

COMMISSIONER NEWSAM'S MEETING
Tuesday, 12th May, 2015

Present:- Commissioner Newsam (in the Chair).

Also in attendance Mr. I. Thomas (Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services).

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 2ND APRIL 2015

Consideration of this item was deferred for consideration at the next meeting.

6. EXTENSIONS AND ADAPTATIONS TO THE HOMES OF FOSTER CARERS AND ADOPTERS

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services, requesting that further funds be made available to continue to provide home extensions and adaptations for foster carers and adopters in line with the proposal agreed by Cabinet on 25th April 2012 (Minute No. 197 refers). The report set out a proposal to increase capacity within the in-house Fostering Service through funding extensions and adaptations to foster carers' and adopters' homes, in order to allow carers to care for additional children and young people. Details were shown of the costs which the Council would avoid, during the next three years, by adopting this proposal.

Information was provided about the method of approval of funding for projects within the scheme, as well as confirmation that the agreed projects will all be subject to legally binding contracts between the carers and this Council.

It was also clarified that the calculations shown in the submitted report are based on funding for ten project approvals at a total cost of £550,000 in each of the next three years.

Appended to the report was the policy (criteria) for funding extensions and adaptations to the homes of Local Authority foster carers and adopters.

The Strategic Director was able to confirm, verbally, that officers of both Financial Services and Legal Services had been consulted on and had agreed with the appropriate information contained within the submitted report.

Minded to Grant:- (1) That the report be received and its content noted.

(2) That approval be granted for further borrowing of funding of approximately £550,000, for each of the next three years, £1.65 millions in total, to continue to provide home extensions and adaptations to the

homes of foster carers and adopters in line with the scheme originally approved by Cabinet on 25th April, 2012.

(3) That approval be granted for the use of funds borrowed in line with this scheme, to part fund home purchases for foster carers and adopters where to do so would be more cost effective for the Council in meeting the needs of children than extending or adapting an existing home.

(4) That approval be granted for the new criteria, set out within the submitted report, to be applied in determining which applications for extensions and adaptations will be approved and funded.