

CABINET

At a meeting of Cabinet held on
28 March 2018

(Present)	Councillor Grunewald (Chairman) Councillors J Banks, Clarke, A Johnson, Murphy, Neal and Quinn
(Not Present)	Councillors Fulham, Long and L Preston
(Present as an Observer)	Councillors De'Asha and J Jackson

108 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fulham, Long and L Preston.

109 MINUTES

- * **Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 March 2018 be approved and signed.**

110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No declarations of interest from Members were made.

111 ISSUES ARISING FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

There were no issues arising from Overview and Scrutiny.

112 PERFORMANCE INDICATOR REVIEW AND THREE YEAR TARGET

A report was submitted which updated Members on the Performance Indicator Review and 3-Year Target Setting (2018-2020) Report.

The Council remained committed to monitoring and managing performance. Ensuring a strong link between budgets, service delivery and performance targets was critical to the achievement of the Council's desired outcomes both for the organisation and wider community, particularly given the scale of government cuts and the impact on the availability of resources. Performance indicators were established to cover those areas the organisation believed was important to measure, monitor and report. To ensure the continued relevance of its key performance measures, the Council conducted an annual review of indicators across all Departments.

Performance indicators and their associated targets were a key element of the business planning process. The process of target setting must be realistic as it was these targets that quantified and demonstrated the extent of the Council's ambition and the availability of resources over the coming three years.

The severe reductions in public sector funding, the impact on the availability of resources, and additional external factors such as the wider economic

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environment, brought into question the realism of continual improvement in service performance. However, having taken account of the above factors, the authority still looked to establish challenging but realistic targets that are commensurate with the available level of resource.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) **the selection of Tier 1 and Tier 2 PIs and their revised 3-year targets 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 listed by Portfolio at Appendix 1 be approved; and**
- (2) **delegation be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Directors and Portfolio Members, to amend and update targets if necessary on receipt of final outturn data.**

113 PROPOSAL FOR A SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND)

A report was submitted which informed Cabinet of a proposal for a supported internship programme for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

The SEND Code of Practice outlined the need for young people to have coherent personalised learning programmes that offer breadth, depth and progression. In June 2014, the Department for Education issued guidance to Local Authorities on the establishment of supported internships as one type of study programme specifically aimed at those young people with SEND who want to move into employment and need extra support to do so.

Further announcements were made by the DfE on 1st December 2017 committing £9.7 million to establish local supported internship forums, which will create work placements for young people with SEND to provide them with the skills and confidence they need to be able to move into paid work. The funding could also be used to train job coaches, who were vital to the success of supporting those with SEND into paid work. The Council will receive a one off grant of £42,636 to promote supported internships and other preparation for employment activity for young people with SEND, which is a critical aspect of the SEND reforms. The Department's expectation is that local authorities will use the funding provided to:

- provide job coach training to increase the pool of expert job coaches available to support young people with SEND on work placements; and
- set up local supported internship forums to bring together education providers, local authorities, employers and other key figures to identify local opportunities and overcome the local barriers to create a supported internship programme.

* **Resolved that:**

- (1) **the establishment of a supported internship programme with the Council as a placement provider, run in partnership with St Helens College as the Further Education partner be agreed;**

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- (2) a minimum of five internship opportunities be identified within Council Departments with agreed number of placements in People's Services, Traded and Environmental Services and Corporate Services to run initially from September 2018 to July 2019;
- (3) employees within their service areas be identified to become mentors, and to give them the time to support interns within the workplace; and
- (4) the programme be used as an example to encourage local employers to promote the employment of St Helens young people with SEND within their businesses.

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