



Cabinet decision notice

The following decision(s) were taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on **29 June 2021**. Decisions will (unless called-in) become effective at 5pm on 6 July 2021.

Agenda item no. 7

Children's Services Improvement Plan Update

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a report that provided an update on the continued impact of COVID-19 on the Service and the current progress against the Ofsted Improvement Plan.

RESOLVED –

That the continued impact of COVID-19 on the Service and the current progress against the Ofsted Improvement Plan be noted.

(b) Reasons for decisions

To keep Cabinet informed of the continued impact of COVID-19 on the service and the current progress against the Ofsted Improvement Plan.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not applicable.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 8

Future Highways Services Contract

(a) Decisions

Cabinet had received and agreed a report on 2 March 2021 that set out the rationale and proposed way forward for the procurement of the Highways Services Contract. In addition it had been agreed that a future paper would be presented to Cabinet to seek views and agreement on the evaluation and quality criteria that would be used to determine the

selection process and outcome of the procurement exercise as well as the criteria and process for determining any potential future extensions of the contracts.

The proposal had also agreed the formation of an Alliance. The Cabinet report set out the proposed governance arrangements and format of how the alliance would function and operate.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the progress made to date on the procurement of the new Highways Services Contract be noted.**
- (2) That the evaluation and quality criteria for determining the new service providers be agreed.**
- (3) That the extension criteria and process be agreed.**
- (4) That the proposed change in name for the Service and the terms of the Alliance be noted.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

Cabinet had previously agreed the way forward for the procurement of the new Highways Services contract. The rationale for this is detailed in the Cabinet Decision Notice for the meeting held on 2 March 2021.

(c) Alternative options considered

None. Cabinet had previously considered whether to continue with the current model of delivery. However, it had been felt that various contractual arrangements options for the future should be considered as the current model of delivery was not viewed as being the most appropriate to achieve the outcomes of the service.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

None.

Agenda item no. 9

Bus Service Improvement Plans and Enhanced Partnerships

(a) Decisions

Cabinet received a report on the 'Bus Back Better' National Bus Strategy that required Local Authorities to enter into Enhanced Partnerships with bus operators.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That it be agreed, in principle, to commit to Enhanced Partnerships with local bus operators, as required by the 'Bus Back Better' National Bus Strategy by 30 June**

2021.

- (2) That the development of a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) by 31 October 2021 be agreed, to secure long term funding for vital bus services.**
- (3) That an Enhanced Partnership with bus operators be entered into no later than 31 March 2022.**

(b) Reasons for decisions

Enhanced Partnerships between local transport authorities and bus operators would be required for future discretionary bus funding schemes from Government from April 2022 onwards, including future iterations of the Bus Service Operators Grant. A commitment to entering into Enhanced Partnerships with bus operators was required by the end of June 2021 to facilitate this. The Government also expected publication of Bus Service Improvement Plans by 31 October 2021 to outline how these partnerships would improve services.

(c) Alternative options considered

Not to enter into Enhanced Partnerships. However, local transport authorities and bus operators would be required to enter into these partnerships in order to receive future discretionary bus funding schemes from Government from April 2022 onwards, including future iterations of the Bus Service Operators Grant.

(d) Conflicts of interest/ dispensations

Councillors P Irwin and A Macpherson declared personal interests respectively as the Chairman of the Bernwode Community Bus Scheme and as a Trustee of the Bernwode Community Bus Scheme.

For further information please contact: Craig Saunders -
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