

Agenda for a meeting of the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on Tuesday, 31 January 2017 at 4.30 pm in Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford

Members of the Committee – Councillors

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT	INDEPENDENT
D Smith M Pollard	Engel Mullaney Peart Shaheen Tait	Ward	Sajawal

Alternates:

CONSERVATIVE	LABOUR	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Carmody Rickard	Akhtar Bacon Abid Hussain Thirkill	J Sunderland

VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS:

Sidiq Ali
Claire Parr
Joyce Simpson
Gull Hussain

Parent Governor Representative
Church Representative (RC)
Church Representative (CE)
Parent Governor Representative

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Kerr Kennedy
Stephen Pickles
Tom Bright
Tina Wildy

Voluntary Sector Representative
Teachers Primary Schools Representative
Teachers Secondary School Representative
Health Representative

Notes:

- This agenda can be made available in Braille, large print or tape format on request by contacting the Agenda contact shown below.
- The taking of photographs, filming and sound recording of the meeting is allowed except if Councillors vote to exclude the public to discuss confidential matters covered by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Recording activity should be respectful to the conduct of the meeting and behaviour that disrupts the meeting (such as oral commentary) will not be permitted. Anyone attending the meeting who wishes to record or film the meeting's proceedings is advised to liaise with the Agenda Contact who will provide guidance and ensure that any necessary arrangements are in place. Those present who are invited to make spoken contributions to the meeting should be aware that they may be filmed or sound recorded.
- If any further information is required about any item on this agenda, please contact the officer named at the foot of that agenda item.

From:

Parveen Akhtar
City Solicitor
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Phone: 01274 432227/434580
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To:



A. PROCEDURAL ITEMS

1. ALTERNATE MEMBERS (Standing Order 34)

The City Solicitor will report the names of alternate Members who are attending the meeting in place of appointed Members.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

(Members Code of Conduct - Part 4A of the Constitution)

To receive disclosures of interests from members and co-opted members on matters to be considered at the meeting. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

Notes:

- (1) Members may remain in the meeting and take part fully in discussion and voting unless the interest is a disclosable pecuniary interest or an interest which the Member feels would call into question their compliance with the wider principles set out in the Code of Conduct. Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.*
- (2) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations, and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.*
- (3) Members are also welcome to disclose interests which are not disclosable pecuniary interests but which they consider should be made in the interest of clarity.*
- (4) Officers must disclose interests in accordance with Council Standing Order 44.*

3. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

(Access to Information Procedure Rules – Part 3B of the Constitution)

Reports and background papers for agenda items may be inspected by contacting the person shown after each agenda item. Certain reports and background papers may be restricted.



Any request to remove the restriction on a report or background paper should be made to the relevant Strategic Director or Assistant Director whose name is shown on the front page of the report.

If that request is refused, there is a right of appeal to this meeting.

Please contact the officer shown below in advance of the meeting if you wish to appeal.

(Jill Bell - 01274 434580)

4. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

To receive referrals made to this Committee.

The Committee will be asked to note the referrals listed above and decide how it wishes to proceed, for example by incorporating the item into the work programme, requesting that it be subject to more detailed examination, or refer it to an appropriate Working Group/Committee.

B. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ACTIVITIES

5. CALL-IN FOSTERING ALLOWANCES REVIEW

1 - 16

On 10 January 2017 the Executive considered the report of the Strategic Director Children's Services (**Executive Document "AS"**) which set out the proposals to;

Align the level of fostering allowances ensuring that payments for all fostering, special guardianship, Child Arrangement Orders (formerly Residence Orders) and adoption are all paid at the same rates as required by law.

The proposal to bring fostering allowances in line with statutory requirements will achieve affordable equity for children for whom Bradford has a financial responsibility by ensuring that they are not disadvantaged as a result of the permanency option that best meets their needs.

Executive Resolved –

That Option 2 – Reducing Fostering allowances to the Government minimum allowances over a two year period April 2017 be approved.

ACTION: Strategic Director Children's Services



The decision of the Executive has been called in. The reasons for the call in are set out below:

In accordance with Paragraph 8.6.2 of the Council Constitution, I request that the decision of the Executive Committee, 10 January 2017, relating to Agenda Item 7, Fostering Allowances Review, be called in for the reasons detailed below.

- It is acknowledged by the council that Foster Carers already possess a strong sense of being undervalued, though the report provides members with no indication or projection of the potential impact that the implementation of the Executive's decision, may have upon the Council's Sufficiency Duty in relation to looked after children.
- Whilst the report makes reference to legal requirements relating to payments made to the carers of Looked After Children and the actions of the Courts, in to date rejecting local authority justifications for differences in allowances paid to the different types of carers, the information provided regarding the legal requirements is not sufficient for members to ascertain whether the Council's circumstances are comparable and thus whether any legal obligations are likely to be breached.

In response to the Call-In, the Strategic Director of Children's Services will submit **Document "AG" (to follow)** which provides a commentary on the call-in.

In accordance with Paragraph 8.6.9 of Part 3E of the Constitution Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can following consideration of the matter resolve to:

- (1) Release the decision for implementation.**
- (2) Refer all or part of the decision back to the Executive to reconsider it in the light of any representations the Committee may make. The decision may not be implemented until the Executive has met to reconsider its earlier decision.**
- (3) Refer the decision to full Council for consideration, in which case the decision may not be implemented until the Council has met to consider the matter.**

If the Committee makes no resolution, in accordance with paragraph 8.6.9 of the Constitution, the decision may be implemented.

(Jim Hopkinson - 01274 432904)

