

## Notice of Meeting

# Cabinet Member for Children and Families Decisions

**Date & time**

Wednesday, 9  
October 2013 at  
10.30 am

**Place**

Committee Room B -  
County Hall, Kingston-  
upon-Thames, Surrey,  
KT1 2DN

**Contact**

Anne Gowing  
Room 122, County Hall  
Tel 020 8541 9122

**Chief Executive**

David McNulty

[anne.gowing@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:anne.gowing@surreycc.gov.uk)

**If you would like a copy of this agenda or the attached papers in another format, eg large print or braille, or another language please either call 020 8541 9122, write to Democratic Services, Room 122, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN, Minicom 020 8541 8914, fax 020 8541 9009, or email [anne.gowing@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:anne.gowing@surreycc.gov.uk).**

**This meeting will be held in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact Anne Gowing on 020 8541 9122.**

**Cabinet Member for Children and Families**  
Mrs Mary Angell

## AGENDA

### 1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests from Members in respect of any item to be considered at the meeting.

### 2 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

#### 2a Members' Questions

The deadline for Member's questions is 12pm four working days before the meeting (3 October 2013).

#### 2b Public Questions

The deadline for public questions is seven days before the meeting (2 October 2013).

#### 2c Petitions

The deadline for petitions was 14 days before the meeting, and no petitions have been received.

### 3 APPROVAL OF BUDGET VIREMENTS IN EXCESS OF £250,000

(Pages 1  
- 4)

Cabinet Member approval is required to budget virements in excess of £250,000.

**David McNulty**  
**Chief Executive**

Published: Tuesday, 1 October 2013

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**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**DATE: 9 OCTOBER 2013**

**LEAD OFFICER: NICK WILSON, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES**

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF BUDGET VIREMENTS IN EXCESS OF £250,000**



**SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

Cabinet Member approval is required to budget virements in excess of £250,000.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

It is recommended that:

1. A virement of £538,000 is approved to incorporate the expenditure and income relating to the Adoption Reform Grant within the 2013/14 budget for Children's services.
2. A virement of £431,400 is approved to incorporate the expenditure and income relating to additional DCLG troubled families programme grant in the 2013/14 budget for the family support service.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Virements are proposed to include additional government grant funding in the 2013/14 budget.

**DETAILS:**

**Business Case**

1. Surrey has received notification of additional government grants that were not included in the MTFP 2013-18. Both the expenditure and income relating to these grants now need to be included in the 2013/14 budget. As the grants are in excess of £250,000 Cabinet Member approval is required for the virement required to amend the budget.
2. The Department for Education (DfE) has made available Adoption Reform Grant which must be spent on adoption services in 2013/14. Surrey's allocation is £538,000. The Government's priorities for the use of this money are:-
  - structural reform of adopter recruitment to increase the supply of adopters, and
  - reducing the backlog of children waiting for adoption, particularly by developing innovative ways of finding adoptive families for children who traditionally wait longer than average to be adopted.

3. The service plans to spend the grant on providing a range of training to staff throughout the service, building capacity within the Adoption Team through use of temporary staff to increase the amount of work the team can process in the current financial year, employing project staff to identify ways of improving the adoption process in Surrey and developing a paper-less adoption panel, saving time on administrative processes.
4. These measures are intended to increase the number of assessments the Adoption Team can complete during 2013/14, to improve the panel process moving forward, and to develop greater understanding among staff across the service of the issues around adoption, helping them to increase the numbers of children identified for permanent placement.
5. Surrey has also been notified of additional grant by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in relation to the second year of its troubled families programme. The grant relating to attachment fees is £431,400 greater than the £703,800 included in the MTFP 2013-18. Thus, additional expenditure and matching income relating to attachment fees now needs to be included in the 2013/14 budget for the family support programme.

#### **CONSULTATION:**

6. The proposed virement has been discussed with the relevant budget holders, Head of Family Services and the Assistant Director for Children's Services.

#### **RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:**

7. All budgets in the Children Schools and Families Directorate are being monitored during 2013/14 in line with a risk based approach that ensures appropriate emphasis is placed on high risk items including the SEN agency budget which is monitored on a monthly basis.

#### **Financial and Value for Money Implications**

8. The virements are requested to accurately reflect grant awards in the 2013/14 budget.

#### **Section 151 Officer Commentary**

9. This is primarily a finance report in order to ensure the budget correctly reflects government grants awarded in 2013/14.

#### **Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

10. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

#### **Equalities and Diversity**

11. This is a technical finance report seeking to reflect grant changes in the budget therefore an EIA is not required.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:**

The budget will be adjusted in line with the approved virement.

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**Contact Officer:**

Deirdre Linehan, Senior Principal Accountant, 020 8213 2684

**Consulted:**

Caroline Budden, Head of Children's Services

Sean Rafferty, Head of Family Services

David Hodge, The Leader of the Council

**Annexes:** None

**Sources/background papers:**

- Council's Medium Term Financial Plan
  - DfE and DCLG grant determinations
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