

AT A MEETING of the CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE of the COUNTY COUNCIL held at The Castle, Winchester on Wednesday, 18 January 2017.

PRESENT

Chairman:

p Councillor Ray Bolton

Vice-Chairman:

p Councillor Roz Chadd

Councillors:

p John Bennison	a Chris Lagdon
p Ann Briggs	p Warwick Lovegrove
a Zilliah Brooks	p Ken Moon
p Rita Burgess	p Jackie Porter
p Christopher Carter	p Bruce Tennent
a Criss Connor	a Ken Thornber
p Philip Fawkes	p Malcolm Wade
p Judith Grajewski	p Christopher Wood
p Marge Harvey	
p Roger Huxstep	

Co-opted Members:

a Caroline Edmondson: Primary School Parent Governor Representative
p Andrew March: Secondary School Parent Governor Representative
a Gary Walker: Special School Parent Governor Representative
a Jeff Williams: Church of England Schools Representative
VACANT: Roman Catholic Schools Representative

At the invitation of the Chairman:

p Councillor Peter Edgar – Executive Member for Education
p Councillor Keith Mans – Executive Lead Member for Children’s Services

158. **BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recordings for broadcasting purposes.

159. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Zilliah Brooks, Chris Lagdon and Ken Thornber. Apologies were also received from co-opted members Caroline Edmondson and Gary Walker.

160. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter considered at the meeting they must declare that interest at the time of the relevant debate and, having regard to the circumstances described in Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore Members were mindful that where they believed they had a Personal interest in a matter being considered at the meeting they considered whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, considered whether it was appropriate to leave the meeting whilst the matter was discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

No declarations were made.

161. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

162. **DEPUTATIONS**

The Committee did not receive any deputations at this meeting.

163. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman did not make any announcements at this meeting, other than to note that this would be the last Children and Young People Select Committee before the upcoming elections. The Chairman noted his thanks to Members for their contribution to the work programme, and officers for supporting the Committee.

164. **REVENUE BUDGET FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2017/18**

The Director of Children's Services and a representative of the Director of Corporate Resources attended before the Committee in order to present the revenue budget for Children's Services for 2017/18 (see report and presentation, Item 6 in the Minute Book).

The presentation outlined the overall County Council financial position, setting out that in line with the decisions previously made as part of 'Transformation to 2017', there would be no new further savings for the 2017/18 year. The

delivery of the Children's Services 'Transformation to 2017' savings were all on target, with two elements being allowed additional time to deliver, centering on delivery of a digital solution in order to achieve savings relating to special educational needs administration, and a purposeful delay in the roll-out of new models of overnight respite care.

The local government grant settlement announced in 2016 provided definitive figures for 2016/17 and provisional figures for authorities for the following three financial years to aid financial planning. The settlement for 2017/18 was unchanged compared to the forecast position. The July 2016 Medium Term Financial Strategy assumed a 3.99% council tax increase for 2017/18, including 2% for social care.

An overview of the Council's reserves strategy and financial position was provided, which set out that of the £497.3m held, approximately £100.9m, or 20.3% of the reserves, were truly 'available' to support one-off spending. An analysis of the allocation of this £100.9m was provided.

Members heard details on the proposed 2017/18 budget for Children's Services. The priorities for the Department remained the same and had been essential in focusing resource where it was most needed. Many of the key Departmental issues and challenges were not new and had previously been discussed with the Committee. The Department would continue to work to manage increasing demand for children's services on the Council, working hard to continue to keep children safe. Work had been continuing with partners locally and nationally to tackle shared issues such as innovative solutions to managing demand, the review of the national school funding formula, and social worker recruitment and retention.

The issue of unaccompanied asylum seekers was an additional factor impacting on the budget, with Hampshire having taken 44 children up to November 2016, and likely to see future numbers arriving in the County. Although the Council received national funding for placements, in many cases this didn't cover the true costs of providing specialist support.

The costs of providing Home to School transport for children living either two (under 8s) or three (over 8s) miles away from the allocated school were highlighted. Of the £27m spent on this annually, approximately £10m was on transport provision for children without special educational needs who the Council were required to provide a method of free transportation for. The Association of Directors of Children's Services had undertaken research in this area, and had found that the legislation on Home to School

transport disproportionately impacted upon Shire Counties, as Unitary City and London Borough Councils were geographically unlikely to place children more than two/three miles away from their home. Hampshire would, alongside other Shire County colleagues, continue to push the Department for Education to reform this statutory requirement.

In considering the more detailed Children's Services revenue budget, and in response to questions, Members heard:

- That more time had been provided to develop a digital solution for educational needs, in order to increase the amount of self-service for parents and guardians, and to involve key partners to a greater degree. In terms of overnight respite care for children with a disability, this had been delayed in order to test the models under consideration, and to collate feedback on them from the Hampshire Parent/Carer network to agree preferred options for future delivery.
- That the costs per unaccompanied child asylum seeker placement change dependent on the age and level of need of the child.
- Most non-special educational needs children in receipt of Home to School transport receive a bus pass or have bus provision arranged for them in order to make the journey to school. Those with special educational needs tend to be transferred by taxi, and must have a chaperone with them during the journey to school in order to ensure the safety of the child.
- A significant amount of the funding spent on Home to School transport for children with special educational needs were discretionary exceptions. This would remain under review by the Department, in order to ensure that provision above the basic statutory level was appropriate.
- A significant amount of Home to School transport budget efficiencies had been driven by contract negotiations with travel providers, and it was unlikely that this would be further reduced.
- Work was still ongoing with Local Authority colleagues in the South East on tackling agency costs and seeking high levels of quality and consistency from workers. Hampshire County Council continued to use agency social workers in order to provide flexibility in the work force, as there was still a pressure in the number of vacancies, and in providing cover when staff became unwell or took planned leave.
- That OFSTED and other inspectorates had recently led a joint targeted inspection review of Hampshire's arrangements for partnership working in relation to children's services. The outcome of this inspection was due to be published in February 2017, and would be

OFSTED
inspection added
to the work
programme

brought to a future meeting of the Select Committee.

In relation to a question on the amount of efficiencies that had been saved from the Children's Services budget to date, it was agreed that this information would be circulated to the Committee outside of the meeting.

The Chairman, in summing up the item heard and answers to Member questions, noted that some of the key items in the budget had been subject to pre-decision scrutiny by the Committee, such as short breaks provision and the implementation of the Family Support Service. The Director of Children's Services noted that the new Family Support Service had been live since 1 December 2016, with over 2,000 children accessing services. Fewer voluntary redundancies than expected had been agreed (under 10), due to individuals transferring into private early years provision. Work was now ongoing to dispose of assets which are owned by the Council

RESOLVED

That the Committee support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services in section 10 of the revenue report.

165. **CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES 2017-18 – 2019/20**

The Director of Children's Services and his representatives attended before the Committee in order to present the capital programme for Children's Services for 2017/18 – 2019/20 (see report and presentation, Item 7 in the Minute Book).

It was heard that a mixture of approaches were being used to meet demand for school places, and work had successfully been undertaken with the Department for Education on Free Schools in order to increase the number of school places available, whilst managing the planned capital budget deficit.

Currently, Hampshire had committed £233m of the capital budget programme for school places, and £60m was expected to be attracted through Free Schools funding. Over the next three years, the demand for both primary and secondary school places would continue to rise, and an additional 10,915 places were planned to be provided to meet this, supplementing the 7,360 places already delivered since 2013. Seven new Free Schools were at a planning or approval stage, and there was a high degree of confidence that they would all be approved and funded. However, it was known that the Government were close to the Prime

Answer to be circulated to Members.

Minister's promise of 500 new Free Schools, so it remained to be seen whether current funding levels would continue past this target.

The capital programme had also taken account of need for special educational places, both to satisfy the need to provide an appropriate education for these children, but also to reduce the impact on the Home to School transport budget discussed in the previous item.

Developer contributions continued to be crucial in financing school places, and it was expected that £80m would be received over the three year period to 2019/20. The introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy had created complexities in securing developer funding due to planning authorities now directly receiving these monies, and County Councils not being a statutory signatory on education-related funding.

In terms of pressures on the programme, above and beyond the need to balance income and expenditure and the planned deficit, inflation in the construction industry driven by recent national and international political decisions had resulted in the true costs of building programmes being unknown. A figure of 3.5% had been included for inflation in the budget, but ongoing monitoring of this area would be crucial.

On the 2017/18 to 2019/20 Capital Programme, in response to questions, Members heard:

- That the timing of school builds in new developments was crucial, and for this reason the County worked closely with housing developers to understand timelines for completed properties. Schools were usually planned to be built in the heart of larger developments, adjacent to community facilities. Schools were designed to be able to expand if required.
- The development of zero or low energy schools was hugely important and an area of success in Hampshire. This had become more difficult to achieve as budgets had decreased due to these options tending to be more expensive, and Department for Education guidelines on school building stipulating a maximum refundable cost per square foot of school. The Lead Executive Member would continue to make the case to Hampshire MPs of the importance of green initiatives when building schools, and the need for national guidance and funding to support this.
- In cases where the Council would be giving up its own land for development of a Free School, negotiations would be held with the Education Funding Agency to refund a proportion of the value of the land.
- That all buildings leased to Academy Trusts by the

Council include provisions within the contract on building maintenance and the standard of building condition when the lease ends.

- Where local areas do not have an adopted local plan, it can be more challenging to estimate required school places as there may be a number of speculative housing development which do not end up being built.
- A number of representations had been made by Hampshire and other County Councils to Government Departments raising issues with Community Infrastructure Levies, of which the response had been supportive. Currently the Levy was under review.
- The County Council had close working relationships with planning departments in each District and Borough Council, enabling early discussion on potential housing developments and exchanges of information on population data. The impact on existing infrastructure and the need to plan for new school places was also factored into discussions.
- That a range of figures for construction inflation were being circulated in the public sector domain, ranging from negative figures to plus 20%. The figure of 3.5% included in the report was the best estimate at this time, and would need to be carefully monitored. It was hoped that a better estimate would be available in the 2018/19 budget year.
- That the majority of inward migration to Hampshire was from other Local Authority areas, rather than other EU states.

RESOLVED

That the Committee support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Children's Services proposed Capital Programme in section 18 of the report.

166. **ATTAINMENT OF PUPILS IN HAMPSHIRE SCHOOLS**

The Committee received a report and presentation (Item 8 in the Minute Book) from representatives of the Director of Children's Services providing an overview of the attainment of pupils in Hampshire schools.

There had been an unprecedented change in the way performance was measured in schools in 2016, with the introduction of new standards at the early years foundation stage, key stage one, and key stage two, and the introduction of new GCSE courses and methods of assessment at key stage four. Overall, outcomes for children and young people in Hampshire had improved, although direct comparisons could not be made between

previous assessment types and those newly introduced. In particular, Hampshire had performed strongly against its comparator statistical authorities.

At the early years foundation stage and key stages one and two, performance reported was well above the national average. The new performance measures were judged to be more demanding, but most early years providers and schools had met this challenge well. A programme of training had been offered to all schools over the previous two to three years to get to grips with the new standards. The provision of training had been in three key areas; moderation, updates of information and support to develop teaching using the new standards. There had been a good level of take up of assessment training, with a correlation between those schools who had attended higher numbers of sessions having improved the most relative to the new standards. However, early data showed that there was now more variation between schools.

At key stage four, the five A* - C GCSEs including English and Maths had been replaced by:

- 'The Basics'
- The 'English Baccalaureate'
- 'Attainment 8'
- 'Progress 8'

Further changes were being implemented over the next three years starting with more challenging GCSE courses in English and Maths which will be examined for the first time in 2017 and graded on a 1-9 point scale from 2017, rather than letter gradings, with 9 being the highest score achievable. Other subjects will move to this system in following years. Performance overall had continued to be better than peers and either in line with, or better than, the national average. More work however needed to take place to educate teachers and leaders on the changes to this area of educational attainment, and the further changes expected over the next few years.

Councillor John Bennison left the meeting at this point in proceedings.

In response to questions, Members heard:

- That a key focus of the training offered to all schools was assisting teachers to develop their delivery to better impact on those who struggle to learn. Hampshire was leading on a significant project with the National Education Trust on this topic.
- Every maintained school is visited by the School Improvement Team regardless of their OFSTED rating in order to discuss performance, key challenges and to disseminate best practice.
- That all GCSEs will move to the nine point achievement

- scale over the next three years.
- It was the role of Government to work with employers to understand the new performance ratings at GCSE level. It was understood that the Department for Education had produced 'tables of equivalence' to give a comparison of achievement between the old and new ratings.
 - That training and education around the new performance metrics was more difficult for early years providers, as they tended to be more diffuse in their set-up, with many single-individual operators (such as child-minders) in the County. This would however remain a focus of the early years team,
 - Children educated at home were not included in the data on attainment as this was purely from schools.
 - That the 'Attainment 8' and 'Progress 8' scores were a measure of school performance rather than of individual children.

The Chairman thanked the presenters for an informative and thought-provoking presentation, recognising the hard work that had been delivered in partnership with schools, head teachers, governors and pupils themselves to meet the challenges of the new performance and attainment measures.

RESOLVED:

That the Children and Young People Select Committee note the update.

167. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received a report (Item 9 in the Minute Book) from the Director of Transformation and Governance setting out the Select Committee's future work programme.

The Chairman noted that as this was the last meeting of the Select Committee before the upcoming County elections, suggested topics for the work programme should be held for the first meeting of the 2017/18 municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme be agreed.

Chairman, 14 June 2017