

CABINET

At a meeting of Cabinet held on
20 July 2016

- (Present)** **Councillor Grunewald (Chairman)**
Councillors Bell, Burns, Bowden, Fulhan,
A Johnson, McCauley, L Preston and Quinn
- (Not Present)** **Councillor Gomez-Aspron**
- (Also Present)** **Councillor De'Asha**
Councillor Baines (Chairman, Overview and
Scrutiny Commission)
Councillor C Preston (Chairman, Environment,
Regeneration, Housing, Culture and Leisure
Overview and Scrutiny Panel)

17 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Gomez-Aspron

18 MINUTES

- * **Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on
22 June 2016 be approved and signed.**

19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No declarations of interest were made.

20 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- a) Cabinet Response to the Scrutiny Review of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

A report was presented in response to a Scrutiny Review of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping which had been undertaken by the Environment, Regeneration, Housing, Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- * **Resolved that:**

- (1) the report be noted; and**
- (2) the action plan attached at Appendix 1 be approved and presented by the Cabinet Member, Community Safety (including Housing) to the Environment, Regeneration, Housing, Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel.**

- b) Cabinet Response to the Scrutiny Review of Foster Carers

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A report was presented in response to a Scrutiny Review of Foster Carers which had been undertaken by the Children and Young People's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) the report be noted; and**
- (2) the action plan attached at Appendix 1 be approved and presented by the Cabinet Member, Children, Families, Young People and Education to the Children and Young People's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel.**

21 BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MAY 2016

A report was submitted which informed Cabinet of Budget and Performance Monitoring for May 2016. Regular monitoring of both Council budgetary and performance information was provided in order to ensure the delivery of efficient, effective and value for money services that meet the needs and expectations of the customers and communities that it serves.

The report also provided an analysis of budget and performance for each of the Council's Portfolios. The purpose of the report was to provide Cabinet with an overview of the budgetary position covering revenue and capital budgets along with key action being taken to ensure Portfolios remained within allocated cash limits. The performance section commented on significant issues around the delivery of services, the position of the Council's performance measures, and action required to address any identified concerns in relation to performance or service delivery.

Three-year targets for individual performance indicators were approved by Cabinet on the 30 March 2016. At the time targets were based on projected outturn figures. Now final outturn data has been reported it is requested that a small number of indicator targets are revised. These are contained at Annex 1

* **Resolved that the financial and performance positions of the respective Portfolios be noted.**

22 CORPORATE FINANCIAL REPORT

A report was submitted which reviewed and updated Members on the latest financial position of the Council for the current financial year 2016/17. The Corporate Financial Report is produced quarterly and this report provides an updated position for the 1st quarter.

The main elements of the report were contained in the commentary on the Council's Financial Position:

Section	Content
1	Capital Programme 2016/17 to 2018/19
2	Revenue Budget 2016/17
3	Risks, Reserves, Balances & EU Issues
4	Government Consultations
5	Treasury Management Position Statement

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* **Resolved that Council be recommended to:-**

- 1) **approve the latest Capital Programme as shown at Annex A;**
- 2) **approve virements in excess of £100k as detailed in Section 2.2.4;**
- 3) **approve the revised General Fund Budget for 2016/17 as detailed in Section 2;**
- 4) **note the latest risks, reserves , balances, position & EU issues;**
- 5) **note the latest Government Consultations; and**
- 6) **note the Treasury Management Position Statement.**

23 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY PROPOSED GOVERNANCE REVIEW AND SCHEME

A report was submitted which informed Cabinet of a proposed Governance Review and scheme. The Local Authorities of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) reached agreement with the Government in November 2015 regarding the devolution of resources, powers and responsibilities from Government to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA). The details of the agreement were considered and approved by Full Council at its meeting held on 19 November 2015. This approval also recognised the requirement to have a Directly Elected Mayor for the Liverpool City Region from May 2017.

Before the Government can devolve powers to the Combined Authority, the Combined Authority was obliged to carry out a Governance Review and propose a Scheme in relation to the exercise of powers. The Review was intended to demonstrate that the devolution of powers as set out in the Scheme would be likely to improve the exercise of those functions in the area of the Liverpool City Region.

The Governance Review and Scheme were attached to the report at Appendix 1.

There was also a requirement to carry out a consultation process in relation to the Governance Review and Scheme to provide an opportunity for members of the public and stakeholders to comment on the proposed devolution of powers. Following the consultation period, the LCR Combined Authority will submit the Review and Scheme and the outcome of the consultation to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. If the Secretary of State is satisfied with the Review, the Scheme and the outcome of the consultation, a statutory order will be drafted to devolve powers which will be required to be approved by the Combined Authority and by its Constituent Councils later in the year before it is laid before Parliament.

The Governance Review and Scheme was approved for the purposes of consultation by the Combined Authority on 17 June 2016. The consultation commenced on 24 June 2016 and would continue for six weeks until 5 August 2016. Its outcome would be reported to the Combined Authority on 19 August 2016.

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It is open to the Cabinet to submit a formal response to the consultation process, but the Cabinet is also able to make known its views directly via its representation on the Combined Authority. Members noted that the decision in relation to a Directly Elected Mayor had already been taken by Council. Council will, in due course, be requested to approve the implementation of the powers referred to in the Devolution Agreement, even though it has already approved the Agreement itself.

It was noted that the proposed devolution of any other additional powers to the Combined Authority would be required to be considered and approved by Constituent Councils following the carrying out of a further governance review.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) **the consultation process in relation to the Governance Review and Scheme be noted;**
- (2) **the Chief Executive be authorized to write to Members of the Combined Authority to support the Governance Review and scheme detailed in the report; and**
- (3) **the Chief Executive be authorised to write to Ministers to make the Council's position clear on the Devolution Process.**

24 OFSTED INSPECTION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN IN NEED OF HELP AND PROTECTION, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS AND A REVIEW OF THE LOCAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S BOARD (LSCB) UPDATE ON THE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A report was submitted which updated Cabinet on the Ofsted Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers, alongside a review of the Local Safeguarding Children Board that took place between 5 and 25 November 2014. The final report was published on 26 January 2015.

The report followed on from previous updates provided to Cabinet on 18 November 2015 and 30 March 2016.

The inspection was carried out under the single inspection framework and combined case tracking, case sampling, observations of practice, as well as direct interviews with children and young people. Both Children and Young People's Services and the Local Safeguarding Children Board were graded as requiring improvement.

A local authority rated as 'requires improvement', indicates that there was no widespread or serious failures that created or left children being harmed or at risk from harm. The welfare of looked after children was safeguarded and promoted. Minimum requirements were in place. However, the authority was not yet delivering good protection, help and care for children, young people and families.

The Improvement Plan comprised the priority and immediate actions identified by Ofsted together with identified areas for improvement. The Improvement Plan had been subject to ongoing monitoring through what was previously the Children and Young People's Service Senior Leadership Team and, more recently, the People's

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Services Leadership Team.

The previous update report presented to Cabinet on 30 March 2016 identified that progress had been made but, that this was not consistent across all the areas for improvement identified by the Inspection. Since then progress had been made across all areas.

A copy of the completed Improvement Plan was attached at Appendix 1.

- * **Resolved that the completed Local Authority Improvement Plan, attached at Appendix 1 be approved.**

25 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

- * **Resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) for the reason stated:**

<u>Minute(s)</u>	<u>Reason (under the Local Government Act 1972)</u>
26	Information relating to an individual (Para 1 of Schedule 12A).
27	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual (Para 2 of Schedule 12A)

26 SERIOUS CASE REVIEW

A report was presented to Cabinet on the findings of a Serious Case Review relating to a Family, which had been conducted by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB).

The Cabinet was informed that the serious case review had identified a number of findings which required action by the Council and Partners. Actions to address these were set out in the Action Plan at Appendix 2.

Members were informed that these would be subject to regular monitoring and review through the LSCB Case Review Sub-Committee.

Mrs S Richardson, Chairman of the LSCB was invited to comment on the report.

- * **Resolved that the contents of the Serious Case Review Overview Report and the St Helens LSCB Action Plan be noted.**

Mrs S Richardson here left the meeting.

28 RESTRUCTURE OF CHILDREN'S SAFEGUARDING UNIT

A report was submitted which informed Cabinet of a restructure of the Children's Safeguarding Unit.

Cabinet had considered reports relating to the Ofsted Inspection of Services for Children in Need of Help and Protection, Children Looked After and Care Leavers Update on Improvement Plan March 2016; People's Services Department – Demonstrating Assurance and Effectiveness; and Revised Approach to Children's Services and Departmental Priorities, People's Services Department.

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Those reports outlined a number of issues in relation to Children's Services in the borough and a clear direction to address deficiencies in performance and other issues.

The Children's Safeguarding Unit plays a key part in ensuring that the risk to children in the borough, who were at risk of abuse, were mitigated and minimised as much as is possible.

Children's Safeguarding in the borough was a multi-agency responsibility, however the Council had a lead statutory role and in order to support the work of investigating practitioners, a robust and comprehensive Safeguarding Unit was required. The Safeguarding Unit would also fulfil the Council's statutory responsibilities for Independent Reviewing Officers to chair and lead on the review of all children looked after and child protection conferences.

- * **Resolved that revised structure and approach to the Children's Safeguarding Unit as outlined in the report be approved.**

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