

SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet

Meeting held 14 October 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Leigh Bramall (Deputy Chair), Ben Curran, Jackie Drayton, Jayne Dunn, Terry Fox, Mazher Iqbal, Mary Lea and Sioned-Mair Richards

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 An apology for absence was received from the Leader, Councillor Julie Dore.

2. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

2.1 The Chair reported that appendix 1 to agenda item 9 'Step Up to Social Work', was not available to the public and press because it contained exempt information described in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and if Members wished to discuss this appendix the public and press would need to be excluded from the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 16 September 2015 were approved as a correct record.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 Public Questions in respect of Council Policy regarding Community Groups

Martin Brighton submitted a number of questions in relation to Council policy regarding community groups.

Councillor Leigh Bramall, Deputy Chair and Cabinet Member for Business Skills and Development, responded that Councillor Jackie Drayton, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families, could meet if required. It was stated that should he have any evidence of abuse this should be reported to the Police.

5.2 Public Question in respect of Webcasting

Nigel Slack asked if he could have an update on the progress of webcasting for Council meetings?

Councillor Ben Curran, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, commented that he understood that the Council were looking at various options in respect of

webcasting such as sponsorship or the use of applications such as Periscope. He would clarify the latest position and respond in writing to Mr Slack.

5.3 Public Question in respect of Devolution

Nigel Slack stated that the City Council and the Sheffield City Region had promised consultation over the 'devolution' deal signed recently. He therefore asked will this be by each individual Council or a combined regional consultation? Will the consultation with the public take place before this matter is brought before Full Council for a decision? What is the proposed timetable for the consultation? If the results of the public consultation are negative, will the Council vote against the agreement?

In response Councillor Leigh Bramall commented that the deal had only been announced recently and therefore there was a lot to be discussed. The form of consultation to be undertaken had been discussed but not yet finalised. Whatever the area the consultation would be substantial.

The consultation would take place before the matter is brought to Full Council. The timetable was to be decided and would need to take into account the outcomes arising from the imminent Government Comprehensive Spending Review. If the consultation showed overwhelming opposition to the agreement it was unlikely that it would be taken forward. There was still however a number of things to be agreed in respect of the consultation. The Heads of Terms for the deal had been agreed but there was a lot more work to be done on the precise detail of the agreement.

5.4 Public Question in respect of Devolution and Constituent Members

Nigel Slack commented that, having read the 'Devolution' agreement only briefly, one particular paragraph caused concern: 'The Mayor for the Sheffield City Region will be elected by the local government electors for the areas of the constituent Councils of the Sheffield City Region Combined Authority'. The Sheffield City Region Combined Authority website indicated that the 'constituent' Councils are the four South Yorkshire Metros. The remaining five Councils from North Notts and North Derbyshire are listed as 'non-constituent'. Mr Slack also noted that the agreement was signed by the Metro Council leaders and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Chair. Will those Councils now become 'constituent' members or will they remain outside the decision making authority?

Councillor Leigh Bramall responded that, because of the way the City Region was split between districts, counties and unitaries, it was much more simplistic at this time to move forward with metro and unitary authorities even though the City Region had a mixture of the two. It should be the responsibility of the Government to facilitate how it worked in the future. The City Council had had to make some compromises to agree the deal so the Government needed to make difficult decisions on their part.

Councillor Bramall did not believe things would move as fast as the Government timetable suggested. The current wording said that constituent authorities could

be part of the direct powers of the Mayor so it was up to individual authorities whether they moved to become constituent authorities or not. Many of the powers agreed in the deal were given to the Combined Authority and not the Mayor. There would be no 'passporting' down of cuts as the City Region was not taking on health and social care or Police powers.

6. ITEMS CALLED-IN FOR SCRUTINY

6.1 There were no items called-in for Scrutiny since the previous meeting of the Cabinet.

7. RETIREMENT OF STAFF

7.1 The Interim Executive Director, Resources submitted a report on Council staff retirements.

7.2 **RESOLVED:** That this Cabinet :-

(a) places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to the City Council by the following staff in the Portfolios below:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Post</u>	<u>Years' Service</u>
<u>Children, Young People and Families</u>		
Barbara Cox	Analyst	41
<u>Communities</u>		
Christine Elrick	Support Worker	28
Eric Jackson	Estate Worker, Housing Service	Council 26
<u>Place</u>		
Lloyd Marshall	Business Support Assistant	23

(b) extends to them its best wishes for the future and a long and happy retirement; and

(c) directs that an appropriate extract of this resolution under the Common Seal of the Council be forwarded to them.

8. STEP UP TO SOCIAL WORK

8.1 The Executive Director, Children, Young People and Families submitted a report in relation to the Step Up To Social Work Programme.

8.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) notes the contents of the report;
- (b) notes that the Council has entered into the Grant Funding Agreement for the Step Up To Social Work Programme as the lead authority for the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Partnership;
- (c) approves that Inter Authority Contracts between the authorities of the Partnership, which have been agreed in principle, are now executed;
- (d) approves that the Council enters into a contract with Salford University for Cohort 4 and approves an extension to that contract for a further cohort if the Council should be successful in receiving another grant for any future cohort; and
- (e) delegates authority to administer the Department for Education funding awarded to the Partnership to Sheffield City Council Assistant Director of Children's Fieldwork Services.

8.3 Reasons for Decision

- 8.3.1 The Step Up To Social Work programme is a national initiative which is wholly funded by the Department for Education (DfE) by way of a grant. This funding includes a bursary payment for each successful student on the degree programme, funding of the University course, funding for training and supervision of each student whilst they are placed in their host authority across the region and administration of funding by the lead authority.
- 8.3.2 The Programme has been running since 2010 and has flagship status both regionally and nationally. The Yorkshire and Humberside Regional Partnership is the largest of the 18 national partnerships participating in the Step Up To Social Work programme. This initiative has produced 108 high calibre graduates since its initiation and 98% of these graduates have been successful in gaining employment as social workers in authorities across this region. This initiative has proven to be highly successful in resolving recruitment difficulties in social work in children and families.
- 8.3.3 This year the DfE have approved funding for the Yorkshire and Humberside region to host 50 students which means that external funding awarded will be £1.7m for the 14 month programme which will start in January 2016. Admissions recruitment took place in June/July 2015. Sheffield is the lead authority and acts as the broker for the grant funding with the responsibility of distribution of funding to each authority as directed by the Department of Education and oversees the success of the Programme.
- 8.3.4 The other nine local authorities in the Partnership include: City of Bradford MBC, Doncaster Children's Services Trust, Kirklees Council, Leeds City Council, Calderdale County Council, North Lincolnshire Council, North East Lincolnshire Council, North Yorkshire County Council and Wakefield Council. Letters of Commitment from all these authorities were received at the point of submitting the

bid and Inter Authority Contracts have been prepared in accordance with the DfE template. The Grant Offer Letter from the Department for Education was received on 26 June 2015. Salford University has been procured to deliver the 14 month post graduate degree programme and the relevant contract terms have now been agreed (Appendix 1). The grant will be paid on a monthly basis and any underspend on funding as at March 2017 will be repaid to the DfE.

8.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

8.4.1 Sheffield City Council has been the lead authority for the Step Up To Social Work Programme since its inception at a pilot stage in 2010. The Regional Partnership is the largest in the country and is highly praised by the DfE for its success. The DfE has advised prospective new partnerships to contact Sheffield for expert guidance and the lead Step Up co-ordinator from Sheffield visited Somerset and Dorset in March. This led to the South West forming a new partnership and they continue to seek guidance from Sheffield.

8.4.2 Sheffield City Council is currently participating in a DfE longitudinal national study of graduates from past Step Up Cohorts and was recently invited to be interviewed by Consultant Economists who have been commissioned by the DfE to audit the value of different social work degree programmes.

8.4.3 Sheffield City Council wishes to continue to act as the lead authority for Step Up To Social Work within the Yorkshire and Humberside region as it raises the profile of the Authority not only for the workforce across the region but nationally.

8.4.4 Sheffield City Council has recently been successful in the bid for the Early Adopter phase of Teaching Partnerships for the South Yorkshire region. 22 Partnerships bid nationally; these were shortlisted to 8 with a requirement for a further application which resulted in Sheffield City Council being one of the final 4 successful bidders. This new partnership will allow Sheffield City Council to contribute to the future of social work education and it is believed that the bid was successful due to the expertise gained from the Step Up to Social Work Programme.

9. REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING MONTH 5 (AS AT 31/8/15)

9.1 The Interim Executive Director, Resources submitted a report providing the month 5 monitoring statement on the City Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2015/16.

9.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) notes the updated information and management actions provided by the report on the 2015/16 Revenue Budget position; and
- (b) in relation to the Capital Programme:-

- (i) approves the proposed additions to the Capital Programme listed in Appendix 5.1 and 5.2, including the procurement strategies and delegations of authority to the Director of Commercial Services or nominated Officer, as appropriate, to award the necessary contracts following stage approval by Capital Programme Group;
- (ii) approves the proposed variations, deletions and slippage in Appendix 5.1 and 5.2;
- (iii) notes the latest position on the Capital Programme including the current level of delivery; and
- (iv) notes the variations approved under delegated authority provisions.

9.3 **Reasons for Decision**

To record formally changes to the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme and gain Member approval for changes in line with Financial Regulations and to reset the Capital Programme in line with latest information.

9.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

A number of alternative courses of action are considered as part of the process undertaken by Officers before decisions are recommended to Members. The recommendations made to Members represent what Officers believe to be the best options available to the Council, in line with Council priorities, given the constraints on funding and the use to which funding is put within the Revenue Budget and the Capital Programme.

10. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2016-21**

10.1 The Interim Executive Director, Resources submitted a report outlining a strategic framework for the development of budget proposals and the business planning process for 2016/17 and beyond.

10.2 **RESOLVED:** That Cabinet:-

- (a) notes the forecast position for the next 5 years;
- (b) agrees the approach to business planning targets; and
- (c) agrees the following approach to capital planning:
 - Maximise flexibility in resource pools to ensure priorities in relation to housing can be most effectively achieved, including policies related to affordable housing;
 - Manage capital resource pools including New Homes Bonus and Community Infrastructure Levy to ensure that Council wide objectives are achieved; and
 - Reaffirm the existing Corporate Resource Pool allocation principles.

10.3 Reasons for Decision

To provide a strategic framework for the development of budget proposals and the business planning process for 2016/17 and beyond.

10.4 Alternatives Considered and Rejected

There were no alternative options presented in the report.

10.5 (NOTE: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 26 of the Council's Constitution and the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the Chair decided that the above report be considered as a matter of urgency on the grounds that the figures in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) were based on various assumptions made in advance of the agreement of Sheffield City Region's devolution deal on Friday 2 October. The publication of the MTFS was therefore delayed briefly in order to allow officers sufficient time to review the details of the devolution deal and to assess whether any of the assumptions in the MTFS should be revised).