

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on Thursday, 15 December 2011 commencing at 2.30 pm and finishing at 4.30 pm

Present:

Voting Members: Councillor Ann Bonner – in the Chair

Councillor Janet Godden
Councillor M. Altaf-Khan
Councillor Mrs Anda Fitzgerald-O'Connor
Councillor Don Seale
Councillor Sarah Hutchinson
Councillor Nicholas P. Turner
Councillor Michael Waive

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor Melinda Tilley
Councillor Charles Mathew for Councillor Neil Owen
Councillor Ian Hudspeth for Councillor Marilyn Badcock

Co-opted Members:

By Invitation: Carole Thomson

Officers: Jim Leivers
Janet Paine
Lorna Baxter
Sue Scane
Lisa Michelson
Simon Pickard
Arzu Ulusoy-Shipstone

Whole of meeting

Part of meeting

Agenda Item Officer Attending

The Scrutiny Committee considered the matters, reports and recommendations contained or referred to in the agenda for the meeting [, together with a schedule of addenda tabled at the meeting/the following additional documents:] and agreed as set out below. Copies of the agenda and reports [agenda, reports and schedule/additional documents] are attached to the signed Minutes.

171/11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS (Agenda No. 1)

Cllr Hudspeth for Cllr Babcock

Cllr Mathew for Cllr Owen

172/11 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - SEE GUIDANCE NOTE ON THE BACK PAGE

(Agenda No. 2)

None.

173/11 SPEAKING TO OR PETITIONING THE COMMITTEE

(Agenda No. 3)

None.

174/11 SERVICE AND RESOURCE PLANNING 2012/13 - 2016/17

(Agenda No. 4)

Cllr Chapman began the meeting with overall remarks on the budget process. The committee then received presentations from Lorna Baxter, Head of Corporate Finance and Jim Leivers, Acting Director of the Children, Education and Families Directorate.

The committee began their discussion with the capital plan with clarification coming from Arzu Ulusoy-Shipstone, Capital, Strategy & Transformation Manager for the Environment and Economy Directorate. The committee expressed concern that the capital plan might not address needed projects in schools. It was also mentioned that recent clarification of capital funding from the education settlement meant that the figures in the papers as presented would be changing. The committee decided to return to the capital discussion as part of their meeting scheduled for the 20th of January with the updated papers.

Members of the committee then had individual discussions on each of the proposed variations to the Medium Term Financial Plan which related to children's services as indicated in Annex 4 of the papers.

From this discussion the committee decided:

- To ensure that the effectiveness of the HUB model for service delivery remain a priority on the work programme.
- That the committee receive information regarding outdoor learning centres which is scheduled to be considered by Cabinet in January at its meeting in February.
- That the committee would engage in the upcoming review on children's centres as part of the work programme.

The committee also wished to recognise Jan Paine, Deputy Director Children's Services - Education and Early Intervention as she leaves the county council for another position.

Overall the committee:

Had no further comments regarding the Capital Plan pending a further discussion in January,

Felt that frontline services were protected and accepted the proposals.

Cllr Turner had a further comment that, 'We recognise that there are still large potential pressures in regards to government announcements such as the academy programme, and request that we are kept updated as the figures and situation become clearer, and fully consulted on any major changes that they may include.'

The meeting concluded at 4.30pm.

..... in the Chair

Date of signing