

**CABINET MEMBER FOR SAFEGUARDING AND DEVELOPING
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN
19th January, 2011**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Councillors Havenhand and Sangster.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Currie

D102. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 5TH JANUARY, 2011

Resolved:- That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th January, 2011 be approved as a correct record.

D103. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2010/2011

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services, providing details of expenditure, income and the net budget position for the Children and Young People's Services Directorate compared to the profiled budgets for the period ending 30th November, 2010 and the projected year end outturn position for 2010/2011. Members discussed the following issues:-

- : currently, the Directorate was forecasting a balanced outturn;
- : the Directorate's budget had been increased from £39.852 million to £45.470 million, due to increases of £5.1 million to cover the projected overspend identified in-year and £518,000 to cover the in-year Area Based Grant cut. This also included the Area Based Grant cuts of £1.578 million, all of which were agreed at the Cabinet meeting held on 17th November, 2010.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the current forecast outturn position for the Children and Young People's Services Directorate, based on actual costs and income to 30th November, 2010 and forecast costs and income to 31st March, 2011 be noted.

D104. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES - CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2010/2011

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services indicating that the Children and Young People's Services' Capital Programme 2010/2011 was £21.730 million and was forecast to be spent fully by 31st March, 2011. The submitted report showed the capital programme's actual expenditure to 15th November, 2010 and projected expenditure to 31st March, 2011.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That it be noted that the Children and Young People's Services' Capital Programme for 2010/11 was £21.370 million and expenditure to 15th November, 2010 was £9.458 million and that the Capital Programme was expected to spend to budget by 31st March, 2011.

D105. BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE AND THE CAPITAL SPENDING REVIEW

Further to Minute No. 62 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member and Advisers for Safeguarding and Developing Learning Opportunities for Children held on 22nd September, 2010, consideration was given to a report presented by the Children and Young People's Services Capital Projects Officer stating that, on 5th July, 2010, the Department for Education ceased the Building Schools for the Future Programme. For Rotherham this ended the plans for a number of new secondary and special schools, as well as a 'state of the art' ICT infrastructure. In total, the programme was worth £222 million, alongside £24 million for ICT. The Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove MP, emphasised to all local authorities that this did not mean the end of capital spending on schools. A Capital Review Group was established by the Government to make recommendations on the future direction for capital expenditure on schools, with a special emphasis on how it should be procured. The submitted report provided an update on the results of the capital review and the financial settlement on education capital spending for 2011/2012.

Discussion and a question and answer session ensued and the following issues were covered:-

- national capital allocation
- reduced capital allocation for Rotherham
- Devolved Formula Capital
- Modernisation Capital Maintenance
- Basic Need
- Rotherham's Primary Capital Programme
- access initiative funding
- extended schools
- risk factors

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the financial settlement for Rotherham's education capital spending 2011/2012, as now reported, be noted.

[The Chairman authorised consideration of the following item to keep members informed]

D106. SUSTAINING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT IN ROTHERHAM

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Strategic Director of Children and Young People's Services indicating that the Council was working intensively with Rotherham schools to design and deliver a new 'school improvement partnership' with effect from April, 2011. At that point in time, fundamental shifts in Government policy on schools and local education provision would combine with stringent financial cuts to local authorities and make current practice unsustainable.

The Council would need to establish a new settlement with schools and new approaches to individual and collective school improvement to ensure that the Borough's children and young people continued to progress as they should. This proposed partnership built on the considerable successes of Transforming Rotherham Learning (TRL) over the last five years, but would require a step-change in system leadership, support structures and resourcing to be effective.

The report described the aims of the proposed 'Transforming Rotherham Learning Partnership Executive' which would combine the functions of the current TRL Executive (which authorised the Partnership Plan and commissions work in Leadership, Inclusion and Learning) and Schools' Forum (which contracted use of the Dedicated Schools Grant within the Local Authority). The policy and financial governance would be invested in a single body made up primarily of school leaders, using the Schools Forum constitution as a legal core.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the proposal for a new Rotherham school improvement partnership, as detailed in the report now submitted, be supported and a further detailed report be submitted to Cabinet.

D107. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended (information relating to financial or business affairs).

D108. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FOSTER CARERS

Consideration was given to a report presented by the Service Manager, Long Term LAC Team concerning a request for financial assistance, from a couple who were foster carers, for a building extension to their home to enable them to be considered as long-term foster carers for three children currently residing with them on a task-centred basis. The application was made under the provisions of the Adoption Support Services (Local Authority) (England) Regulations 2003.

Resolved:- That consideration of this matter be deferred pending the submission of three written estimates for the required work.

D109. GANI MARTINS

It was noted that this was Gani's last meeting prior to taking up a new position with Salford City Council.

It was placed on record that Gani be thanked for her services to the Council and she be wished every success in her new appointment.