

## ***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Public Health & Education - Wednesday, 14 June 2017***

### ***Statement of Decision***

#### **Present:**

Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles, Cabinet Member for Public Health & Education

Officers: Sam Casey Rerhaye and Clare Dodwell (Public Health) and Deborah Miller (Corporate Services).

### **Questions from County Councillors**

#### **Councillor John Howson asked the following question of Councillor Hibbert-Biles:**

The recent Ofsted Inspectors Report on Chiltern Edge School included the following criticism of Oxfordshire County Council as the local authority:

‘Leaders have not received the support they need from the local authority. Although officers acknowledge the weaknesses in teaching and pupils’ outcomes, standards have continued to decline. The local authority has acted too slowly.’ What is the Cabinet Member’s response to Ofsted?

#### **Councillor Hibbert Biles Responded:**

“The response to Ofsted is that we are in agreement with the judgement and are working to support the school to address the areas identified for improvement. Although we admit that support for the school was too slow until we became aware of the extent of the difficulties at the school, support was offered, however, engagement from the school was slow in forthcoming. I have now met with the new head and will be revisiting the school to check improvements in October.

#### **Councillor John Howson asked the following question of Councillor Hibbert-Biles:**

In the light of the comments in the Ofsted report on Chiltern Edge School about Oxfordshire as a local authority and also those about leadership in the Ofsted Report on St Gregory the Great, also rated inadequate by Ofsted, will the Cabinet Member now review whether there is the need for a senior strategic post specifically for education and reporting directly to the Director of Children’s Services and focusing on school improvement?

#### **Councillor Hibbert-Biles Responded:**

“Currently there are three senior strategic posts for Education reporting to the Director of Children’s Services (for Education Sufficiency/Access, Vulnerable Learners and Education Quality). In addition, as St. Gregory the Great is an Academy, it is the Trust, not the local authority, that is responsible for School Improvement.”

# Drug and Alcohol Education Service

**Documentation considered:**

Report Drug and Alcohol Education Service

*A copy is attached to the signed copy of this decision.*

**Cabinet Member’s Comments**

I note that there are significant changes happening at a national level which will affect the approach that we take to re-commissioning a service. The current contract provides good value for money and extending the current provision will allow us time to align this with other contracts and explore wider synergies with other partners which in turn could enable savings and efficiencies to be made to the service in the future. Therefore I welcome the recommendations.

**Decision**

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decisions on this matter as follows:

To approve this exemption from the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules.

Signed .....  
Cabinet Member for Public Health & Education

Date .....