



BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE, STOCKWELL CLOSE, BROMLEY BRI 3UH

TELEPHONE: 020 8464 3333

CONTACT: Keith Pringle

keith.pringle@bromley.gov.uk

DIRECT LINE: 020 8313 4508

FAX: 020 8290 0608

DATE: 05 July 2016

EXECUTIVE

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 20 July 2016

Please see attached for the item below.

5 BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17 (Pages 3 - 4)

Copies of the documents referred to above can be obtained from
<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/>

This page is left intentionally blank

EXECUTIVE MEETING ON 20TH JULY 2016

AGENDA ITEM 5

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEM TO BUDGET MONITORING 2016/17 REPORT

RELEASE OF INTERIM RESOURCES TO RESPOND TO OUTCOME OF OFSTED INSPECTION

2. RECOMMENDATION

Executive are requested to agree that

- 2.1 (h) A sum of up to £950k is released from the General Provision for Risk/Uncertainty included in the Council's 2016/17 Central Contingency.**
- 2.1 (i) The utilisation of part or all of these monies is undertaken by the Chief Executive with the agreement of the Leader of the Council, Care Services Portfolio Holder, Resources Portfolio Holder and the Director of Finance.**
- 2.1 (j) Progress on use of these monies will be reported back to Executive in September 2016.**

3. COMMENTARY

Following the inspection of children's services (mainly social care) between 11th April and 5th May 2016, the final report was published on 27 June 2016 and is available in the following link:

http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/local_authority_reports/bromley/053_Single%20inspection%20of%20LA%20children%27s%20services%20and%20review%20of%20the%20LSCB%20as%20pdf.pdf

The report concludes that Children's services in Bromley are inadequate across all the key areas which results in the need for immediate action to reverse the deterioration in services for Children's safeguarding, children looked after, care leavers and children requiring adoption. The report included significant issues of practice and areas where resources are not being used effectively.

The Secretary of State has appointed a Commissioner who will report back by the end of September to make recommendations of the future of the Children's services which could include, for example, the Council no longer retaining full control of the service with the creation of a Children's Trust.

The purpose of this note is to seek the agreement of the Executive for interim funding to address the key issues raised through the Ofsted Inspection as well as early notice of further monies that may need to be set aside which is assumed as non-recurring at this stage. An improvement plan will be produced in response to the inspection and the detailed future proposals will be reported to Executive on 7th September 2016 and, if necessary, full Council on 26th September 2016 as part of funding the improvements required. It is too early to gauge the extent of funding required at this stage but there is a need to take immediate action to address some of the key issues.

It is important that any resources are targeted towards effective outcomes and ensure value for money is retained.

Whilst the full impact of the Ofsted inspection is being considered it is proposed that a sum of up to £950k is released from the General Provision for Risk/Uncertainty included in the Council's 2016/17 Central Contingency. These monies will also be utilised for an Interim DCS post. Although it is unusual to not be able to provide a breakdown of how the monies will be utilised this represents exceptional circumstances and very short timescales to address matters. At present, the improvement plan is still progressing and the action required is still being identified. Other examples of how these monies would be utilised include additional interim staff for addressing backlogs, resourcing immediate action to address critical findings in the Ofsted report, resourcing capacity to develop a longer term improvement plan within the short timescales available etc. The next three months are critical to enable a full response with relevant plans to inform the Commissioner's final view. It is proposed that the approval of the utilisation of part or all of these monies is undertaken by the Chief Executive with the agreement of the Leader of the Council, Care Services Portfolio Holder, Resources Portfolio Holder and the Director of Finance. Progress on use of these monies will be reported back to Executive in September 2016.

For financial planning purposes it is important to await the awaited implications identified in the Council's improvement plan before the full costs (both recurring and non-recurring) can be established. The outcome will be reported back to Care Services PDS Committee and the Executive.