

MINUTE of MEETING of the SOCIAL POLICY, POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL held within COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WEST LOTHIAN CIVIC CENTRE, on 24 JANUARY 2020.

Present – Councillors Angela Doran (Chair), Charles Kennedy, Sarah King, John McGinty (substituting for Councillor Dave King), Dom McGuire and Damian Timson

Apologies – Councillors George Paul and Dave King

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda item 9: 2019/20 Financial Performance - Month 6 Monitoring Report

Councillor John McGinty declared an interest in that he was a council appointed member of the NHS Lothian Health Board.

2. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair ruled that agenda item 7, *Transforming your Council Review of Adult Day Care (Including Community Transport) (SJ1a)*, would be considered before agenda item 5, *Criminal Justice Unpaid Work Priority Plan 2020/2024*.

3. MINUTE

The panel approved the minute of its meeting held on 1 November 2019 as a correct record. The Chair thereafter signed the minute.

4. CRIMINAL JUSTICE UNPAID WORK PRIORITY PLAN 2020/2024

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing members with a further update on the progress of the measures associated with the Transforming Your Council (TYC) review of adult day care including community transport and ancillary services for 2021/22.

During discussion, officers assured members that transport for outlying areas would be given due consideration, while new user cases would be judged on their own merits. Officers were also confident that catering changes would be beneficial to care centres.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note that the Council at its budget setting meeting on 13 February 2018 had agreed to a measure (SJ1a) to review adult day care services with a saving of £755,000 to be delivered in 2020/21, and further note that the phasing had been amended at the budget

setting meeting on 19 February 2019;

2. Note that the Council had directed officers to present proposals to the Social Policy PDSP and Council Executive;
3. Note that following the TYC consultation in 2017 the revised model for adult day care required to be based on the retention of the three existing day care centres;
4. Note that 2020/21 savings proposal (phase 1) of the project had been approved at Council Executive on 3 December 2019;
5. Note the intention to feedback to Social Policy PDSP subject to progress being made with the development of the 2021/22 savings proposals (phase 2); and
6. Note that there was a plan to engage further with affected day care service users.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

5. CRIMINAL JUSTICE UNPAID WORK PRIORITY PLAN 2020/2024

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an outline of West Lothian's position and priority plan, including consultation response, on the unpaid work elements of Community Payback Orders (CPO).

It was noted during discussion that the service would welcome the opportunity to further engage with businesses as part of the programme for supporting criminal justice unpaid work and in order for offenders to benefit in terms of skills building. Members were assured that all areas would be given equal opportunities to benefit from unpaid work resulting from CPOs. It was also noted that feedback from offenders and communities was gathered regularly.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the priorities within the plan and the content of the consultation response; and
2. Note that the plan would be promoted through Local Area Committees.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

6. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT YOUTH JUSTICE STANDARDS CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy informing members of the Scottish Government's Youth Justice Standards public consultation hosted by the Scottish Government and welcoming their views and comments.

It was clarified during discussion that the council was already working to the standards proposed and would like to see how it compared to other authorities' approaches.

It was recommended that the panel consider the draft response to the consultation, which was intended to be submitted to the Council Executive for approval, prior to submission to the Scottish Government.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. To agree the recommendation that would be presented to a future meeting of Council Executive for approval.

7. TRANSFORMING YOUR COUNCIL EFFICIENCIES IN THE PROVISION OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN TRANSPORT (S1I)

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing an update on the progress of the measures associated with the Transforming Your Council (TYC) efficiencies in the provision of Looked After Children (LAC) Transport (S1i).

It was noted that recommendation 3 should read 'Notes' instead of 'Approves'.

During discussion, officers assured members that individual needs would be taken into consideration, while moderation and appeal mechanisms were in place should they be required.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note that the council at its budget setting meeting on 13 February 2018 had agreed to the measure (s1i) efficiencies in the provision of concessionary looked after children transport with a saving of £61,000 to be delivered in 2020/21;
2. Note that the council had directed officers to present proposals for the measure to the Social Policy PDSP and Council Executive; and
3. Note the option proposed in the paper.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

8. 2019/20 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - MONTH 6 MONITORING REPORT

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update on the financial performance of the Social Policy portfolio.

Vacancies and recruitment issues were mentioned as the reason for the current underspend in mental health; solutions and alternative ways of recruitment were then discussed.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the financial performance of the Social Policy portfolio as at month 6;
2. Note that the Social Policy portfolio position at month 6 was part of the overall council budget position reported to Council Executive on 12 November 2019; and
3. Note any actions required to be taken by the Head of Service and budget holders to manage spend within available resources.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

9. WEST LOTHIAN COMMUNITY CHOICES

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Social Policy providing members with information on the development of West Lothian Community Choices within the Social Policy service area.

It was recommended that the panel:

1. Note the budget areas which will be part of the West Lothian Community Choices process;
2. Note the proposed approach to be undertaken for Social Policy budget, as set out in section D.4;
3. Note the proposed timescales for the Community Choice process, as set out in section D.5; and
4. Note that an overview of the progress towards West Lothian Community Choices will be presented to the Partnership and Resources PDSP in April 2020, with a further report presented to

Council Executive in October 2020, highlighting areas of learning and best practice from the West Lothian Community Choices processes.

Decision

To note the contents of the report.

10. WORKPLAN

A workplan had been circulated for information.

Decision

To note the workplan.