
- 1st Schools' Emotional and Wellbeing Conference – July – 100 attendees;
- 4th annual Healthy Weight Summit – 6 July – over 25 partner agencies attended; and
- 2 'Big Lunch' events – promoting social connectedness among communities.

Examples of performance improvements included:

- 84.9% (62) primary schools judged 'good' or better compared with 83.1% (59) in Q1;
- Biggest improvement in health visiting coverage of any authority in the South East since transition;
- 57.3% achieved required standard (reading, writing, maths) KS2 compared with 49% in 2015/16;
- 50% of adults with learning difficulties in settled accommodation compared with 48.4% in Q1.

Cabinet Members highlighted a number of successes within their portfolios.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

The Cabinet noted the quarter 2 2017/18 performance against the measures of success used to monitor progress against the Council's priorities.

Reasons:

Regular monitoring of performance by management and Members is best practice and ensures achievement of corporate objectives.

Cabinet, 21 November 2017

Recruitment Freeze

Background:

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

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

Decision number: **Decision:**

137/2017 **The Cabinet agreed to unfreeze the following post, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.**

Business Support Department

a) Political Assistant to Labour Group.

Reasons:

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

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Leader of the Council

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Date

Wayne Hemingway/Jade Milnes, Democratic Services Officers

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Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 19 December 2017

3.00pm to 4.07pm

Date of publication: 20 December 2017

**Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 3 January 2018
The record of decisions is subject to approval at the next meeting of the Cabinet**

Present:	Councillor Alan Jarrett	Leader of the Council
	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 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:	Neil Davies, Chief Executive	
	Perry Holmes, Chief Legal Officer/Monitoring Officer	
	Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services	
	Tomasz Kozlowski, Assistant Director, Physical and Cultural Regeneration	
	Jade Milnes, Democratic Services Officer	
	Ian Sutherland, Director of Children and Adults Services	
	James Williams, Director of Public Health	

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Brake (Adults' Services), Howard Doe (Deputy Leader and Housing and Community Services) and Phil Filmer (Front Line Services).

Cabinet, 19 December 2017

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 21 November 2017 was agreed and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Background:

This report provided details of the outcome of the consultation on the proposed changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), as agreed by the Cabinet on 11 July 2017.

The proposals consulted on were:

- making amendments to mirror changes to the national housing benefit regulations and prescribed requirements for pension age CTRS claim;
- making amendments in preparation for the full roll out of Universal Credit;
- making amendments for other welfare reforms; and
- introduction of a de-minimus limit.

The report stated that the consultation took place from 11 August 2017 to 6 November 2017. Letters were sent to 20,821 households (all 18,121 CTRS recipients and a random sample of 2,700 non recipients) inviting them to participate in the consultation. The Council received 485 survey questionnaires in response, details of which were set out in paragraphs 3.1.5 and 3.1.6 of the report.

The report concluded that the CTRS should be amended to reflect all those changes consulted upon and summarised in paragraphs 3.1.5 and 3.1.6 of the report, as the need to align all schemes outweighed the arguments for not doing so. The recommendation was also made in the knowledge that the Discretionary Council Tax Relief scheme existed to protect any individuals for whom payment of council tax was causing hardship.

A Diversity Impact Assessment had been undertaken on the proposals as detailed in paragraph 3.6 of the report and Appendix B to the report.

Cabinet, 19 December 2017

Decision number:

Decision:

138/2017

The Cabinet recommended the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to Council for adoption on 25 January 2018, including the amendments to the Scheme set out in paragraph 3.10 of the report.

139/2017

The Cabinet agreed to amend the risk rating for likelihood of an effect on collection, as set out in section 4 of the report from B (High) to D (Low).

Reasons:

The amended scheme continues to balance the need for supporting those currently in receipt of CTRS and the ability of the Council to fund the scheme within the current budgetary constraints.

The changes will align the working-age scheme with the pensioner scheme and other welfare benefits.

The Council's Council Tax Discretionary Relief scheme provides additional support in the case of hardship.

School Admission Arrangements 2019

Background:

This report provided details of the outcome of the consultation on the co-ordinated admission schemes and arrangements for primary and secondary schools for September 2019.

The proposed changes to primary and secondary admissions were set out in paragraph 3 of the report. The Council had received one response to the consultation. This representation agreed with the proposals.

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 5 December 2017 and its comments were set out in paragraph 7 of the report. The Cabinet asked for it to be placed on record that the second sentence of paragraph 7.2.1 of the report should read as follows:

'The Programme Lead - School Services noted that under the Greenwich Judgement, priority could **not** be given to Medway children over Kent children and unless there was an ease of access area, distance would be the prevailing criterion.'

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

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

The Cabinet noted the outcome of the consultation process as set out in section 6 to the report and the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in Section 7 to the report.

140/2017

The Cabinet approved the proposed 2019 admissions arrangements and schemes set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

Reasons:

The Council is required to undertake a detailed consultation exercise prior to the determination of its school admission arrangements and schemes. The decisions take into account the response from consultation.

Overnight Short Breaks Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities - Outcome of the Consultation and Business Case

Background:

This report provided results of the recent consultation concerning the proposed relocation of overnight short break services from Aut Even to Parklands and also provided a business case which demonstrated how the relocation would be beneficial to all stakeholders.

The Cabinet had agreed to consult on the proposals on 4 April 2017. The outcome of consultation was summarised in section 4 of the report and full details were set out in Appendix 1 to the report. It was noted that 27 questionnaires were returned and 12 people had attended open meetings. The report stated that there were not any overwhelming issues to prevent the proposals being taken forward.

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 5 December 2017 and its comments were set out in section 8 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:

The Cabinet noted the outcome of the consultation process, as set out in section 4 and Appendix 1 of the report and the comments of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as set out in section 8 to the report.

Cabinet, 19 December 2017

- 141/2017** The Cabinet agreed to relocate the Overnight Short Breaks Service from Aut Even to Parklands, as set out in the business case at Appendix 3 of the report, subject to approval of the proposals by Medway Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 142/2017** The Cabinet agreed to a further report being presented to the Cabinet setting out the business case for the future use of Aut Even in more detail, which will include potential use for supported accommodation and other options.
- 143/2017** The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Director, Children and Adults Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member), to consider and authorise the provision of a seventh room at Parklands, if this is feasible and can be contained within existing budget provision.

Reasons:

This decision will ensure that Medway is able to improve the support it provides to children with disabilities and their families.

Providing early support and low level intervention will reduce the need for emergency and long term placements and can contribute towards cost savings across a range of services.

The decision to move the overnight short breaks service from Aut Even to Parklands will enhance the service currently provided and enable the service to expand, thereby providing additional support to children with disabilities and their families. Any changes to the service will need to be approved by the Cabinet and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, as it is a jointly funded provision.

Sufficiency Statement 2017

Background:

This report provided details of the annual refresh of the statutory Sufficiency Statement. This detailed how Medway Council, through working with all its partner agencies, would meet the placement needs of current and future Children in Care and Care Leavers, and improve their outcomes in light of the Council's understanding of their needs and current provision.

The report stated that after peaking in 2015, the numbers of new Looked After Children had reduced across all age groups except the cohort aged 16+. However, the numbers in the 16+ age group were so small that any fluctuation was highly visible and did not indicate any particular trend. It was concluded, therefore, that overall, the numbers of new entrants into care was reducing in line with the policy of strengthening families and building resilience in the community.

Cabinet, 19 December 2017

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 5 December 2017 and its comments were set out in section 6 of the report.

Decision number: **Decision:**

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

The Cabinet noted the updated Medway Sufficiency Report 2016/2017, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

Reasons:

Publication of the updated Sufficiency Strategy will enable the Council to fulfill its statutory requirement to take steps to secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient accommodation for Children in Care within the local area and will enable Medway to act strategically to address gaps in provision.

Annual Report - Fostering Service

Background:

This report provided details of the work completed by the Medway Council Fostering Service over the last year. It also set out how the in-house Fostering Service had met the needs of Medway's Looked After Children and established the work planned for the following year.

The report covered fully the service and its development in 2016/17, and provided a number of highlights, as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

The Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 5 December 2017 and its comments were set out in section 6 of the report.

Decision number: **Decision:**

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

The Cabinet noted the Fostering Service Annual Report 2016-17, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report and commended the Fostering Service for its achievements.

Reasons:

The National Minimum Standards for Fostering (2011) require that Fostering Agencies report the activity of the fostering service to its governing bodies.

Local Plan: Authority Monitoring Report

Background:

This report provided details of the annual Medway Authority Monitoring Report (MAMR) and included an assessment of development trends and wider social, economic and environmental indicators, together with progress on the preparation of a new Medway Local Plan.

The report provided highlights of the MAMR, further details of which were set out in Volume 1 (Appendix 1 to the report). Appendix 2 to the report provided details of the Medway Local Aggregate Assessment 2016.

Decision number:

144/2017 The Cabinet approved the 2017 Medway Authority Monitoring Report for publication.

Reasons:

To comply with the duty to compile and publish a planning monitoring report.

Innovation Park Medway Delivery Board

Background:

This report provided details of the proposed establishment of the Innovation Park Medway Delivery Board as a Cabinet Advisory Group.

The report stated that the establishment of the Innovation Park Medway Delivery Board was a requirement under the North Kent Enterprise Zone Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. As such, it was proposed that the remit of the board, constituted as a Cabinet Advisory Group would be to:

- keep under review strategies to regenerate the Rochester Airport site;
- coordinate regeneration initiatives, projects and funding streams related to Innovation Park Medway and the Rochester Airport site;
- make recommendations on external funding opportunities;
- ensure all appropriate development opportunities are appraised and pursued as appropriate;
- progress development of Innovation Park Medway as appropriate; and
- ensure a positive message regarding Innovation Park Medway is effectively communicated.

The report also stated that recommendations would either be implemented under existing officer delegations or referred for decision by the Council, Leader and Cabinet or other Committees as appropriate and in accordance with legal and constitutional provisions.

Cabinet, 19 December 2017

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

145/2017

The Cabinet approved the establishment of the Innovation Park Medway Delivery Board as a Cabinet Advisory Group, with the Terms of Reference and proposed membership, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

146/2017

The Cabinet agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to finalise the membership of the Innovation Park Medway Delivery Board, in consultation with the Leader.

Reasons:

An Innovation Park Medway Delivery Board will provide improved coordination and oversee progress of the regeneration at Rochester Airport and development of Innovation Park Medway, ensuring that the aspirations for the site can be achieved.

Medway Norse Update

Background:

This report outlined the achievements and performance of Medway Norse for the second quarter of the year.

It was noted that Medway Norse now provided services to the Council in three main areas: facilities management, grounds maintenance and Special Educational Needs (SEN) transport. The report gave details of these areas of operation, together with information relating to governance, local business participation, the corporate client function and the rebate for the Council.

The Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered this report on 30 November 2017, details of which were set out in section 4 of the report.

The Cabinet placed on record its thanks to the current Managing Director of Medway Norse, who was leaving the position.

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

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

The Cabinet noted the report.

Cabinet, 19 December 2017

Reasons:

When Cabinet agreed to establish the joint venture company it was also agreed that regular monitoring reports would be provided to Cabinet.

Recruitment Freeze

Background:

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

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

Decision number:

147/2017

Decision:

The Cabinet agreed to unfreeze the following posts, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

Business Support Department

a) Senior Valuation Surveyor;

Children and Adults

b) Senior Admin Support Officer; and

c) Practice Support Officer.

Reasons:

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

Gateway 3 Contract Award: Adult Substance Misuse Specialist Treatment Services Recommissioning

Background:

The Cabinet accepted this report as urgent for the reasons specified in paragraph 1.4.2 of the report.

This report provided details of the outcome of the procurement process for the award of contracts for adult substance misuse specialist treatment services, as set out in paragraph 1.2.3 of the report.

An Exempt Appendix provided information in respect of the financial analysis and the evaluation and award.

The Council's decision to award these contracts would be subject to observing the procurement standstill period of a minimum of 10 days in accordance with the

Cabinet, 19 December 2017

requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The Council would be unable to enter into the contracts before the end of the standstill period.

Decision number: **Decision:**

148/2017 **The Cabinet approved the award of these contracts as follows:**

- **Lot 1 Engagement, Assessment, Stabilisation and Treatment Service to Turning Point Services Ltd.**
- **Lot 2 Wellbeing and Recovery Service to Open Road Solutions Ltd.**

Reasons:

The procurement will provide the opportunity to deliver improved Substance Misuse services whilst performing against Council strategic objectives including local and national public health obligations.

Gateway 3 Contract Award: Provision of Medway Integrated Children's Community Health Services for Medway

Background:

The Cabinet accepted this report as urgent for the reasons specified in paragraph 1.4.2 of the report.

This report provided details of the outcome of the procurement process, jointly undertaken with NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group for the award of contracts for integrated children's community health services.

An Exempt Appendix provided information in respect of the financial analysis, the evaluation and award and Regulation 84 report.

The Council's decision to award this contract would be subject to observing the procurement standstill period of a minimum of 10 days in accordance with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The Council would be unable to enter into the contract before the end of the standstill period.

Decision number: **Decision:**

149/2017 **The Cabinet approved the award of the contract for the provision of Medway Integrated Children's Community Health Services to Medway Community Healthcare (MCH).**

Cabinet, 19 December 2017

Reasons:

Tenders have been evaluated and moderated, and the successful bidder has submitted the most economically advantageous tender.

The joint procurement has been fully informed and shaped by a wide range of service users and practitioners from across Medway and some national bodies. All parties felt the proposed outcomes focussed model of integration was good and would ensure improved outcomes for local children, young people and families.

The award is expected to ensure that families in Medway are better served by a new integrated Child Health Service and Medway Council's Universal Child Health services will be closely aligned to the specialist provision commissioned by NHS Medway CCG.

.....
Leader of the Council

.....
Date

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Record of Cabinet decisions

Tuesday, 16 January 2018

3.00pm to 3.50pm

Date of publication: 17 January 2018

Subject to call-in these decisions will be effective from 25 January 2018 (with the exception of decision numbers 5/2018 and 6/2018)

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:	Neil Davies, Chief Executive	
	Richard Hicks, Director Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation and Deputy Chief Executive	
	Perry Holmes, Chief Legal Officer/Monitoring Officer	
	Julie Keith, Head of Democratic Services	
	Jade Milnes, Democratic Services Officer	
	Ian Sutherland, Director of Children and Adults Services	
	Phil Watts, Chief Finance Officer	
	James Williams, Director of Public Health	

Apologies for absence

There were none.

Record of decisions

The record of the meeting held on 19 December 2017 was agreed and signed by the Leader as a correct record.

Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other Interests

Councillors Doe and Gulvin disclosed a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 on the agenda, in their capacity as Directors of Medway Development Company Ltd, which was mentioned in paragraph 3 of the report.

Local Plan Update

Background:

This report provided the timetable and programme for the preparation of the new Medway Local Plan in a Local Development Scheme, set out in section 4 and Appendix 1 to the report. This included the scope of the formal stages of consultation that would need to be carried out before the proposed Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for independent examination.

The report stated that the Council had previously carried out two rounds of formal consultation on the emerging Plan. This included consultation on 'Issues and Options' in 2016, which set out the key matters that the new Plan needed to address, including projected housing growth and boosting the local economy. This report provided details of the outcome of the consultation on 'Development Options' undertaken in early 2017, between January and May.

The proposals consulted on included a draft vision and strategic objectives, policy approaches and four high level scenarios for how growth could be accommodated in Medway. The four scenarios considered different approaches to development:

- maximising the potential of urban regeneration;
- suburban expansion;
- Hoo Peninsula focus; and
- urban regeneration and rural town.

The report specified that over 330 general written responses had been received and over 650 people had attended the exhibition organised by the Planning Service, details of which were set out at section 6 and Appendix 2 to the report.

Cabinet, 16 January 2018

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

1/2018

The Cabinet approved the Local Development Scheme, 2018, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, as the Council's programme for preparing the Medway Local Plan.

The Cabinet noted comments received on the Development Options stage of the Local Plan, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.

Reasons:

The Local Development Scheme, 2018 provides an updated programme for the preparation of the new Medway Local Plan.

Review of Guide to Developer Contributions

Background:

This report provided details of the revised Medway Guide to Developer Contributions which had been prepared for consultation and set out at Appendix A to the report.

The report stated that the Medway Guide to Developer Contributions was first adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document in April 2008, providing specific guidance in relation to the determination of planning applications. The Guide had since been reviewed on a number of occasions, and the current version had been adopted in 2014. This review reflected the costs of service provision arising from new developments, addressed areas where developers had been successful when challenging the Council and included information from other service areas which may not require financial contributions from developers, but which would expect developers to provide onsite infrastructure or meet non-financial requirements, for example, air quality and flood risk management and sustainable drainage.

The report also stated that a more detailed review would be prepared to align to the draft Local Plan and its supporting Infrastructure Delivery Plan in 2019, which would also take account of further reforms to the Planning system.

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

**Decision
number:**

Decision:

2/2018

The Cabinet approved option 3 (update the Guide to Developer Contributions, 2014 to provide a more robust policy basis, pending the further progress of the Local Plan and government reforms to the Planning system) as set out in section 3 of the report.

Cabinet, 16 January 2018

- 3/2018** **The Cabinet agreed to change the name of the Guide from ‘The Guide to Developer Contributions’ to ‘Medway Guide to Developer Contributions and Obligations.’**
- 4/2018** **The Cabinet approved the publication of the draft document ‘Medway Guide to Developer Contributions and Obligations’ for consultation and agreed to consider the outcome of this consultation, by way of a report back to the Cabinet to agree the final version of the Guide.**

Reasons:

The revised Guide provides an effective basis for the collection of contributions from development to support the provision of services and infrastructure.

Provisional Local Government Settlement 2018/2019

Background:

This report provided details of the provisional local government settlement announced by Government on 19 December 2017 together with the impact on the Council’s proposed budget for 2018/2019 as underpinned by the Core Spending Power calculation, as set out in table 1 to the report.

It was noted that two announcements made as part of the provisional local government settlement could have significant implications for setting the 2018/19 revenue budget. These were an increase in the referendum limit for Council Tax, from 2% to 3% and the successful bid for a pilot scheme, in a pooled arrangement with Kent County Council, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and the twelve lower tier Kent authorities, for 100% business rate retention.

With regards to the Government’s “Fair Funding Review: a review of relative needs and resources”, it was noted this would be implemented in the 2020/21 financial year. The business rates baseline would be reset in 2020/21, with the introduction of a 75% business rates retention scheme. Several existing grants, including Revenue Support Grant and Public Health Grant would be incorporated into the scheme. The report noted that within the business rates retention system, the Non Domestic Rates (NDR) baseline and top up and tariff amounts had been amended to reflect Revaluation 2017. The implications on business rates within Medway were set out at section 4 to the report.

The report also provided details of the impact on other grants.

Decision number: Decision:

The Cabinet noted the implications of the provisional settlement in formulating its 2018/19 budget proposals.

Cabinet, 16 January 2018

Reasons:

These provisional levels of grant are a fundamental component of the 2018/19 budget, and their announcement is a further stage in the process of preparing a balanced budget.

Final 2018-19 Mainstream Schools and Academies Funding Formula

Background:

This report provided details of the final funding proposals for Medway's schools and academies for 2018/2019. Officers, working with the Schools Forum, had consulted with schools and academies on the proposed new funding formula options for 2018/2019. It was noted that the Schools Forum had recommended these options to Cabinet in November 2017, which were approved.

Final pupil numbers and the total funding available through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) had been confirmed by government in December 2017.

The Schools Forum met on 10 January 2018 and its final recommendations to Cabinet were set out in the first addendum report. A second addendum report provided the revised funding available for each funding factor, after the 2018/19 final funding formula had been processed using the revised census data issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

The Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Lead Member) placed on record his thanks to the Schools Forum.

It was noted that in line with rule 15.11 of Chapter 4, Part 5 of the Constitution, call-in could be waived where any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would seriously prejudice the Council's or the public's interests. In this case, the deadline for the submission of the final funding formula to the Education and Skills Funding Agency was 19 January 2018. The Chairman of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee had agreed that the decisions proposed were reasonable in all the circumstances and to them being treated as a matter of urgency and to waive call-in.

Decision number: ***Decision:***

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 5/2018 | The Cabinet instructed officers to implement the Final Funding Formula for 2018-19. |
| 6/2018 | The Cabinet agreed that the recommendation set out in decision number 5/2018 is considered urgent and therefore should not be subject to call in. |

Cabinet, 16 January 2018

Reasons:

The local authority is required to implement the funding formula changes from 2018-19 in accordance with the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2014. This is a Cabinet function.

The deadline for the submission of the final funding formula to the Education and Skills Funding Agency is 19 January 2018.

Strood Waterfront - Addition to the Capital Programme

Background:

This report provided details of the Strood Flood Management Works scheme which would require Full Council approval to be added to the Capital Programme.

The report noted that planning permission was secured in 2008 for the construction of a river wall around Strood Waterfront. However, owing to changing market conditions at the time, the site was not bought forward and the requirement of the Environment Agency was such that the river wall costs would now exceed the budget. A flood mitigation optioneering study was undertaken in August 2015 and a proposed solution had been reached to complete the flood defences for Strood in two phases. Planning applications for the flood risk management works were submitted in May 2017 and approval was given at Planning Committee on 22 November 2017.

The report stated that the total cost of the project would be £13.85m. The scheme would be funded by £4m of Council approved borrowing (in lieu of future capital receipts), investment of £3.5m which has been secured from the Local Growth Fund for the flood risk management works at the Civic Centre site; dependent on approval of the final business case, which was submitted to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) at the end of December 2017. This would be presented at the LEP Accountability Board on 23 February 2018. Additional Council approved borrowing against future capital receipts of £550,000 for the demolition of the Civic site and a further bid for £5.8m was submitted on 3 November 2017 for the Land Release Fund, as part of the One Public Estate (OPE), to provide capital funding to contribute to the cost of the works on the Riverside site on Canal Road. The outcome of this bid was due on 8 December 2017, but had been delayed. Should part or all of the OPE bid be unsuccessful further borrowing against future capital receipts would be required.

Decision number:

Decision:

9/2018

The Cabinet agreed to insert the words “and/or” in replacement of “/” in line 5 of Table 1 of paragraph 2.13 in the report.

10/2018

The Cabinet recommended to Full Council to add the supplementary project costs in respect of the Strood Flood

Cabinet, 16 January 2018

Management Works scheme, as set out in section 2 of the report to the Capital Programme.

Reasons:

Additions to the Capital Programme are a matter for Full Council.

Recruitment Freeze

Background:

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

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

Decision number:

11/2018 **The Cabinet agreed to unfreeze the following posts, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.**

Business Support Department

- a) **Head of Revenue and Benefits;**
- b) **Lawyer, Child, Adult and Education x 3; and**

Regeneration, Culture, Environment and Transformation

- c) **Senior Administration Officer.**

Reasons:

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

Gateway 3 Contract Award: Kent & Medway Independent Fostering Provision (Joint Procurement)

Background:

This report provided details of the outcome of the procurement process for the award of contracts for the Kent and Medway Independent Fostering Provision as set out in section 2 of the report. The report stated this was a joint procurement between Medway Council and Kent County Council (KCC).

The report noted that KCC was the Contracting Authority and Medway was a named commissioner contained within the definition of the contract. KCC had approved the award of the contracts for Lot 1 and Lot 2, in-line with their Governance procedures, as set out in the Procurement Timetable at section 2.1 of the report.

Cabinet, 16 January 2018

An Exempt Appendix provided information in respect of the financial analysis and the evaluation and award.

The Council's decision to award these contracts would be subject to observing the procurement standstill period of a minimum of 10 days in accordance with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The Council would be unable to enter into the contracts before the end of the standstill period.

Decision number: **Decision:**

12/2018 **The Cabinet approved the award of these contracts as follows:**

- a) Lot 1 (Framework Providers) to providers as follows:**
- 24-Seven Fostering**
 - Action for Children**
 - Affinity Fostering Services Ltd**
 - All4U Fostering Ltd**
 - Anchor Foster Care Services Ltd**
 - Attachments Fostering Limited**
 - Barnardo's**
 - Be My Family Fostering Agency**
 - Blue Sky Fostering**
 - Brighter Futures Foster Care**
 - By the Bridge Limited**
 - Caldecott Fostering**
 - Capstone Foster Care**
 - CareTech Community Services Ltd parent company of Fostering Support Group Limited**
 - Channels & Choices**
 - Compass Fostering North Limited**
 - Cornerways Fostering Services Ltd**
 - Credo Care Ltd**
 - Diagrama Foundation**
 - Diverse Care UK Ltd**
 - Ethelbert Children's Services**
 - Family First Fostering**
 - Family Fostering Limited**
 - Five Rivers Child Care Limited**
 - Foster Care Associates**
 - Foster Care Link Ltd (parent holding company is Capstone Foster Care)**
 - Futures for Children**
 - Heath Farm Family Services Ltd.**
 - Homefinding and Fostering (Kent Homefinding and Fostering Ltd. Trading as: The Homefinding & Fostering Agency)**
 - Integrated Services Programme (ISP)**
 - Kasper Fostering**
 - Lighthouse Fostering**

Cabinet, 16 January 2018

**Mosaic Foster Care Ltd
Next Step Fostering
Orange Grove FosterCare Ltd
Outlook Fostering Limited
Supported Fostering Services
The Adolescent and Children's Trust
The National Fostering Agency Ltd
UK Fostering
Xcel 2000 FosterCare Services Ltd**

b) Lot 2 (Partner Providers) to providers as follows:

**Orange Grove FosterCare Ltd
Barnardo's
The Adolescent and Children's Trust
Xcel 2000 FosterCare Services Ltd**

Reasons:

The Providers' proposed solutions and offer to deliver the service meet the objective criteria set out in the tender documents and represent value for money for Medway Council but also provide an opportunity for positive change to the service delivery model.

A full tender process has been completed in line with Medway Council's and Kent County Council's procedures and the evaluation process was vigorous to ensure quality compliance in line with the Councils' requirements.

It is felt that the existing arrangements are too complex and the revised specification is outcome focused which, together with a revised robust contract management framework, will ensure safeguarding and quality is maintained and the Council receives a value for money service.

The new approach should improve partnership arrangements with a small number of providers (Lot 2), bringing greater transparency and building levels of trust.

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Leader of the Council

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Date

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