

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Children and Adult Services Learning and School Effectiveness Children and Families

DECISIONS made by the Lead Cabinet Member for Learning and School Effectiveness, Councillor R Simmons and the Lead Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Councillor Mrs Stroud on 23 February 2006 at County Hall, Lewes

Councillor Field spoke on items 4 and 5 (see minutes 31 and 32)

Councillor Ost spoke on item 6 (see minute 33)

Councillor St Pierre spoke on items 4, 5, 6 and 9 (see minutes 31, 32, 33 and 34)

28. REPORTS

28.1 Copies of the reports referred to below are contained in the minute book.

29. MINUTES

29.1 Councillor Mrs Stroud approved as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Lead Cabinet Member for Learning and School Effectiveness held on 13 January 2006.

30. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

30.1 Councillor Field disclosed a personal interest in item 6 on the agenda as her husband is a Business Manager at Frewen College, Northiam to which the Council sends some of its special educational needs agency placements.

30.2 Councillor Simmons disclosed a prejudicial interest in item 5 on the agenda due to his involvement with the Heathfield Partnership Trust Ltd and left the meeting whilst this item was discussed.

31. PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SCHOOLS' FUNDING FORMULA

31.1 The Lead Cabinet Member for Learning and School Effectiveness considered a report by the Director of Children's Services.

DECISION

31.2 RESOLVED - to approve the proposed changes to the supplementary special educational needs element of the funding formula for primary schools and a formula for the distribution of funding for teachers' performance pay for 2005/6 onwards.

Reason

31.3 A replacement is needed within the schools' funding formula for CAT tests which are currently used to distribute supplementary special educational needs funding to primary schools. The proposed changes use a combination of prior attainment and deprivation as indicators of need which are considered to be the best available data for distribution of the funding. The proposed formula for the distribution of funding for teachers' performance pay uses a robust objective measure reflecting eligibility for progression of the workforce.

32. LAND AT HEATHFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

32.1 The Lead Member for Children and Families considered a report by the Director of Children's Services and noted 'the Heathfield and District Sports Association' should read 'the Heathfield Partnership Trust Ltd, Sports and Leisure Committee'.

DECISION

32.2 RESOLVED – to grant a long lease in respect of land on which to construct a swimming pool; and to authorise the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources to conclude the lease, together with any transfer of control agreement, on terms and conditions deemed appropriate.

Reason

32.3 Provision of a replacement indoor swimming pool on the College campus will enhance the College's sports facilities, and offer improved facilities to local primary schools over an extended period. The pool will also provide improved facilities to the wider community, including individual members of the public.

33. PARENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE COSTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CARE FOR THEIR CHILDREN

33.1 The Lead Member for Children and Families considered a report by the Director of Children's Services.

DECISION

33.2 RESOLVED – to endorse the proposal to re-instigate the policy of requiring a contribution towards the cost of local authority care from parents and others with parental responsibility towards each looked after child, subject to the exemptions set out in Appendix A.

Reason

33.3 Social work with children is based on the premise that the parents or those with parental responsibility for a child who becomes looked after retain their legal duties and responsibilities for their child. This includes contributing towards the costs of caring for their child. The policy includes a range of exemptions which are fair and reasonable, and will be re-instigated from 1 April 2006.

33.4 The amounts that parents will contribute under this policy do not cover the full costs of looking after their child. This policy does not preclude further voluntary contributions from parents who wish to contribute more fully to the County Council's costs, commensurate with their means.

34. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

34.1 RESOLVED – to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the remaining business on the grounds that if the public and press were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as specified in paragraph 5 of Schedule 12(A) to the Local Government Act 1972, namely information relating to any particular application for, or recipient or former recipient of, any financial assistance provided by the Authority.

35. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CARER AT LEVEL ABOVE DISCRETION OF DIRECTORS OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

35.1 The Lead Member for Children and Families considered a report by the Director of Children's Services.

DECISION

35.2 RESOLVED – to authorise the expenditure of up to £30,000 as a one-off grant to top up the Disabled Facilities Grant of £23,525 to allow for an extension of the family home to take account of the needs of the disabled young person.

Reason

35.3 In order to remain within the family home into adulthood AB requires her present accommodation to be adapted to take account of her changing needs and the severity of her disability. The new proposal takes account of the previous disabilities, mainly to do with restrictions on the building size required to comply with the line of site from the neighbouring property.

34.4 This plan will provide AB with a larger extension that makes good use of space. This will enable AB to remain at home as her parents wish, rather than needing to move into a high cost agency placement.