

CABINET

Thursday, 19 March 2009

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	S Foulkes (Chair)	
	Councillors	S Holbrook G Davies P Davies G Gardiner S Kelly	M McLaughlin R Moon J Quinn J Stapleton
<u>In attendance:</u>	Councillors	G Ellis JE Green J Hale	I Lewis L Rennie G Watt

387 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting had been printed and published.

Resolved: That the minutes be approved and adopted.

388 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The members of the Cabinet were invited to consider whether they had a personal or prejudicial interest in connection with any of the items on the agenda and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of such interest. The following declarations were made:

All Members of the Cabinet declared a personal interest in Minute 407 (Asset Management Update) due to membership of Joint Management Committee(s) and/or a user of services;

Councillor Stuart Kelly – a personal interest in Minute 403 (Raising Expectations: Enabling the system to deliver machinery of Government changes) due to his employment;

Councillor Simon Holbrook – a personal interest in Minute 416 (Carbon Reduction Commitment) due to his employment;

Councillor Steve Foulkes – a prejudicial interest in Minute 392 (Interim Planning Policy for New Housing Development) due to his employment;

Councillor Phil Davies – a personal interest in Minute 393 (Working Wirral – Working Neighbourhoods Fund) due to his membership of Wirral Metropolitan College Governing Body and as a non-executive director of Wirral PCT, a personal interest in Minute 401 (Area Youth Forum Awards – Recommendations for funding 2008/9) due to his membership of Charing Cross Youth and Community Centre Joint Management Committee, and a personal interest in Minute 402 (Delivering Improved

outcomes for vulnerable children, informed by the Children's Social Care review) due to his membership of the Board of Tranmere Together;

Councillor George Davies – a personal interest in Minute 391 (Secondary School Review: amended consultation options for Phase 1 schools and school status update) due to his membership of governing bodies of schools mentioned within the report and a personal interest in Minute 393 (Working Wirral – Working Neighbourhoods Fund) due to his membership of Wirral Society for the Blind and partially sighted;

Councillor Jean Stapleton – a personal interest in Minute 401 (Area Youth Forum Awards – Recommendations for funding 2008/9) due to her membership of Charing Cross Youth and Community Centre Joint Management Committee; and

Steve Maddox, Chief Executive – a personal interest in Minute 393 (Working Wirral – Working Neighbourhoods Fund) due to his membership of Wirral Metropolitan College Governing Body and Minute 405 (Connexions Transition) due to his membership of the Board of Connexions (Greater Merseyside) Limited.

389 **PROGRESS TOWARDS THE TRANSFORMATION OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES - FINANCIAL ISSUES**

The Director of Adult Services highlighted to members a number of proposed actions regarding financial issues affecting the Department of Adult Social Services. They included Fair Access to Care; fees payable to Residential & Nursing homes, Supported Living Providers and Domiciliary Care Providers and the transfer to the Local Authority of NHS – Wirral (Primary Care Trust) Funding for Learning Disability Services.

The Leader of the Council indicated that he was minded to recommend deferral of part of the recommendation. The Cabinet Member for Social Care and Inclusion indicated that she had requested further information on a number of matters relating to residential and nursing homes and felt it was appropriate that the matter be brought back to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Councillor McLaughlin moved an amendment, duly seconded and it was -

Resolved: That

(1) with regards to Fair Access to Care Services, the decision to continue to provide social care services to individuals in Wirral who have critical and substantial needs be endorsed;

(2) with regards to Supported Living, to pay £13.18 per hour rate to all providers who have indicated they would accept the proposal and give 3 months notice to terminate contracts with providers who have refused. Work to be undertaken to establish if there is a business case to implement a detailed banded model of needs and fees during 2009/2010. This work to be carried out in consultation with providers and if proven further proposals be brought to Cabinet in order for the model developed to be introduced on 1 April 2010.

findings of careful scrutiny of services following Baby P; the requirements set out in the Children and Young Person's Act 2008, the Children and Young People's Plan, Local Area Agreement and the Council's Corporate Plan. Cabinet's approval was sought to implement the following changes from agreed budget growth of £690,000.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning welcomed the report and the measures set out in the report which would strengthen the ability of social workers to spend time with children.

Resolved: - That

- (1) the strategy set out in the report be approved;**
- (2) uncommitted 2008/09 ABG (up to £260,100) be carried forward in to 2009/10;**
- (3) the report be referred to Employment & Appointments Committee; and**
- (4) the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management prepare a further report for Cabinet setting out proposed remodelling of legal support for children, in the light of changed circumstances.**

403 RAISING EXPECTATIONS: ENABLING THE SYSTEM TO DELIVER MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT CHANGES

The Director of Children's Services outlined the current stage in preparing for the transition of commissioning and funding of post-16 provision from the Learning and Skills Council to the Local Authority. The full transfer of commissioning and funding of post-16 funding would take place in 2010.

Resolved: -That

- (1) the Stage 2 Application be approved for submission to Government Office North West; and**
- (2) the Director of Children's Services be requested to report back on staffing and financial implications of these changes as they arise.**

404 REVIEW OF PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES - OUTCOME OF FURTHER CONSULTATIONS ON A JOINT CHURCH SCHOOL IN LEASOWE

Cabinet were advised of the outcome of the further consultation process which had taken place in the Leasowe and Wallasey areas in respect of the option to establish a Joint Church school in Leasowe. The option was previously consulted upon in Spring 2007 during Phase 3 of the Primary Places Review. The report described the option, the responses to it, and made recommendations with regard to statutory proposals in relation to the option.

Resolved – That

(1) the two Diocesan bodies be given all necessary assistance in submitting an application to the Secretary of State in order to seek a waiver of the requirement to hold a competition;

(2) the Director of Children's Services be authorised to take all necessary steps to publish proposals, ensure the prescribed procedures are followed for the closure of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School and the establishment of a Joint Church school at the Our Lady of Lourdes site, the exact procedure being dependent on the outcome of the application in (1) above;

(3) the published admission number of the Joint Church school be maintained at 25 pupils for a period of three years from implementation, reviewed and amended if preference popularity is deemed to have increased; and

(4) should the Joint Church school be approved and implemented as in (2), the Leasowe area be moved from Phase 6 of the Primary Places Review to Phase 8 accordingly.

405 CONNEXIONS TRANSITION

The Director of Children's Services presented a report which provided the Cabinet with information on the arrangements for the future commissioning of Connexions Services.

Resolved: - That

(1) the existing contract with Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership be amended to cover the period to 30th September 2009, pending the completion of procurement processes;

(2) the new contract for 'connexions services' cover the period 30th September 2009 to 31st March 2012 with an option of an extension to the contract for a further period of up to 3 years, but for the contract to accommodate an appropriate break clause in the event of poor performance or reduced financial capacity to commission the service to the level previously agreed;

(3) Halton Borough Council be the lead Authority for procurement of the new arrangements on behalf of the 6 participating Merseyside Local Authorities;

(4) Halton Borough Council becomes the contract holding Authority on behalf of the 6 participating Merseyside Local Authorities from the City Region for the new contract when awarded with the appropriate cross Authority commitments; and

(5) Wirral Council enter into an agreement with Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership Limited to extend the current contract to 30 September 2009 provided the other five Merseyside Local Authorities agree to