

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

The following decisions were taken on Wednesday 19 October 2016 by the Cabinet.

Date notified to all members:

The end of the call-in period is 4:00 pm on

The decision can be implemented from

Item No

8. PROCUREMENT OF HEALTHWATCH SHEFFIELD SERVICE

8.1 The Executive Director, Communities submitted a report describing plans for procuring a Healthwatch Sheffield service to operate from 1st April 2017.

8.2 **RESOLVED:** That:-

- (a) Sheffield City Council (SCC) commissions Healthwatch Sheffield core service via formal commercial tender process in the interests of the citizens of Sheffield and to ensure that SCC statutory duties are fulfilled;
- (b) the service be known as "Healthwatch Sheffield";
- (c) the new contract is let for a period of 5 years with options to extend for up to 2 further years; and
- (d) authority to initiate the tender process and award the contract to the most suitable bidder be delegated to the Director of Commissioning in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

8.3.1 During February and March 2016, SCC undertook a soft market test to determine if there were sufficient qualified, able and interested organisations to make a full tender process worthwhile. Five detailed responses were received, four of which were from existing local Healthwatch organisations. This offers strong evidence of a vibrant provider market and supports the recommendation to go out to the market with a full commercial tender.

8.3.2 Local Authorities must follow a robust selection process to ensure high quality outcomes, accountability and value for money and enter into a commercial agreement with their local Healthwatch.

8.3.3 Local Authorities are bound by domestic and European legislation as well as the Standing Orders of the Council when it comes to entering into commercial relationships.

8.3.4 Due diligence in identifying our ongoing partner to deliver Healthwatch Sheffield is of strategic importance and a full commercial tender continues to be the best mechanism to offer the required level of diligence and compliance with Council Standing Orders.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

8.4.1 Healthwatch is a statutory provision that SCC has to provide through a third party. The legislation requires SCC to enter into a commercial agreement with a body to provide the service and therefore 'doing nothing' and allowing the contracts to expire is not an option.

8.4.2 Other Local Authorities have used different mechanisms to commission their local Healthwatch, for example entering into strategic partnerships or grant funding arrangements.

8.4.3 SCC made the decision to commission Healthwatch Sheffield via an open tender process; the service was let under a commercial contract with clear extension options and contract end date.

8.4.4 The current contract for Healthwatch Sheffield will end at the end of March 2017 and arrangements are required to be made to procure a provider from April 2017.

8.4.5 Due diligence in identifying our ongoing partner to deliver Healthwatch Sheffield continues to be of primary importance. A full commercial tender, rather than a grant award, is recommended as the best mechanism to ensure the required level of diligence, compliance with Council Standing Orders and avoid challenge.

8.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

None

8.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration

None

8.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

Laraine Manley, Executive Director, Communities

8.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In

Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care

9. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S CENTRES

9.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families submitted a report requesting permission to consult on a proposal to re-organise children's centres into an integrated locality model across 7 areas. The report set out in principle,

proposals to redesign children's centres; developing a new delivery model based on family centres for 0 -19 year olds (0-25 years old if the young person has a disability) located in the 20% most deprived areas of the City within 7 locality areas, with services being available across Sheffield from link and outreach sites including community venues and in the home.

9.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet gives permission to consult on the proposal outlined in the report to redesign Children's Centres; developing a new delivery model based on 0-19 Family Centres (0-25 years old if the young person has a disability) located in the 20% most deprived areas of the City within 7 locality areas, with services being available across Sheffield from link and outreach sites including community venues and in the home.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

9.3.1 There is a statutory duty on the local authority to provide early childhood services and children's centres, and a statutory duty to consult in relation to changes affecting those children's centres as detailed in paragraph 4.3.1 of the Executive Director's report.

The Munro review of child protection calls for local authorities to take a greater focus on preventative services, providing Early Help to children and families and summarises three key messages:

- Preventative services will do more to reduce abuse and neglect than reactive services
- Coordination of services is important to maximise efficiency and with preventative services
- There needs to be good mechanisms for helping people identify those children and young people who are suffering or likely to suffer harm from abuse or neglect and who need a referral to children's social care

Munro, (2011), The Munro Review of Child Protection: final report, DFE

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Sure Start Children's Centres 2015 pre-election report states that 'One of the greatest strengths of Children's Centres has always been their capacity to join up a wide range of services around a child to provide a true "holistic" model of support'.

The report continues to state that 'the ultimate aim should be to position children's centres at the heart of service provision in their communities, to enable them to provide the sort of holistic offer we know to be valued and effective'.

The Centre for Social Justice argued that 'children's centres should become "Family Hubs" which enable parents to access all family related support including universal support and specialist help to meet their most pressing needs'.

Councils should ensure that Children's Centres form part of their wider early help strategy and provide differentiated support to children and families according to their needs by:

- Offering access to integrated information and support to all prospective parents, new parents and parents of children.
- Encouraging and providing access to early help and targeted support for children and families who experience factors which place them at risk of poor outcomes
- Helping families to access appropriate wider and specialist support to meet their needs.

There is a need to align to the early help model when redesigning children's centres. Family centres will be a gateway to services for all families in their local community, recognising that targeted interventions and outreach services are vital in supporting the families who need it the most.

9.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 9.4.1 The alternative approach would be for the Council to continue to deliver Children's Centre Services from 16 standalone centres. This approach does not align to the principles set out in the early help model, the Best Start 'A Great Start in Life' strategy, the SEND reform and Working Together to Safeguard Children which are underpinned by delivery of services based in localities where services work together to achieve improved outcomes for families as close to their homes and communities as possible.

Fundamental to the proposal is a whole household approach, by not extending the age range of services and developing Family Centres with link and outreach sites, the alternative would be to continue to deliver services to families pre-birth to five years old. This would not support the provision of integrated early help for families, would not align to the early help services for families aged five to eleven years or to the targeted youth support service, leading to more negative outcomes for both children and families.

9.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

None

9.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration

None

9.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

Jayne Ludlam, Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families

9.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In

Children, Young People and Family Support

10. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2017-22

- 10.1 The Acting Executive Director, Resources submitted a report providing Members

with details of the forecast financial position of the Council for the next 5 years and recommending the approach to budgeting and business planning that will be necessary to achieve a balanced budget position over the medium term.

10.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) notes the forecast position for the next 5 years, as set out in the report now submitted;
- (b) agrees the approach to budgeting and business planning outlined in the report;
- (c) agrees to delegate authority to the Acting Executive Director, Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources, to apply to take up the multi-year settlement supported by the Efficiency Plan at Appendix 6 of the report;
- (d) endorses one of the key points of the Council's response to the Government's consultation on 100% Business Rates Retention, namely the call for Improved Better Care Fund Grant to be brought forward; and
- (e) agrees the following approach to capital planning:
 - Maximise flexibility in capital resources including New Homes Bonus, capital receipts and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to ensure that Council-wide objectives are achieved.
 - Review policies in relation to Affordable Housing, CIL and New Homes Bonus to ensure that the generation of these funding streams is optimised.
 - Reaffirm the existing Corporate Resource Pool (CRP) allocation principles.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

10.3.1 To provide a strategic framework for the development of budget proposals and the business planning process for 2017/18 and beyond.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

10.4.1 A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

10.5 **Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted**

None

10.6 **Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration**

None

10.7 **Respective Director Responsible for Implementation**

Eugene Walker, Acting Executive Director, Resources

10.8 **Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In**

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

11. **REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING MONTH 5 AS AT 31 AUGUST 2016**

11.1 The Acting Executive Director, Resources submitted a report providing the month 5 monitoring statement on the City Council's 2016/17 Revenue and Capital Budget as at 31st August 2016.

11.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) notes the updated information and management actions provided by this report on the 2016/17 Revenue Budget position;
- (b) approves the budget virement proposed by the Communities Portfolio detailed in paragraph 10 of the report;
- (c) approves additional funding to support the delivery of the Local Plan detailed at paragraph 39 of the report, subject to delivery of specific milestones, the project will be funded from Reserves and repaid from future efficiencies to be identified by the Director of Development Services as part of the Council's Business Planning process in the Place Portfolio, the profile of funding support and repayment is to be delegated to the Interim Director of Finance and Commercial Services in consultation with the Head of Planning. Should alternative funding become available e.g. central government grant, this could be used instead;
- (d) in relation to the Capital Programme:-
 - (i) approves the proposed additions to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 6.1 of the report, including the procurement strategies and delegations of authority to the Director of Commercial Services or nominated Officer, as appropriate, to award the necessary contracts following stage approval by Capital Programme Group;
 - (ii) approves the proposed variations, deletions and slippage in Appendix 6.1 of the report;
 - (iii) approves the acceptance of the capital grant detailed in Appendix 6.2:

- (iv) notes the variations authorised by directors under the delegated authority provisions, outlined in Appendix 6.1; and
- (v) notes the latest position on the Capital Programme.

11.3 Reasons for Decision

- 11.3.1 To record formally changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the Capital Programme in line with latest information.

11.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

- 11.4.1 A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

11.5 Any Interest Declared or Dispensation Granted

None

11.6 Reason for Exemption if Public/Press Excluded During Consideration

None

11.7 Respective Director Responsible for Implementation

Eugene Walker, Acting Executive Director, Resources

11.8 Relevant Scrutiny and Policy Development Committee If Decision Called In

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee