

COUNTY COUNCIL – 12 DECEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE CABINET

Cabinet Member: Deputy Leader of the Council

1. Staffing Report – Quarter 2 - 2017

(Cabinet, 28 November 2017)

Cabinet noted a report which provided an update on staffing numbers and related activity for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 September 2017. It gave details of the actual staffing numbers at 30 September 2017 in terms of Full Time Equivalents. In addition, the report provided information on the cost of posts being covered by agency staff and an Agency Trend analysis.

Cabinet Member: Environment

2. Review of Highway Maintenance Policies

(Cabinet, 28 November 2017)

The County Council's current Highway Maintenance Policy and Strategy are based on the old National Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance (Well Maintained Highways) which has now been superseded by the new Code of Practice, 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure', commissioned by DfT and published in late 2016.

Refreshing the policies and supporting principles will underpin improvements in the effectiveness of highway maintenance delivery, and assist in meeting planned savings in the delivery of frontline services and to maximise funding Through the DfT Incentive Fund process.

Cabinet approved the draft Highway Infrastructure Management Policy; agreed to the arrangements for sign-off of other documents underpinning the Policy and established a Cabinet Advisory Group.

Cabinet Member: Finance

3. Treasury Management Mid-Term Review 2017/18

(Cabinet, 28 November 2017)

Cabinet noted a report that set out the Treasury Management activity undertaken in the first half of the financial year 2017/18 in compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report included Debt and Investment activity, Prudential Indicator monitoring and forecast interest receivable and payable for the financial year.

Cabinet agreed to recommend Council to approve the revision to the Treasury Management Strategy Statement & Annual Investment Strategy 2017/18.

N.B This item is included elsewhere on the Council agenda for consideration.

Cabinet Member: Local Communities

4. Transition Fund for Open Access Children's Centres – November 2017

(Cabinet, 28 November 2017)

In February 2016, the council agreed to set aside £1m for creating a 'one off' fund to provide pump priming to support the provision of open access children's services. In September 2017 Cabinet agreed the proposed use of the underspend for further rounds of grant funding. Cabinet had before them a report setting out the recommendations of the cross-party group of councillors following their consideration of the applications received against the criteria outlined in the guidance notes.

Cabinet approved funding for Leys Community Church and Slade Nursery School. Cabinet asked that further work is conducted to develop more robust business plans for Dovecote Voluntary Parent Committee and Sutton Courtney Stay and Play Group and they be invited to reapply for funding under the next round of applications:

Cabinet Member: Public Health & Education

5. Chiltern Edge School – Progress Report

(Cabinet, 28 November 2017)

Chiltern Edge School has been placed in Special Measures following an Ofsted rating of 'Inadequate'. On 18 July 2017 Cabinet considered a report on a consultation into the future of Chiltern Edge School, and resolved to commission an external review of the progress made by October 2017 towards addressing the weaknesses identified by Ofsted and the construction of an in-year balanced budget. Cabinet considered a further report on the progress identified by the external review.

Cabinet agreed to note the content of the external review and the progress made by the school: towards addressing the weaknesses identified by Ofsted; in creating an in year balanced budget and in identifying an appropriate academy sponsor for the school.

Cabinet agreed not to publish a statutory notice proposing closure of Chiltern Edge School and recognised and supported the leadership of the new headteacher and the wonderful job that parents have done for the children at the school.

IAN HUDSPETH

Leader of the Council

November 2017