

COUNCIL CABINET

15 FEBRUARY 2011

Present Councillor Holmes (Chair)
Councillors Grimadell, Ingall, Marshall, Poulter and Webb

In attendance Councillors Bayliss and Jones

This record of decisions was published on 17 February 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.

183/10 Supporting People Strategy and Spending Plan

The Council Cabinet considered a report on Supporting People Strategy and Spending Plan. Supporting People provided housing related support services to a wide range of vulnerable adults such as sheltered housing tenants, night shelter and hostel tenants, and women in domestic violence refuges. The strategy and spending plan would set out the direction of Supporting People for the next three years. The spending plan would set out how Supporting People would achieve its savings requirement of approximately £444k for each of the next 3 years in order to contribute to the rebalancing of the Council's budget. Members were asked to confirm their agreement of the proposed strategy and to the recommended spending plan from a range of options set out in Section 4 of the report.

Options Considered

1. Option 1 would have a strategic rationale but would place too much emphasis on the Capgemini financial modelling tool. It would expose the council to increased risks related to safeguarding and ignore the stronger business case associated with the higher value Riverside Housing Group provision.
2. Option 2 would definitely incur the loss of services but when and where would be unpredictable. Particularly valuable services may be lost whilst other less strategic services may remain. Risks of sudden and unexpected service closure giving rise to adult protection issues would be raised.
3. Option 4 would mean deeper cuts in the long run with additional threats for vulnerable people whilst risking the ability of Supporting People to make the required contribution to the rebalancing of the Council's budget following the CSR.

Decision

1. To approve the proposed Supporting People strategy.
2. To approve the proposed spending plan in option 3 being:
 - a) A flat rate reduction of 2% from all Supporting People contracts in 2011/12

- b) An immediate decommissioning of the following services related to homelessness, families being resettled after homelessness or teenage parents – to reduce the overall allocation to this client group to £200k:
 - i. Derby Homes Family Intervention Project (this would continue to deliver a revised service through a £200k allocation to Derby Homes from the Housing Revenue Account for this project)
 - ii. Derventio Families in Crisis Project
 - iii. The Oasis Project for teenage parents
- c) The retention of the Riverside project which offered accommodation based and floating support provision for teenage parents; the commissioning of further floating support for teenage parents and a new preventative mediation service. This would be within the available budget of £200,000.
- d) Savings of £444k to be achieved by remodelling mental health provision in 2012/13.
- e) £444k savings to be achieved from a review of provision for single homeless in 2013/14.
- f) Further savings to be identified in additional years to balance the budget.

Reasons

1. The Supporting People Strategy was summarised in Appendix 3 of the report had been developed in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including providers, and service users. It had their support and approval. By deciding its priorities for housing support the Council could concentrate its activities on ensuring that it makes a real difference to housing support service users in those areas that were considered the most important.
2. The recommended spending plan was considered to be the most strategic because it limited the impact on service users, and on other Council budgets (through the loss of preventive services) as much as possible.