

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN AT A MEETING OF THE CABINET HELD AT COUNTY HALL, CHELMSFORD, AT 10.00AM ON 17 MAY 2016

Published with effect from Tuesday 17 May 2016. Provided a decision has not been called in by close of business on Friday 20 May 2016 it can then be implemented.

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Present:

Councillors	Cabinet Member responsibility
D M Finch	Leader of the Council (Chairman)
K Bentley	Deputy Leader and Economic Growth and Partnerships
R Bass	Infrastructure
R Gooding	Education and Lifelong Learning
E Johnson	Highways and Transport
D Madden	Adults and Children
S Walsh	Environment and Waste

Councillors K Bobbin, P Channer, M Danvers, R Gadsby, A Hedley, R Howard, N Le Gresley, M Mackrory and J Young also attended.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne Brown (Cabinet Member for Corporate, Communities and Customers), Graham Butland (Cabinet Member for Health) and John Spence (Cabinet Member for Finance, Housing and Planning).

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman reminded Members to declare any interests now or at the point during the meeting when they arose.

4. Public Questions

No members of the public had registered an interest in asking a question or making a statement on any of the items to be considered at the meeting.

5. Extension to Property Transformation Phase 2

The Cabinet considered report FP/431/03/16 by the Leader of the Council which set out the proposed extension to the Property Transformation Phase 2 Programme (PT2) and sought approval for the associated revenue and capital funding requirements to deliver £2.2m of budgeted savings.

In response to points raised by Councillors Danvers and Mackrory, the Leader of the Council confirmed that a well-established process was in place to ensure that properties declared as surplus to the Council's requirements were offered to other public bodies and community organisations before being placed on the open market, and that suitable discounts were available.

Resolved:

1. That approval be given to the drawdown of £967,000 over an 18 month period from the Transformation Reserve for property improvements and project resources, of which £758,000 is required in 2016/17.
2. That the capital investment of £536,000 for property improvements in 2016/17 (already included within the Capital budget) be approved.
3. That further reports be brought forward to the relevant Cabinet Member on individual disposals, following appropriate consultation where necessary.

6. Decision whether to fund expansion of Philip Morant School and College and The Stanway School by two forms of entry each from September 2017

The Cabinet considered report FP/444/03/16 by the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning which sought support for proposals by Philip Morant School and College (PM) and The Stanway School (TSS) to expand by two forms of entry each to increase capacity in readiness for increased Year 7 intakes in September 2017, in accordance with the Council's duty to commission sufficient school places.

In introducing the report, the Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning highlighted a change to recommendation 2.2, arising from a misprint in the version circulated with the agenda. This has been taken into account in the text of Resolution 2 below.

The Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning provided the following information in response to issues and questions raised by Councillors Mackrory and Young:

- The creation of additional school places to meet increased demand was good news, both in Colchester and across the County. A long-term plan was in place to address school place pressures, and it was agreed to share progress on this with local members, to assist them in responding to adverse media coverage on the issue.

- Accommodation at the former Alderman Blaxill School, though in poor condition, currently remained suitable for community use. A public engagement session had been held, and another was planned, to update the local community and seek its views on future plans for the site.

Resolved:

1. That support be given to the proposed expansion of Philip Morant School and College and The Stanway School by two forms of entry each for 2017 delivery, to meet forecast demand for additional school places in Colchester.
2. That a total spend of £12.9m be approved for construction and associated project fees from the Capital Programme Budget at Philip Morant School and College and The Stanway School, to be apportioned £5.74m and £7.14m respectively, payable in four annual instalments between 2015/16 and 2018/19, as set out in paragraph 5.6 of report FP/444/03/16.
3. That £120,000 revenue from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) be approved for loose furniture and equipment in the additional teaching and learning spaces provided as part of the expansion, to be allocated between the academy trusts by the Head of Infrastructure Delivery in 2017/18.
4. That the Head of Infrastructure Delivery be authorised to enter into funding agreements with each of the academy trusts to enlarge the schools' premises once he is satisfied that:
 - a. Full pre-planning consultation with any key stakeholders is conducted prior to planning consent;
 - b. The construction costs proposed by the schools' contractor(s) are in overall compliance with ECC benchmarking rates and agreed budget caps.

7. Live at Home: Tender for Home Support Services

The Cabinet considered report FP/423/02/16 by the Cabinet Member for Adults and Children which sought approval to procure a new Live at Home (domiciliary care services) Services Framework Agreement to commence in February 2017.

The Cabinet Member provided the following information in response to comments and questions made by Councillors Danvers, Young and Mackrory:

- In view of the range and scale of the contract, the proposed procurement approach using private sector providers was the most effective in terms of value for money, and was in line with Essex's role as a commissioning council.
- Members could be assured that the proposed Best Value criteria for assessing a Provider's pricing and quality submissions on a 70% price, 30% quality basis would result in provision of a quality service which met defined standards. Details of the criteria would be provided to Members upon request outside the meeting.

- The main purpose of the move towards increased home support was to take account of and respond to people's preference to remain in their own homes as they aged, and to move to residential care only as a last resort. This trend was in evidence across the country, and was independent of a desire to reduce costs.
- The agreed Key Performance Indicators would remain in place throughout the life of the contract.

Resolved:

1. That tenders be invited for Live at Home Services across Essex using a one stage tender process complying with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 – a framework contract will be awarded as a ranked list, with a duration of four years.
2. That the Cabinet Member for Adults and Children be authorised to award contracts following completion of the procurement process.

8. Children and Young People's Plan 2016

The Cabinet considered report FP/465/04/16 by the Cabinet Member for Adults and Children which sought approval for the new Children and Young People's Plan for 2016 (the Plan). The document was a replacement for the current version of the Children and Young People's Plan 2013-16, refreshed in 2015.

Responding to concerns expressed by a number of members, the Leader of the Council undertook to reinforce the need for member consultation and engagement, including via the scrutiny process, in the development of strategic documents such as the Children and Young People's Plan.

The Cabinet Member for Adults and Children provided the following information in response to comments and questions by Councillors Danvers, Mackrory, Le Gresley and Young:

- The process used to develop and consult on the Plan was outlined. This had included workshops held in local areas involving partners and young people across Essex. There had also been engagement with Looked after Children. All areas of the County had had the opportunity to contribute to the consultation, and the input by young people was included in the one page 'Plan on a Page' document on page 53 of the agenda pack. One aim had been to simplify the Plan, previous versions of which had contained multiple performance indicators.
- The Plan had been considered by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board on 12 May 2016, and had also received endorsement from other partnership bodies including the Health and Wellbeing Board.

- There would be scrutiny involvement in planning for delivery of the Plan, which would be reviewed annually.
- In developing the Plan, account had been taken of potential increases in population growth due to housing expansion across the County.
- The public consultation on children's centres was now coming to an end.

Resolved:

That the Children and Young Peoples' Plan 2016 be approved.

9. Cabinet Decisions Report

The Cabinet received report FP/471/04/16 by the Secretary to the Cabinet setting out the decisions taken by or in consultation with Cabinet Members since the last meeting.

The Leader of the Council undertook to arrange for response to be provided outside the meeting to Councillor Young concerning points she raised in connection with decisions FP/477/04/05 (Award of South East LEP ITE contract) and FP/265/10/15 (Procurement of an integrated support, advice, recovery and mentoring service for adults with mental health needs and/or substance misuse issues).

There was also some discussion regarding the attendance at Cabinet of Deputies to Cabinet Members on occasions when the Cabinet Member was absent.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Cabinet would take place on Tuesday 21 June 2016 at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 10:37am.