

Time began: 6.00pm
Time ended: 6.55pm

**COUNCIL CABINET
7 JUNE 2011**

Present Councillor Hickson (Chair)
Councillors Carr, Holmes, Ingall, Jones, Poulter,
Skelton and Williams

In attendance Councillor Banwait

This record of decisions was published on 9 June 2011. The key decisions set out in this record will come into force and may be implemented on the expiry of five clear days unless a key decision is called in.

01/11 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bayliss.

02/11 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

**03/11 Identification of Urgent Items to which Call-In
will not apply**

There were no urgent items.

04/11 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Williams declared a personal interest in item 6 reconfiguration of Children's Centres because her daughter had attended a Children's Centre.

05/11 Minutes of the meeting held 12 April 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Key Decisions

**06/11 Reconfiguration of Children's Centres:
Consultation Results**

The Council Cabinet considered a report on reconfiguration of Children's Centres: Consultation Results. The report set out the findings of the consultation on proposals to reconfigure the number of Children's Centres in Derby, and revised recommendations. Proposals were put forward to Council

Cabinet on January 11 2011 in response to a requirement to secure £500k budget savings.

Proposals consulted on were:

- 1) The reconfiguration of services delivered by the following Children's Centres:
 - Mickleover/Littleover
 - South Chaddesden
 - Oakwood
 - Chellaston
 - Derwent
 - Peartree
- 2) The handover to schools of the management of Children's Centres where they were co-located on school sites.

Consultation ran from 31 January 2011 to 28 March 2011. The total number of consultation responses was 546. 77% of respondents said they would find it difficult to access Children's Centres should the proposals take place. Equality Impact Assessments had been undertaken on the proposed reconfiguration of services for each of the 6 centres.

The main issue arising from the consultation and Equality Impact Assessments was the potential for current users to experience difficulty in accessing services, leading to reduced service take-up. There was a mixed response from schools regarding the handover of Children's Centre management responsibilities. In light of the findings from the consultation and Equality Impact Assessments, an alternative approach to meeting the requirements set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report was proposed.

The Department for Education (DfE) had re-issued statutory guidance and further advice in relation to Sure Starts and Children's Centres (February 2011). This explained the action that Local Authorities and key partners (Primary Care Trusts and Jobcentre Plus) should take to comply with statutory duties.

Requirements to comply with the general Sure Start Grant conditions had been lifted. These were replaced by the Early Intervention Grant. Whilst this new grant provided flexibility to local decision making about the shape of service delivery it represented a reduction of £1.8m for the financial year 2011-12. Staffing models across the 18 centres were inconsistent, and reflected the three phases of Children's Centre development.

Options Considered

1. Reconfiguration of Children's Centres, to provide four centres in each of the three localities of the city, resulting in a reduction of separate centres from 18 to 12 and a reconfigured 'Reach' area for the remaining centres. However, consultation had shown this would result

in difficulties for current users to access services, and a reduced service take-up.

2. Long-term, the Council would be considering other options for the delivery of services and management of the Children's Centres with a view to schools, partners including voluntary sector organisations taking on responsibility. However, in the first instance, the Council must realise the savings that were necessary from these proposals.

Decision

To note the outcome of the consultation and the Equality Impact Assessment and approve the revised proposals in paragraph 4.23 to 4.27 of the report, namely;

- To continue the use of all existing Children's Centres.
- To secure the required budget savings of £500k by (a) re-profiling budgets on a locality-wide basis, rather than the previous centre-by-centre model; and (b) using unallocated Early Intervention Grant (2011-12 only).
- During 2011-12, to conduct an internal review of the front-line service delivery model of all Children's Centres ensuring alignment with wider locality arrangements.
- During 2011-12, to conduct an internal review of the back office processes, administration and management functions of all Children's Centres.
- During 2011-12 to review with partners the 'Reach Targets' of all Children's Centres to ensure that centres are performing effectively in supporting those families most in need.
- Continue discussions with schools in relation to the potential transfer of management arrangements for Children's Centres.

Reasons

The recommendations had been revised to take account of:

- The issuing of advice and statutory guidance on Sure Starts and Children's Centres by the Department for Education (DfE) in February 2011,
- Amendments to the statutory requirements for the Children's Centre core offer,
- Ending of the general Sure Start grant conditions, replaced with the Early Intervention grant,
- The desire to develop an optimal staffing model for Children's Centres so that there is an equitable service delivery
- Addressing the inconsistent performance by Centres against the 'Reach' targets to work with under fives and their families,
- The cost of maintaining the Centres within the current financial climate,
- Feedback from user consultation and Equality Impact Assessments.

07/11 Review of Public Transport Supported Services and Concessionary Fares

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Review of Public Transport Supported Services and Concessionary Fares. The Council currently contracted a number of bus services which were not commercially viable, but which provided specific services to meet the needs of local people. These included five traditional bus services and five services operated by Community Transport. The Council also paid for some public transport related services, including provision of public transport information, the b_line concessionary fares scheme for young people and additional travel concessions for Gold Card holders.

To help inform any future funding decisions the City Council, alongside Derbyshire County Council, undertook a major public consultation exercise. During the consultation, which ran for 13 weeks ending at the end of January 2011 and involved service users, service providers and representative groups, people were encouraged to complete a questionnaire indicating which supported services were of most importance to them and also where they thought savings could be made. The overall results of the consultation were summarised in Appendix 2 of the report. A complete analysis of the survey results was available on CMIS.

In setting its budget in March, Council approved that budget savings of £160,000 would be brought forward from 2012/13 to be delivered through service reductions in 2011/12. A further saving of £133,000 from community transport services and £80,000 from supported bus service were to be made in 2012/13. The detailed savings now proposed entailed the withdrawal of all the current Community Transport Services and the majority of the five traditional Council supported bus services. The report set out how these savings could be achieved but still allowed the most popular supported bus services to be retained and the most popular Community Transport service to be supported until the end of the current financial year.

An Equality Impact Assessment had been undertaken to consider the impacts of removing services. A summary of the Impact Assessment was included at Appendix 3 of the report and a copy of the full assessment was attached at Appendix 4 of the report.

In April the Department for Transport introduced significant changes in the way reimbursement to bus operators for accepting the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (known in Derby and Derbyshire as Gold Card) was calculated. This had resulted in significant reduction in the amount of money that our main public transport operators would receive in 2011/12 from the Council for carrying Gold Card users. The new method of calculating reimbursement had particularly impacted upon one operator and, in order to assist the operator in adjusting their activities to take account of the reduction, the report set out a proposal to cushion the financial impact by making a discretionary one off payment in 2011/12.

Options Considered

1. Given the need to achieve significant budgetary savings over a range of services, there were invariably numerous alternatives which could be pursued in order to achieve the required targets. However, after careful consideration, officers consider that the options presented were those which were best aligned with the outcomes of the consultation exercise.
2. In terms of the proposal to guarantee a reimbursement of £3m to Arriva; should the alternative approach of not providing a guaranteed level of reimbursement be taken, the company could implement significant reductions in service provision in Derby and/or fare increases, in an effort to mitigate any reduction in reimbursement when compared with previous years.

Decision

1. That, to achieve approved budget savings in 2011/12 and 2012/13, the following actions be taken:
 - to withdraw all Community Transport services, in their current form, with effect from September 2011. The Dial a Bus Supermarket service would be able to continue until the end of the financial year as long as the other actions listed below were implemented but it would end on 31 March 2012 at the latest.
 - to withdraw all support for bus services 9, 19 and 35 with effect from September 2011.
 - to implement changes to bus service 111 from September 2011, currently supported by Derby City Council, in order to reduce costs.
 - to remove the Gold Card rail fare discount with effect from August 2011, in line with proposals from Derbyshire County Council. Remove free travel on Community Transport Dial a Bus Supermarket service and introduce a flat £2 return fare on this service with effect from September 2011.
 - reduce the b_line subsidy from 50% to 33%, in line with proposals from Derbyshire County Council, with effect from August 2011.
2. To approve, subject to paragraph 2.3 of the report, a one off payment be made to a key public transport operator, Arriva, to ensure that a minimum fee reimbursement of £3m was provided in 2011/12 under the National Concessionary Fares Scheme.
3. To authorise the Strategic Director of Resources to enter into a legal agreement with Arriva to ensure that the company's service

frequencies and fares extant at 31 March 2011 were retained until at least 31 December 2011 at the same levels.

4. That the budget saving arising from any change in payments to service operators under the revised reimbursement scheme be transferred to a specific corporate concessionary fares contingency budget, to mitigate future concessionary fares cost risk.
5. That as matter of urgency the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods investigates the development of an alternative ring and ride service using wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles.

Reasons

1. The ending of supported services was necessary to meet the approved budget savings set by Council in March 2011. The proposals addressed budget savings for both 2011/12 and 2012/13.
2. The discretionary payment would guarantee that the level of bus service currently provided by Arriva within Derby, including fares, was maintained until the end of 2011. This would assist public transport users across the city and would potentially ensure that where supported services were removed, options for people to use commercial bus services would be retained.
3. The level of reimbursement under the National Concessionary Fares scheme was dependant on many factors including the level of usage. Variations in the payments we were required to make may well vary in future years and it was prudent to ensure that a contingency budget was available to help lessen potential future financial risks.

Budget and Policy Framework

08/11 Microsoft Licence Renewal

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Microsoft Licence Renewal. The report recommended entering into a new Microsoft Enterprise Licence allowing us to take later versions of the operating system and office software.

The report explained the options available for replacing our existing Microsoft licences and recommended we enter a new licence under the subscription model. Four Options were considered:

- delay entering a new licence until the new Council House is ready
- enter a new Microsoft licence under the perpetual licence model (what we have now)

- enter a new Microsoft licence under the subscription model (what is proposed)
- switch from Microsoft to open source software for both the operating system and office software tools./

The report recommends that although we enter a new Microsoft licence now that the software itself be rolled out on a phased basis between July 2011 and November 2012 as we undertake the technology refresh process on client devices.

Decision

1. To authorise the Strategic Director of Resources to enter into a new Microsoft Enterprise licence at the estimated cost of £420,000 a year for a period of five years, thus a total cost of £1,852,184.
2. To roll out this software on a phased basis between July 2011 and November 2012 as follows:
 - All new servers including the new virtual server farm are built with the latest version of the operating system.
 - The new email servers are built using the latest version of the email software.
 - New client devices including thin client terminals, desktops and laptop computers are built using the new operating system and the new office software.
3. That the order for such licences be placed with an authorised Microsoft re-seller following clarifications of the mini competition undertaken using the public sector Microsoft framework agreement.

Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

09/11 Contract and Financial Procedure Matters

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Contract and Financial Procedure Matters. The report dealt with the following items that required reporting to and approval by Council Cabinet under Contract and Financial Procedure rules:

- a waiver of contract procedure rules to allow a contract with Relate – Safe Speak to be extended to 31 March 2012
- changes to the capital programme
- Schools' Catering Project: School Kitchens Capital Grant

- Capital Scheme Commencements
- additional grant allocation from Department of Works and Pensions, “Tell Us Once Project”
- the submission of a provisional bid to Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity.

Decision

1. To waive contract procedure rules and approve an extension of a contract with Relate – Safe Speak from 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012.
2. To note the revised capital programme and associated funding detailed in Table 1 for 2011/12, paragraph 5.2 of the report.
3. To approve the reallocation of the Schools Catering Capital Grant balance of £835,504 from Neighbourhoods to the CYP Schools Capital Programme as detailed in paragraph 5.10 of the report.
4. To allocate £100,000 from the Schools Catering Capital Grant as an initial budget provision for the conversion of existing kitchens to heat and serve for those schools opting into the Group contract as detailed in paragraph 5.11 of the report.
5. To approve the allocation of £100,000 from the Corporate Capital Programme unallocated balance as the required match funding to the School Catering Grant, and establish a budget of £200,000 to start the conversion of existing kitchens to heat and serve for those schools opting into the Group contract, as detailed in paragraph 5.11 of the report. This allocation would leave a balance of £125,000 as a corporate capital contingency.
6. To approve capital scheme commencements for individual school projects for the conversion of existing kitchens to heat and serve for those schools opting into the Group contract.
7. To approve the capital scheme commencements detailed in Appendix 3 of the report.
8. To note the additional grant allocation from Department of Work and Pensions, “Tell Us Once Project” and approve its use in the 2011-12 Resources revenue budget – Legal and Democratic services.
9. To approve the submission of a provisional bid to Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity, for the sum of £103,000 from their Links to Schools Communities Fund.

MINUTES END