

**The Cabinet**

**30<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 at 3.30 pm  
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillor Eling (Chair);  
Councillors Carmichael, Costigan, Hackett,  
D Hosell, Khatun, Marshall, Moore and  
Shackleton.

**Apologies:** Councillor Trow;  
Councillors Hickey and Underhill.

**In attendance:** Councillors Edis, E M Giles and P Hughes.

139/17 **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

**Strategic Items**

140/17 **Council Wide Budget Monitoring Quarter 1 (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC16163)**

The Leader of the Council presented a report which provided details of the Council's revenue and capital expenditure as at the end of June 2017. Details were also submitted on the monitoring of the Council's Housing Revenue Account, which forecast a breakeven position for 2016/17.

At a service level, excluding Public Health, the Council was reporting a forecast year end deficit of £1.873m, which was within the following service areas:

- Corporate Management – surplus of £0.163m
- Adult Social Care – surplus of £0.514m

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- Children's Services – deficit of £4.900m
- Housing and Communities – balanced budget
- Central items – surplus of £1.750m

In addition, there was a projected year end surplus of £0.821m within Public Health that related to funds carried forward from previous years. It was proposed to carry this forward into 2018/19 to offset the anticipated reduction in Public Health Grant.

When taking into account the utilisation of centrally earmarked balances of £1.118m, the Council was showing an overall forecast deficit for the year against central balances of £2.992m.

Approval was also sought to a number of revenue virements between Directorates.

Details of additional specific grants which had been included within service targets since the approval of the original budgets were also submitted.

The Leader of the Council recommended that the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board review the Quarter 1 Monitoring report and submit their findings to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the financial monitoring position of individual directorates contained within the Council wide budget monitoring for quarter 1 2017/18 be received;
- (2) that the recommendations for use of funds as detailed within the report for individual directorates be approved;
- (3) that the financial monitoring position of individual directorates be received and referred to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board for consideration and comment;
- (4) that the financial monitoring position of the Housing Revenue Account for the period ending June 2017 be received;

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(5) that the following virements be approved:

### **Children's Services**

- a) a transfer of £2.260m to realign Social Care salary budgets between, Long Term Looked After Children and Family Placements, Care Management, Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub and Safeguarding to Infrastructure, Targeted Family Support Services and Service Director Children's Social Care
- b) a transfer of £1.465m within Passenger Transport Unit between Education Support Services to Infrastructure
- c) a transfer of £0.249m within Family Information Service between Learning Improvement to Targeted Family Support Services
- d) a transfer of £0.222m within Data Team from Education Support Services to Infrastructure
- e) a transfer of £0.446 within Realignment of Education budgets following the end of the Education Services Grant from Education Support Services and Learning Improvement to Director of Education and Employment

### **Housing and Communities**

- a) £19.197m from Housing Management, Communities and Partnerships. Commercial Services and Business Excellence to Leisure and Culture, Parks and Green Spaces, Neighbourhoods and Communities, Waste and Fleet Management and Customer Services

### **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

- a) £48.841m from Communities and Partnerships, Housing Management, Asset Management and Maintenance, Commercial Services, Business Excellence, Private Finance Initiative (PFI), Corporate HRA and PFI and Tenanted Management Organisations to Repairs, Housing Management and Estate Services and Maintenance

(6) re-profile the following carry forwards to future years:

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- a) £0.163m (Resources) into 2018/19
  - b) £0.600m (Regeneration and Planning) split as follows:
    - £0.350m into 18/19 and £0.250m into 2019/20
  - c) £0.821m (Public Health) into 2018/19
- (7) that the use of corporate resources of £4.900m to meet the deficit for Children’s Services be approved;
- (8) that the Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay of £0.735m (Housing Revenue Account) towards financing capital expenditure be approved;
- (9) that the following additional Specific Grants be approved:

### **Housing and Communities**

- a) grant funding of £0.100m from the Arts Council towards developing information technology suites within the six main town libraries;
- b) grant funding of £0.382m has been received from Department for Communities and Local Government for a two year Homelessness Support Grant and a further £0.420m will be received in 2019/20;
- c) additional funding of £0.990m from the Home Office towards projects and support relating to the Prevent Programme.

141/17

### **Amendments to the National Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy 2017/18**

The Leader of the Council sought approval to amend the National Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy for 2017/18. This was to meet the requirements announced by the Chancellor on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017 to provide additional support for businesses with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 through discretionary rate relief (DRR).

The changes now included:-

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- New Business Rate Relief Scheme for Pubs – a one-off payment of £1,000 would be granted for the financial year 2017/18 to all eligible public houses whose rateable value was less than £100,000 on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017;
- Supporting Small Businesses - the intention of this relief was to provide support over 5 years to small businesses who had lost their entitlement to Small Business Rates Relief as a result of their rateable value increasing through the 2017 revaluation. The relief would ensure small businesses did not pay more than £600 increase per year for the next five years;
- New Discretionary Relief Scheme – the prescribed elements of the scheme were that businesses must have been in occupation on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 and their rateable value must have increased through the 2017 revaluation. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) would provide funding for this support over four years as follows:
  - 2017/18 - £380,000
  - 2018/19 - £185,000
  - 2019/20 - £76,000
  - 2020/21 - £11,000

Whilst DCLG had suggested supporting businesses that had a 12.5% or more increase in rates payable, as the majority of businesses in Sandwell had a decrease in rates payable, the Council was able to offer a more generous scheme with the funding being made available. It was therefore proposed to provide relief to local businesses whose rates payable had increased by 5% or more. The amount awarded would be the amount which exceeded 5%, meaning all businesses would have to pay 5% of any increase. Relief would not be awarded to multi-national premises, Council properties and those premises which promoted gambling.

It was anticipated that 170 businesses would be entitled to this relief and if eligible, £356,325 of the funding for year 1 would be used. Businesses would need to apply for this relief in order to ensure compliance with occupancy and State Aid rules. The Revenues and Benefits Service would contact businesses with potential entitlement to encourage them to submit an application.

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In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, whilst 28 clear days' notice of this key decision had not been made due to the requirement to implement these changes, the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board had been informed of the matter.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board, the Leader of the Council confirmed that this positive news for Sandwell businesses would be promoted during the consultation stage and contact would be made with those businesses with potential entitlement.

**Resolved** that the amended National Non-Domestic Rates Discretionary Rate Relief Policy for 2017/18 be approved subject to consultation results.

142/17

### **Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy – Consultation Outcome and Implementation 1 (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC16135)**

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection reported that the Council undertook a review of its approach to the protection of public safety in connection with private hire and hackney carriage licensing (taxi licensing) in Sandwell following the public release of the findings of the Casey report into the inspection of the taxi licensing regime in Rotherham.

The review had resulted in a proposed revision to the Council's approach to the licensing of private hire and hackney carriages (drivers and vehicles). On 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, the Cabinet resolved that the revised Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy be approved for consultation and that a further report be presented to Cabinet following the outcome of the consultation (see Minute No. 54/17).

Consideration was now given to the results of the public consultation.

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Having considered the consultation feedback, approval was sought to implement the revised Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy to ensure the suitability of individuals within the licensed trade and to improve the safety and customer experience of local people wishing to use these services.

In relation to the requirement for all drivers to sign up to the DBS update service and for the update service to be checked on an annual basis by the taxi licensing service, it was reported that this would take approximately nine months to implement at a cost of £106,134.

It was also proposed to undertake future consultation to strengthen public safety further through the use of CCTV in vehicles, to prevent offences being committed against all passengers, as well as securing the welfare and livelihood of the licensed driver. A further report would be submitted to the Cabinet in June 2018.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy, as now submitted, be approved and implemented from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017;
- (2) that in connection with Resolution (1) above, one-off funding of £106,134 be allocated to support the implementation of the proposed Disclosure and Barring Service DBS update approach as described in the policy;
- (3) that a further report be submitted to Cabinet in June 2018 to seek approval for the consultation on the future use of CCTV in licensed vehicles;
- (4) that the Director – Prevention and Protection, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection, make any minor and administrative amendments to the policy as and when they arise, so to support the on-going improvement of the service to the public.

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### **Changes to Delivery under Contract for Smoking Cessation Service 2018-19 (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC16152)**

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection sought approval to extend provision of the smoking cessation service for a further year (April 2018 – March 2019) under the current operating model, to enable comprehensive review and service re-design through ongoing insight work, continuous data gathering and monitoring of local trends during the intervening period (April 2016 – March 2019).

This would enhance local understanding of aspects such as the impact of e-cigarettes as a cessation aid and the national trend of decline in smoking which was leading to further health inequalities as harder to reach groups of persistent smokers were identified. The future model would consider targeting to enhance reduction in the level of smoking in those groups with higher than average level of smoking or in the groups where the impact of smoking affected vulnerable people.

In response to questions raised by the Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board and the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board, the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection confirmed that:-

- Public Health Commissioning and Procurement were currently in the process of agreeing the finalised Remedial Action Plan to address performance issues. North 51 had advised of organisational changes at a regional level which should impact positively upon both delivery and administration of the Council's local contract for the remaining period. North 51 was aware of the proposed future arrangements and any further deterioration in performance over the final six months was not anticipated;
- TUPE may apply and this would be considered by the current and future provider. Any staff transferred under TUPE would be within the management and governance of the new provider and therefore there were no current concerns regarding the performance of any staff that may transfer.



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### Resolved:-

- (1) that the Director – Public Health extend the existing service contract with Health Exchange (Lot A - North) for the provision of smoking cessation services for a further twelve months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 with a maximum value of £405,000;
- (2) that the Executive Director – Resources enter into an appropriate contract extension with Health Exchange (Lot A - North) for the provision of smoking cessation services for a further twelve months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 with a maximum value of £405,000;
- (3) that the Director – Public Health make a direct award to Health Exchange (covering Lot B – South) for a twelve month period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 with a maximum value of £405,000;
- (4) that the Executive Director – Resources make a direct award to Health Exchange (Lot B - North) for a twelve month period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 with a maximum value of £405,000;
- (5) that in connection with Resolution (1), (2), (3) and (4) above, any necessary exemptions be made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the proposed actions to proceed.

144/17

### **Commissioning of Integrated Drug and Alcohol Service Provision (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1607)**

The Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection reported that on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015, the Cabinet gave approval to commence a procurement process and award a contract for the provision of an integrated drug and alcohol service with a value of £3.1m per annum subject to a 10% reduction in budget each contract year (see Minute No. 203/16). However, during the procurement process, despite inviting four organisations to tender, three of those bidders withdrew from the process.

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Following submission of a tender from the one remaining bidder for the above service, an evaluation was completed in line with Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Invitation to Tender documentation which identified that Cranstoun had submitted a bid which satisfied all criteria. Approval was therefore sought to award the contract to Cranstoun for a period of three years with the option to extend for a maximum of two years.

In response to questions raised by the Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board and the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board, the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection confirmed that:-

- the new integrated service model maintained a focus on and requirement for Recovery provision (currently delivered via Cranstoun IRiS in Sandwell) – this delivered against a holistic approach looking at an individual's recovery capital and integrated support to address wider health and well-being needs. Those accessing structured treatment service would be subject to a comprehensive assessment of need – this included wider lifestyle factors such as smoking, sexual health, physical activity, family support etc. Robust identification of need and operational pathways including potential for co-location and co-delivery of relevant support had been required;
- there would be no TUPE implications as there was no change in provider. Swanswell was now a wholly owned subsidiary of Cranstoun having recently merged under the name of Cranstoun.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Director - Public Health and the Director – Monitoring Officer award and enter into a contract with Cranstoun for the provision of Drug and Alcohol services with a contract length of three years with the option to extend for up to a further two years;
- (2) that in connection with Resolution (1) above, any necessary exemptions to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules be made to enable the proposed action to proceed.

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### **The Provision of Banking Services – Contract Extension (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC 16166)**

The Leader of the Council, in the absence of the Cabinet Member for Core Council Services, sought approval to extend the current agreement with Royal Bank of Scotland for banking services, for a further seven-year period until 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

Royal Bank of Scotland were appointed following a competition exercise held through the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation framework agreement for Banking Services. Original approval was granted to enter in to this agreement for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 with the option to extend for a further one year period until 20<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

The framework agreement did make provision for long term agreements to be entered in to which went beyond the lifetime of the framework. However, as the move to a new banking provider had never previously been undertaken, it was decided that initial contract award would be within the timeframe of the framework and subject to review at a later date.

The one year extension option was approved by the Executive Director - Resources on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Current Council annual expenditure with Royal Bank of Scotland was £65,000. The contract was also utilised by West Midlands Fire Service, Sandwell Leisure Trust and a significant number of schools who all had established financial links with the Council.

#### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Executive Director – Resources extend the current Banking Services contract with Royal Bank of Scotland for a further seven year period until 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at an estimated cost of £455,000;
- (2) that in connection with Resolution (1) above, any necessary exemptions be made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the course of action to proceed.

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### 146/17 **Exemption from Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules for Post-16 High Needs Education Provision (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC16188)**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services sought approval to make an exemption to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules in respect of a number of contracts with Further Education (FE) Colleges and other specialist education institutions for the academic year 2017/18.

The contracts would provide specialist education and care provision to meet the needs of young people aged 16-25 as identified in agreed individual Education, Health and Care plans.

#### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that, for the purposes of satisfying Section 38 (Preparation of an Education, Health and Care Plan by local authorities) of the Children and Families Act 2014, any necessary exemptions to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules be approved to enable the Council to enter into individual contracts with Education and Skills Funding Agency approved institutions and independent specialist institutions named in the approved list under Section 41 of the Act, up to a maximum of the level of grant awarded to the Council in any particular academic year;
- (2) that, for the purposes of satisfying Section 38 (Preparation of an Education, Health and Care Plan by local authorities) of the Act, the Director - Education, Skills and Employment place contracts with the providers/institutions named in Section 4 of the report or otherwise in accordance with Resolution (1) above:-

### 147/17 **Migration Fund – Sandwell Transition Education Partnership Service (STEPS) (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC16136)**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services sought approval for Sandwell to apply for Controlling Migration Funds to support local priorities including the Sandwell New Arrivals Partnership's (SNAP) delivery plan and the Sandwell Transition Education Partnership Service (STEPS) Agenda for 2017 – 2019.

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SNAP comprised of statutory and voluntary sector partners working in partnership to ensure that the needs and the impacts related to economic migrants, refugees and asylum seekers and resettlement were identified, assessed and incorporated effectively into local policy, priorities, commissioning and service delivery.

The partnership was also responsible for responding to national migration policies and related challenges impacting on Sandwell Council and partners.

In order to address Newcomer needs and alleviate some of the pressures on local services and schools, a pilot project was introduced in January 2017. STEPS facilitated and addressed the gap between arrival into the Borough and securing a school place. It also aimed to develop a one-stop approach to meet the range of needs of Newcomer families.

An appraisal had been undertaken by Strategic Finance and a number of actions recommended to mitigate risks identified.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services welcomed the suggestion that the Champion for Equality and Diversity be engaged with the work of STEPS and also sought to arrange for scrutiny members to visit the centre.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Director – Education, Skills and Employment applies for Controlling Migration Funds to support local priorities of Sandwell New Arrivals Partnership, specifically Sandwell Transition Education Partnership Service;
- (2) that the following actions identified within the appraisal report be implemented to reduce any risk to the Council:-
  - prior to submission of the final bid, ensure that the application has been strengthened to the satisfaction of the Department of Communities and Local Government;
  - ensure that terms and conditions of grant funding are reviewed by Strategic Finance prior to entering contract agreement;

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- review the Risk Register to ensure that all risks are identified, with sufficient mitigating actions to reduce any risk to the Council;
- further develop outputs, outcomes and methods of monitoring to support the effective delivery of the project;
- finalise the membership of the proposed Management Committee; and
- ensure that all revenue costs to be funded by the Council can be met from Children's Services existing available resources and are included in both medium and long term future budget projections.

148/17

### **Sandwell Children's Social Care Trust – Department for Education Funding**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services reported that on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017, the Council submitted a business case to the Department for Education (DfE) which identified the Council's investment in Children's Services generally and the set up and ongoing costs associated with the Trust.

The overall funding requested from the DfE was £2,854,145.

On 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017, the Council received written confirmation that the DfE would provide all of the funding requested in the June business case submission. This consisted of £2,631,395 in the financial year 2017-18 for one-off costs arising from the set-up of the Trust and up to £222,750 to fund three independent Non-Executive Directors over five years, to 2022-23. The funding in respect of set up costs would be provided by a grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act in two equal instalments in the 2017-18 financial year.

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The DfE confirmed that the Secretary of State had agreed to meet any additional costs arising from the VAT treatment of the Trust, until a long term solution was agreed between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and the Treasury. The DfE had also confirmed that it would directly fund the Chair of the Board for five years to the value of up to £72,000 per annum. The Chair had a direct contract with the Department for Education, which would be reviewed annually.

As the Council had now received formal grant notification for the set up costs from the DfE, approval was sought for the Chief Executive and Executive Director - Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, to manage the additional funding received from DfE, by grant.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, whilst 28 clear days' notice of this key decision had not been made due to the urgent nature of the proposed application of funds, the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board had been informed of the matter.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Department for Education grant notification offer for additional funding of £2,631,395 in the financial year 2017-18 be accepted, under Section 31 of the Local Government Act of 2003, as a contribution to the setting up of the Sandwell Children's Social Care Trust;
- (2) that in connection with resolution (1) the Chief Executive and Executive Director – Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, manage the additional funding received from the Department for Education by grant;
- (3) that the Department for Education commitment to meet any additional costs arising from the VAT treatment of the Sandwell Children's Social Care Trust be noted;

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- (4) that it be noted that funding of up to £222,750 to fund three independent Non-Executive Directors over five years will be made available to the Trust.

149/17

### **Acceptance of grant funding from the Large Sites and Housing Zone Capacity Fund (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC1697)**

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment reported that in October 2016, the Council was awarded Housing Zone status for the area around Grove Lane/Cranford Street, Smethwick and the former sewage works at Friar Park, Wednesbury. On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) launched a Large Sites and Housing Zones Capacity Fund to assist the government in delivering one million homes by December 2020. The HCA had set aside £18m during 2016/17 to develop/build capacity in local authorities to support the delivery of large and complex sites. The funding was aimed at existing government initiatives and programmes, including Housing Zones, where the capacity funding would help to unlock housing between 2021 and 2026.

The Council subsequently submitted an application for funding in the sum of £225,000 as part of a matter of urgency report. It was considered that the funding, if approved, would assist with the implementation of the following activities:

- preparation of Joint Venture agreements;
- remediation costing review, including appraisal, viability and phasing strategy;
- review of existing capacity studies and masterplans, including a phasing and delivery plan;
- production of development and viability appraisals (including advice on Compulsory Purchase Orders);
- phase 1 Desk Top surveys;
- full referencing of sites;
- infrastructure study.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017, confirmation was given by the Homes and Communities Agency that £224,000 had been awarded as grant funding to support the delivery of the Sandwell Housing Zone.



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In response to a number of questions raised by the Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board and the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment confirmed that:-

- the timeline for building approximately 1500 dwellings by 2026 was a Government target and the Council would aim to bring those forward sooner;
- Friar Park ward members would be kept regularly updated on the proposed development and a report would be submitted to the Scrutiny Board in February/March 2018 on a more accurate timescale for works;
- Regeneration sites for housing would continue to be a key priority for the Council and despite continuous cuts to revenue budgets, Sandwell was continuing to identify sites to build new houses in the borough.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the £224,000 of Large Sites and Housing Zones Capacity Funding grant from the Homes and Community Agency to support the delivery of the Sandwell Housing Zone be received;
- (2) that in connection with Resolution (1) above, monitoring of expenditure against this grant funding stream be included in the regular budget monitoring reports to be submitted to Cabinet.

150/17

### **To Establish a Dynamic Purchasing System for the Provision of Apprenticeship Training and Assessment (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC16179)**

The Leader of the Council, in the absence of the Cabinet Member for Core Council Services, sought approval to establish a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for the provision of apprenticeship training and assessment for Sandwell Council employees and new start apprentices. The DPS would consist of a list of suppliers who could be approached as and when new apprenticeship training needs were identified. Only suppliers awarded a place on the DPS would be considered to provide the training and assessment.

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The procurement exercise aimed to ensure that the Council continued to achieve best value for money and quality for the services being provided.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the establishment of a Dynamic Purchasing System for the provision of apprenticeship training and assessment for a four-year period be approved;
- (2) that in connection with Resolution (1) above, the Director - Resources and/or the Director - Education, Skills and Employment award contracts under the Dynamic Purchasing System;
- (3) that in connection with Resolution (1) and (2) above, the Director - Monitoring Officer enter into an appropriate contract with the successful tenderers.

151/17

### **Establishment of Sandwell Children's Social Care Trust Board (Key Decision Ref. No. SMBC16188)**

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services reported that following the government's Statutory Direction to establish a Sandwell Children's Trust, the Sandwell Children's Social Care Trust had been set up to have day-to-day operational independence in the management and delivery of these services and would be managed by a board of executive and non-executive directors.

The Cabinet, at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, agreed that they would operate as the decision-making body for matters in relation to the Trust. The Cabinet received details of key documents that would require approval.

Following a recruitment process in June, the Secretary of State had agreed the appointment of the Right Honourable Jacqui Smith as the Chair of the Trust Board.

The two Council appointed non-executive directors were nominated by Council at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017; Councillor Paul Sandars and Stuart Lackenby (Director - Prevention and Protection). The Chair and the two Council appointed non-executive directors would form the initial Trust Board which would increasingly start operating in its own right.

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In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services confirmed that officers would be attending the next meeting of the Children's and Education Scrutiny Board to discuss scrutiny arrangements for the Trust. A separate meeting would be arranged for all scrutiny members to discuss the scrutiny arrangements in relation to the Council's role in holding the Children's Trust to account.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the appointment of the Right Honourable Jacqui Smith as Chair of the Board of the Sandwell Children's Social Care Trust be noted;
- (2) that the Chief Executive take all necessary actions to effect this appointment referred to in Resolution (1) above.

(Meeting ended at 4.33 pm)

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