

## **COUNCIL**

**THURSDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2017**

### **MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION**

## **CABINET**

**WEDNESDAY, 8 FEBRUARY 2017**

#### **92. Updated Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Strategy (Minute For Confirmation)**

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Director of Children's Services, submitted joint report seeking Cabinet's endorsement of the refreshed Strategy to Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation. It was noted that Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is among the most serious and challenging issues that any Council will face and that, since the launch of the Council's first CSE Prevention strategy in 2015, there had been a great deal of activity undertaken and significant improvements had been made in understanding and recognising CSE within Swindon Children's Services and the wider Council. It was also recognised that there was no room for complacency and the strategy refresh reflect new national and local learning.

Councillor Foley introduced the joint report, emphasising the importance of this issue and also the destructive and far reaching consequences for victims, their families and society. Councillor Foley and the Leader of the Council encouraged all Members who had not already done so, to complete the Council's CSE training.

Councillor Oliver Donachie, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, invited the meeting to note paragraph 3.4 of the report, which identified the creation of the multi-agency OPAL Team who work directly with children who are at high risk of CSE or who have been sexually exploited as one of the Council's key actions to tackle the problem of CSE.

Resolved – That Council be recommended to (i) agree the updated Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report; and (ii) note that an associated delivery plan will be developed by the Council's CSE Working Group, progress on which will be reported periodically to the Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and the plan updated at regular intervals.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

**95. Commercial Investment Strategy - Governance Arrangements (Minute For Confirmation)**

Councillor Russell Holland, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, and the Interim Corporate Director Resources, submitted a joint report seeking Cabinet's support for governance arrangements for the decision making around the Commercial Investment Fund different to those approved by Cabinet at its meeting in December 2016 (Cabinet Minute 70, 2016/17 refers).

The report also sought to provide wider Member involvement in the Council's emerging commercialisation strategy. It was noted that the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services had requested that the arrangements be reviewed in light of comments made at the Scrutiny Committee on 12th December 2016 (Scrutiny Committee Minute 45, 2016/17 refers).

Resolved – That Council be recommended that:

- 1) the governance arrangements for the Commercial Investment Fund consist of:
  - a) A Commercial Investment Strategy Board,
  - b) An all-party Cabinet Member Advisory Group, whose initial terms of reference are set out in the body of this report, which would meet to consider formal proposals, submitted as Cabinet Member Decision Notes, and give advice to the Cabinet Member;
  - c) An authorisation to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Interim Corporate Director, Resources, to make investments subject to the report and review set out in recommendations a) and b) above.
- 2) The role of the Cabinet Member Advisory Group cited above be expanded to cover the Council's emerging commercialisation strategy.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.