

The Leader's Report of Cabinet Issues

1. Extension to Property Transformation Phase 2 Programme

Cabinet considered proposals relating to the extension of the Property Transformation Phase 2 Programme to enable the realisation of significant additional benefits pending development of the Essex 2021 programme. In noting plans to dispose of surplus property assets where appropriate, Cabinet reaffirmed the existence of Council policies to facilitate local community group and third sector organisation access to such properties.

Cabinet approved the following:

- 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.
- The capital investment of £536,000 for property improvements in 2016/17 (already included within the Capital budget).

Further reports on individual disposals would be submitted to the appropriate Cabinet Member, as necessary.

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

Cabinet's support was sought for proposals by Philip Morant School and College and The Stanway School to expand by two forms of entry each, in order to increase capacity in readiness for increased Year 7 intakes in September 2017. This was in accordance with the Council's statutory duty to secure sufficient school places within its area, and reflected predicted growth in pupil numbers in Colchester and the associated need for at least 12 additional Year 7 forms of entry for secondary education between 2017 and 2025.

Cabinet agreed to support the proposals, and approved a total spend of £12.9m for construction and associated project fees from the Capital Programme Budget, to be apportioned between the two schools respectively (£5.74m - Philip Morant School and College, £7.14m - The Stanway School).

3. Live at Home: Tender for Home Support Services

Live at Home services are care services delivered in the person's home. This includes personal care, cleaning and house care, practical and social support, minor health-related tasks (excluding district nurse tasks), administration of medication and support during the night (either night sleep or night sitting).

The Council currently purchases Live at Home services for Older People (65+), Adults with Learning Disabilities, Adults with Mental Health Needs, Adults with Physical and Sensory Impairments and Carers. The current contractual arrangements expire in February 2017.

Cabinet has approved the procurement of a new Live at Home (Domiciliary Care Services) Framework, operating a Ranked List Framework Model, to commence in February 2017.

4. Children and Young People's Plan 2016

Cabinet has approved the Children and Young People's Plan 2016, to replace the current version, agreed in 2013 and refreshed in 2015.

The Children and Young People's Plan is the key strategic multi-agency document setting out Essex's ambitions for children and young people and how agencies intend to work together to bring these about. The 2016 Plan seeks to improve on previous plans by reflecting the voices of children, young people and their families, prioritising added-value partnership activity over business-as-usual single agency actions, translating the Plan into meaningful action resulting in improved outcomes and by increasing accountability for implementation by increasing ownership of the Plan by members of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

The 2016 Plan has been developed over the last year, based on an extensive period of consultation with children and young people, parents and carers and the children's workforce. The development work has resulted in the framing of five strategic priorities, together with associated outcomes and strategic objectives.

Prior to consideration by the Cabinet, the 2016 Plan had been considered by the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board on 12 May, and had received endorsement from other partnership bodies, including the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board.

5. Adoption of Cycling Strategy

Cabinet has approved the Essex Cycle Strategy. The Strategy sets out an overarching set of principles relating to cycling and demonstrates why cycling is important and how to enable and promote cycling in Essex. The Strategy also provides a framework for the development of cycle networks and infrastructure, including setting out the ambition for enhanced cycle standards, to improve facilities and promote safety. The Strategy is aligned with the Government approach to increasing investment in walking and cycling, and will help to provide a framework for future bids for new funding expected from 2016/17.

6. Housing Related Support: Post 16 Services

The County Council commissions Housing Related Support (HRS) services for young people. Cabinet has agreed to re-commission HRS services to meet the needs of priority cohorts of young people and to reduce the revenue spend by about £1 million per annum.

Cabinet agreed that HRS services should support the following priority cohorts of young people at risk:

- vulnerable teenage parents (up to the age of 19yrs. with an additional need or where the baby/child is known to Family Operations)
- Care leavers (18-21 years old, and up to 25 years old in special circumstances) and
- 16-18 year olds at risk of homelessness (up to their 19th birthday if known to the County Council).

A Single Point of Access model will be established within the County Council as the gateway for any vulnerable young people to access HRS services, liaise with District Council housing and support partners, and allocate appropriate support to eligible vulnerable young people.

The total budget for HRS services will be about £2.7m per annum, with the exact expenditure dependent on successful provider bids.

Tenders will be invited for Housing Related Support: Post 16 Accommodation Support Services to focus on improving outcomes for priority groups of young people at risk across Essex, on a quadrant basis. Contracts, awarded from the tender process, will operate for three years commencing 1 December 2016, with options to extend for up to two years at the sole discretion of the County Council.

At the time of publication there is an outstanding call in relating to this decision.

7. Procurement of a New Model to Deliver Integrated Pre-birth to 19 Health, Wellbeing and Family Support Services

Cabinet agreed to launch a procurement exercise for an Integrated Pre-Birth to 19 Health, Wellbeing and Family Support model on a quadrant basis to commence on 1 April 2017 which incorporates the following services:

- 0-5 Healthy Child Programme
- 5-19 Healthy Child Programme
- Healthy Schools
- Family Nurse Partnership and
- Sure Start Children's Centres.

Cabinet also agreed that in the west quadrant of Essex the above service will be commissioned jointly with West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group along with the following NHS community services:

- therapies
- paediatrics and
- children's nursing and community continence outreach services.

Cabinet agreed that the Children's Centres should be part of the integrated services, and adopted a delivery model which replaces the existing Children's Centres and Children's Centre Delivery sites with a system of Family Hubs and Family Hub Delivery Sites. A range of Family Hub Outreach Sites will be determined on a local basis by families through further consultation to be carried out by the selected provider.

At the time of publication there is an outstanding call in relating to this decision.

Councillor David Finch
Leader of the Council