

## **CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION**

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Education held on Monday, 10 July 2017 at 4.00 pm in Conference Room A, Second Floor, Civic Offices

### **Also Present**

Councillor Suzy Horton

#### **14. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **15. Declarations of interest**

Councillor Suzy Horton declared a personal interest as she is a governor at Craneswater Junior School.

#### **16. Targeted Short Breaks**

The report was introduced by Julia Katherine, Head of Inclusion.

Councillor Horton thanked officers for the report and considered that this was a very pragmatic solution following the outcome of the consultation. She also considered it very encouraging that Enable Ability was willing to discuss the outcome of the consultation with the council to explore a realistic way forward.

The Cabinet Member endorsed these comments and was happy to approve the recommendations.

**DECISION: The Cabinet Member for Education agreed not to pursue savings through making cuts to the Targeted Short Breaks budget at this stage on the basis that:**

- (1) The consultation feedback and the Equalities Impact Assessment did not conclusively identify a way in which savings could be realised without it having a detrimental impact on the children and young people and their parents/carers who access these services**
- (2) The process did reveal the need to undertake a broader review of the targeted short break offer and the range of services commissioned in the future as part of the re-tendering process. This will be completed so that contacts can be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018, delivering at the same time the level of saving required.**

## **17. Home to School/College Transport**

The report was introduced by Julia Katherine, Head of Inclusion. She clarified the proposed changes affected level 1 targeted short breaks only.

In response to questions the following matters were clarified:

- With regard to the transport for nursery age children who attend specialist nursery schools, Julia said that when respondents were presented with the 6 options this was the least favoured option, however, the trend is that parents increasingly want their children to attend local mainstream nurseries, so we need to look at how we can support those nurseries to meet children's special educational needs, where this is the parental preference. The recommendation is to introduce this change from September 2018 so that parents will have all of the information they need before they consider placement preference.
- Councillor Horton raised concerns that option 5, raising the points threshold for automatic entitlement to home to school/college transport, would have an impact on a large number of students. Julia explained that the points system is about automatic entitlement and parents can still appeal if they do not meet the points threshold. The council are keen to promote young people's independence in their transition to adulthood. The recommendation is that this change is introduced for young people starting new college course from September 2018 to ensure that young people have all the information they need when they are considering college placements. The impact on young people accessing college placements will continue to be closely monitored.

The Cabinet Member said that it was important to note that the changes would not be made until September 2018. She thanked officers for the thorough report.

**DECISIONS: The Cabinet Member for Education agreed the following changes to the Home to School Transport Policy and Post 16 Learners Statement:**

- (i) That the age range is lowered for eligible post 16 students (those with significant and exceptional needs) from 16-25 years to 16-19 years, in line with other Local Authorities, as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. For those in Year 14 who meet the exceptional circumstances criteria and who start their college course in September 2017, the council will continue to provide transport assistance until July 2019.**
- (ii) That the council ceases to provide transport for new placements of nursery age students who attend specialist nursery schools as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. All those children who currently receive transport assistance and who continue to meet the criteria will continue to be able to make an application for each year that they attend specialist nursery provision. Applications are made on an annual basis.**

- (iii) That the cost of privilege places on a minibus or taxi is increased from £495 per annum to £750 per annum as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.
- (iv) That a two tier financial contribution of £495 per annum for low income families of post-16 students and £600 per annum for families of post-16 students who do not meet the criteria for low income, is introduced as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018.
- (v) That the points threshold for automatic entitlement to home to school/college transport is raised from 60 points to 70 points as from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018. For those who are currently in receipt of this entitlement, this will continue until the end of their Key Stage or end of post-16 education, if they continue to meet criteria.

**18. Maintained School Balances as at 31 March 2017**

The report was introduced by Alison Egerton, Group Accountant.

**DECISION:** The Cabinet Member noted the level of maintained schools' revenue balances and capital balances as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 as shown in Appendices 2 & 3 and the monitoring action taken by the council.

**19. 2016-17 Dedicated Schools Grant Outturn Report for 2016-17 and Revised Budget 2017-18**

The report was introduced by Richard Webb, Finance Manager.

**DECISIONS:** The Cabinet Member

- a. Noted the year-end outturn budget position for the Dedicated Schools Grant as at the end of March 2017 and the variance explanations contained within this report.
- b. Approved the revised DSG budget for 2017-18 as set out in Appendix 1.

**20. Education Budget Monitoring Outturn report for 2016-17**

The report was introduced by Richard Webb, Finance Manager.

**DECISIONS:** The Cabinet Member:

**(1) Noted the Education Portfolio outturn position for 2016/17 of £211,000 under the approved cash limit provision and the capital programme position at the end of the financial year.**

**(2) Noted the potential cash limit pressure for the 2017/18 financial year; and that this will continue to be monitored and reported regularly during the year.**

## **21. SEND capital funding to support special school places**

The report was introduced by Caroline Corcoran, Head of Sufficiency, Participation and Resources.

In response to a question from Councillor Horton, Caroline confirmed that both schools were on board with this proposal and they are both under the same multi academy trust.

### **DECISIONS:**

- a) That the project at Cliffdale Primary Academy be completed in full. This recommendation would enable Cliffdale Academy to be fully equipped with sufficient and appropriate provision for primary aged pupils with more complex needs. The completion of the Cliffdale project will also enable modern modular accommodation to move to Redwood Park Academy, providing a medium-term temporary solution addressing the majority of the phase 1 requirements at Redwood Park Academy.**
- b) That £896,000 of capital funding is re-allocated from Redwood Park Academy to Cliffdale Primary in order to provide the necessary funding (of £3.096m) to complete the Cliffdale project and relocate the modular buildings.**
- c) That power be delegated to the Deputy Director of Children, Families and Education - Education, to approve the entering into contract for capital works set out in this report.**

## **22. The Harbour School**

The report was introduced by Julia Katherine, Head of Inclusion.

In response from a question from the Cabinet Member, Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children Services - Education advised that Delta Education Trust were the preferred sponsor and they are the MAT for two other special schools in Poole and Basingstoke.

A further decision will come to the Cabinet member in the autumn to address the deficit position of the school.

**DECISION:** The Cabinet Member noted the significant progress that has been made to address the financial and structural issues at The Harbour School and endorsed the next steps that are now being taken as set out in section 4 of the report.

The meeting concluded at 5.00 pm.

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Councillor Hannah Hockaday  
Chair