

CABINET

The following decisions were taken by the Cabinet on Tuesday, 25 June 2019 and will take effect on 03/07/2018 unless the call-in procedure has been triggered. **CALL-IN DEADLINE: 02/07/18.**

The following represents a summary of the decisions taken by the Cabinet. It is not intended to represent the formal record of the meeting but to facilitate the call-in process. The formal minutes will be published in due course to replace this decision sheet.

Members wishing to request a call-in on any of these matters, should contact the Committees Business Manager or relevant Democratic Services Officer.

The Cabinet at its meeting on Tuesday, 25 June 2019 considered the following matters and resolved:

- **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 28 MAY 2019** (Item 2)

The Minutes of 28 May 2019 were approved as a correct record.

- **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (Item 3)

There were none.

- **LEADER / DEPUTY LEADER / CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS/ INVESTMENT BOARD TAKEN SINCE THE LAST CABINET MEETING** (Item 6)

RESOLVED:

The decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families was noted.

Reason for Decision:

To inform the Cabinet of decisions taken by the Leader, Cabinet Members and Investment Board under delegated authority.

- **DYNAMIC PURCHASING SYSTEM (DPS) - INDEPENDENT EXPERT ASSESSMENTS** (Item 7)

RESOLVED:

1. That following consideration of the available options, the results of the procurement process, and commercially sensitive information provided in the Part 2 annex of the report, approval be given for the council to establish a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for the period 1 August 2019 – 31 July 2021 (with the option for extension up until, but not exceeding 31 July 2024).
2. That authority be delegated to the Service Manager (Gateway to Resources) to 'call off' independent expert assessments and assessments for special guardianship orders from this DPS as required.
3. That authority be delegated to the Director - Commissioning to add new

providers onto the DPS for the Council as appropriate.

Reason for Decision:

As outlined in *Child First Commissioning Intentions for Children in Surrey 2017-22*, Surrey County Council is committed to ensuring children in Surrey get ‘the right help, care and protection at the right time so they can thrive’. Expert Witnesses and providers of Special Guardianship Order (SGO) Assessments inform the County Council in its care planning decisions.

The demand for statutory and in some cases court ordered assessments has increased at a rate which the Council is unable to meet within current in-house capacity. To cope with this pressure and ensure our statutory duties are met, the Children’s Social Care teams have been spot purchasing external experts to carry out SGO and expert assessments. However the spot purchasing arrangements are not sustainable and not achieving value for money. (This is unsustainable within the financial challenges that the Council is facing). The Council also acknowledges Ofsted’s findings (May 2018) which highlighted that there is an over-reliance on independent social workers and other expert witnesses in Surrey, and the quality, value for money and timeliness of assessments are key areas that need improving.

The robust commissioning and contract management arrangements that will be put in place will ensure that expert assessments will be monitored more closely. Regular monitoring will have a strong focus on providers’ safeguarding policies and procedures and ensure that the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults remains a priority at all times.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee]

- **COMMISSIONING EARLY HELP AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING PROVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES (Item 8)**

RESOLVED:

1. That the use of a Dynamic Purchasing System to commission Early Help and emotional wellbeing provision for children, young people and families from January 2020 be approved.
2. That the providers as listed in the Part 2 Annex of this report be awarded a place on the new DPS as they have passed the Invitation to Tender (ITT) evaluation process, whilst recognising that other organisations will be able to apply throughout the duration of the DPS.
3. That authority be delegated for the approval of individual contract awards to the Executive Director of Children, Families, Life Long Learning and Culture.

Reason for Decision:

A Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) under the Light Touch Regime has been selected as the most appropriate route to market because:

- It enables robust control of the quality of Early Help provision for children,

young people and families;

- It provides flexibility to meet the needs of the whole family regardless of the age of the children. This approach also helps to attract a wider range of suppliers and allows providers to enter / exit from the list without having to re-open frameworks, which can be legally challenging and bureaucratic;
- It is responsive. It will enable us to ensure that the service providers who can meet the emergent needs of children, young people, and families are able to join the list throughout the length of the commission.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee]

- **INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT** (Item 9)

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Report of the Investment Board be endorsed.

Reason for Decision:

To inform the Cabinet about the activities of the Investment Board during the Financial Year 2018-19. The Investment Board was responsible for the delivery of the agreed Investment Strategy. The Investment Strategy was created by the council to deliver an ongoing and resilient source of income to provide financial support to the council's front line services. Investments undertaken as a result of the strategy agreed in 2013 are delivering a net income stream to the council.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Resources & Performance Select Committee]

- **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC** (Item 10)

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

- **DYNAMIC PURCHASING SYSTEM (DPS) - INDEPENDENT EXPERT ASSESSMENTS** (Item 11)

RESOLVED:

See Minute 107/19.

Reason for Decision:

See Minute 107/19.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee]

- **COMMISSIONING EARLY HELP AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING PROVISION FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES (Item 12)**

RESOLVED:

See Minute 108/19.

Reason for Decision:

See Minute 108/19.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Children, Families, Lifelong Learning & Culture Select Committee]

- **INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (Item 13)**

RESOLVED:

See Minute 109/19.

Reason for Decision:

See Minute 109/19.

[The decisions on this item can be called in by the Resources & Performance Select Committee]

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