

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Thursday, 28 September 2017 at 12.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Donna Jones (in the Chair)

Councillors Simon Boshier
Jennie Brent
Ryan Brent
Frank Jonas BEM
Robert New
Linda Symes

37. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence had been received from Cabinet Members Councillors Hannah Hockaday and Luke Stubbs, and from Chief Executive David Williams.

38. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of members' interests.

39. Record of Previous Decision Meetings - 29 June and 27 July 2017 (AI 3)

The record of decisions of the previous Cabinet meetings held on 29 June and 27 July 2017 were agreed as correct records, to be signed by the Leader.

40. ECYP Scrutiny Panel's report into Child Sexual Exploitation (AI 4)

Councillor Neill Young, as Chair of Education, Children & Young People (ECYP) Scrutiny Panel, had sent his apologies for not being able to attend but panel member Councillor Suzy Horton represented ECYP in presenting their report and findings. She outlined the national and local context of the review into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and was grateful to all the interesting witnesses who had contributed. The commitment of the wide range of agencies had been apparent but continued mapping and exchange of information was important. The panel had looked at how risks are addressed through CSE training provided by Portsmouth City Council and in schools, as well as with the taxi trade and there was the challenge of how to spread training to hotels. The panel had heard from service users and had found that informal settings and structures had been successful in encouraging interaction with agencies. The panel members had also been impressed by the work of the MASH team. Councillor Horton then presented the ECYP panel's recommendations and stressed that there was no room for complacency in tackling this issue, especially with the range of social media platforms expanding. It was hoped that the good take-up of training in schools would continue and not be adversely affected by the rise in academies. This is

a corporate responsibility there should continue to be rigorous engagement on the subject of CSE.

Councillor Jones, as Leader, thanked Councillor Horton and the ECYP Scrutiny Panel for their excellent work. Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services, then presented the response report and welcomed the review which had been helpful for her directorate. Alison Jeffery supported the recommendations (with the report giving commentary responding to each recommendation). She emphasised that continuing vigilance was important. The "Missing, Exploited and Trafficked (MET) multi agency coordination arrangements currently involved oversight over around 100 young people at any one time, looking at different forms of exploitation, criminal as well as sexual. Continuing training for all agencies to recognise and act on signs of exploitation was crucial; in schools this needed to reach primary as well as secondary schools. An updated assessment of the needs of young people in the city was being undertaken by Public Health for the Safer Portsmouth Partnership).

Councillor Robert New, as Cabinet Member for Environment & Community Safety, welcomed the work of the panel on this review and the robust recommendations as well as the important multi-agency approach for this national problem.

Councillor Donna Jones had met with the new Chief Superintendent Jason Kenny recently, who was consulting Children's Services on issues such as homelessness, taking a partnership approach. She welcomed embedding the work of the panel through the recommendations. Alison Jeffery also reported that Rich John had been appointed as the new Children's Safeguarding Chair, to take up post at the end of October, and this was welcomed by the Leader.

DECISIONS:

(1) The ECYP Scrutiny Panel was thanked for its work in undertaking the review.

(2) The Cabinet noted and supported the recommendations of the review, as listed at the end of the Scrutiny Panel's report at appendix 1 and the response of officers as set out in section 3 of the Director of Children's Services report.

41. Response report to EDCL Scrutiny Panel's Review on Smart Cities (AI 5)

Councillor Steve Hastings, as Chair of Economic Development, Culture & Leisure (EDCL) Scrutiny Panel, presented the panel's report. The EDCL panel had found this an exciting review, touching on all portfolios, with the subject matter being wider than just technology, requiring smart thinking and planning to encourage regeneration in a joined up way in the city. They had heard from Portsmouth City Council officers as well as external witnesses such as the University of Portsmouth and from a consultant, so were aware of other cities being in ahead in innovation, in particular Bristol. The links between technological advances, traffic management and tourism could be

enhanced and information was key to this in encouraging accessibility of routes and events for visitors and residents. There were also public health benefits to be further explored and increased interaction with tenants, so there should be regular updates to the portfolio holders on progress, monitoring of funding opportunities as well as take up the offer to visit to Bristol with other local authorities.

Councillor Donna Jones welcomed this comprehensive piece of work. Claire Upton-Brown, Assistant Director of Culture & City Development, presented the response report. The review had evidenced the wealth of work underway in the city but there was the need to join up the use of technology and information with the environment of the city to work more effectively. The invitation to visit Bristol was an opportunity to learn more, on a cross-departmental basis to drive forward and share initiatives.

Councillor Robert New, also welcomed the report and the idea brought forward by Councillor Hannah Hockaday (who had chaired the EDCL panel during the review) having visited the Smart Cities conference with Cllr Winnington regarding CCTV camera advances allowing remote access to information which was being pursued for smarter working by Community Wardens and which could link to traffic management.

Councillor Donna Jones endorsed the need for an officer working group to make Portsmouth a digital friendly and Smarter city, to include Claire Upton-Brown, Greg Povey and Louise Wilders. She supported the trip to Bristol and the bid by Greg Povey to the DCMS for the Local Full Fibre Network Programme for which Portsmouth could be a pilot area. There were also advances at the Port (aiming to be the first Gigabit Commercial Port on the South Coast) and funding opportunities were sent to the relevant directors and the Leader tracked these. Councillor Jonas hoped that the bid to the DCMS would be successful and Councillor Ryan Brent stressed the need for a whole city approach.

DECISIONS:

(1) The EDCL Scrutiny Panel was thanked for its work in undertaking the review.

(2) That the Economic Development Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel's recommendations were approved in line with the responses noted in item 4 of the report by the Assistant Director of Culture & City Development.

(3) It was agreed that there be a visit, arranged by the Assistant Director of Culture and City Development, to Bristol to consider some of the initiatives that have been implemented and further consideration be given to how the City develops a Smart City Strategy.

42. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 1 - to end June 2017 (AI 6)

Julian Pike, as Deputy Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer presented the report which compared the position to the budget set in February. Councillor Ryan Brent asked that reference to the portfolio for "Children's Social Care" be amended to "Children & Families" in future.

Councillor Donna Jones, as Leader, spoke of the national problem for Adult Social Care funding for which there was constant lobbying of government and she was confident that this was being addressed by Councillor Stubbs, with vast improvements being made. There was also lobbying for Children and Families with the high burdens for complex needs, and the Leader was confident there was also an excellent team in place to address this. Councillor Ryan Brent responded that the pressures were understood due to high end external placements and good work was being undertaken to reduce the deficit; Councillor Jones thanked Councillor Brent for his involvement in this work.

DECISIONS:

(1) The forecast outturn position for 2017/18 was noted:

(a) An underspend of £1,529,600 before further forecast transfers from/(to) Portfolio Specific Reserves & Ring Fenced Public Health Reserve;

(b) An underspend of £684,600 after further forecast transfers from/(to) Portfolio Specific Reserves & Ring Fenced Public Health Reserve.

(2) Members noted that any actual overspend at year end will in the first instance be deducted from any Portfolio Specific Reserve balance and once depleted then be deducted from the 2018/19 Cash Limit.

(3) Directors, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, consider options that seek to minimise any forecast overspend presently being reported and prepare strategies outlining how any consequent reduction to the 2018/19 Portfolio cash limit will be managed to avoid further overspending during 2018/19.

43. Treasury Management Outturn Report 2016/17 (AI 7)

Julian Pike, as Deputy Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, introduced this CIPFA required report, for which members were asked to note the indicators as set out in the appendices.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

(a) The actual prudential indicators based on the unaudited draft accounts, as shown in Appendix A of the report, be noted.

(b) The actual treasury management indicators for 2016/17, as shown in Appendix B, be noted.

44. Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2017/18 (AI 8)

Julian Pike, as Deputy Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer, introduced this report. He stressed that no additional borrowing was taking place but that the limits needed to be extended due to a property deal and with the formation of a new energy company by the Council.

RECOMMENDED to Council:

(1) That the authorised limit for external debt be increased by £10,600,000 from £607,555,000 to £618,155,000

(2) That the operational boundary for external debt be increased by £10,600,000 from £589,255,000 to £599,855,000

(3) That non-specified investments of up to £20m are permitted in the Council's subsidiary companies including but not restricted to MMD (Shipping Services) Ltd

(4) That the actual Treasury Management indicators for July 2017 in Appendix A be noted.

45. Changes to some Cabinet decision meeting dates (information item) (AI 9)

The Cabinet date adjustments were noted for these meetings:

Thursday 7th December moves to Monday 11th December at 12 noon.

Thursday 15th March 2018 moves to the next day, Friday 16th March at 12 noon.

The meeting concluded at 12.48 pm.

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Councillor Donna Jones
Leader of the Council