

CABINET

**MEETING HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON THURSDAY 1ST FEBRUARY, 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor Maher (in the Chair)
Councillors Atkinson, Cummins, Fairclough, Hardy,
John Joseph Kelly, Lappin, Moncur and Veidman

110. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

111. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interest were received.

112. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Decision Made:

That the minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 11 January 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

**113. REGIONALISATION OF ADOPTION - ADOPTION IN
MERSEYSIDE FINAL REPORT**

The cabinet considered the report of the Head of Children's Social Care that sought approval for the creation of a regionalised adoption service across Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral with effect from 1 April 2018. The regionalisation of the adoption services in the Liverpool City Region was reported as a mandatory requirement set out in the Education and Adoption Act 2016. The four authorities have worked together over the last two years to develop AIM (Adoption in Merseyside) which will be hosted by Knowsley Council with Sefton Council taking on the role of Commissioner on behalf of the other authorities and holding the host to account.

Decision Made:

That:

- (1) the proposed host model arrangements for Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral Regional Adoption Agency be agreed;
- (2) as host, employees from the other three Councils are seconded into Knowsley from 1 April 2018 be agreed;
- (3) the intention for the service to go live on 1 April 2018 be noted; and
- (4) delegated authority be granted to the Head of Children's Social Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and safeguarding and the Head of Corporate Services to finalise all financial agreements and other legal documentation as may be required by the Council to implement the transition.

Reason for the Decisions:

It is a statutory requirement for local authorities to establish a regional approach, as set out in the Education and Adoption Act 2016.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The proposal for the development of a Knowsley, Wirral Sefton and Liverpool RAA was agreed in principle through discussion with the relevant cabinet members in each authority and approved by the Department for Education in early 2016. Since then extensive work has been carried out through the Strategic Board consisting of senior staff from each Local Authority and chaired by the Executive Director (Children) from Knowsley.

The Strategic Board considered and tested a number of potential models. It also looked across the regional area to see what routes other regional agencies were starting to develop. It was felt that due to budgetary and time constraints that the preferred approach would be to develop a host model, now with Knowsley as host under the leadership of the Assistant Director for Children Social Care.

114. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PLAN 2017/18 – 2019/20

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources that advised of the current forecast revenue outturn position for the Council for 2017/18 as at the end of December 2017 and that this forecast would be informed by the latest analysis of expenditure and income due to the Council, in addition to the progress in delivering approved savings; the current forecast on Council Tax and Business Rates collection for

2017/18; and the current position of the Capital Programme.

Decision Made: That:

- (1) further remedial actions with a value of £1.379m are developed in order to deliver a balanced in-year budget, supporting the £1.000m of actions that had already been identified, be confirmed;
- (2) the progress to date on the achievement of approved Public Sector Reform savings for 2017/18, be agreed;
- (3) the forecast position on the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates for 2017/18 be agreed; and
- (4) the current progress in the delivery of the 2017/18 Capital Programme and the forecast outturn position for the year be agreed.

Reasons for the Decisions:

To ensure Cabinet are informed of the forecast outturn position for the 2017/18 revenue and capital budgets as at the end of December 2017 and to provide an updated forecast of the outturn position with regard to the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

115. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

That, under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. The Public Interest Test has been applied and favours exclusion of the information from the Press and Public

116. LCR TRAFFIC SIGNALS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Locality Services

Commissioned that sought approval for Sefton to join and utilise the Liverpool City Region Traffic Signals Maintenance Contract from 1st April 2018.

Decision Made: That:

- (1) approval be granted for Sefton's inclusion and utilisation of the Liverpool City Region Traffic Signals Maintenance Contract;
- (2) it be noted that the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had given his consent under Rule 46 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules for this decision to be treated as urgent and not subject to "call in" on the basis that it cannot be reasonably deferred because a delay to approval being granted will delay the start date of the Contract and affect not only Sefton but the other five Liverpool City Region Authorities; and
- (3) the Head of Regulation & Compliance be requested to enter into the Contract.

Reasons for the Decisions:

To enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duty to maintain the traffic signals asset, which subsequently contributes to the Council's requirements under the Traffic Management Act 2004 to minimise congestion.

To also show a commitment to joint working within the Liverpool City Region and KRN Group as the five other LCR Authorities will all be utilising the new Contract. The joint working approach will also lead to a greater consistency of how traffic signals are maintained and installed across the region. Through a collaborative approach it was also anticipated that the most advantage commercial terms will be negotiated to the benefit of the Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The Council could choose to continue to deliver services with its own independent Service Provider/Contract but will need to undertake their own procurement exercise in 2018 to renew the existing Contract. The risk associated with this is that the rates returned may not be as competitive due to the volume of work being smaller and isolated to Sefton only.