

INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND REFORM PROGRAMME: UPDATE

Joint report of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Reform and Governance

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Over the course of the year we have been progressing our growth and reform ambitions to address challenging demand pressures and ensure Stockport can become locally self-financing by 2019/20.
- 1.2 A fundamental part of this has involved shaping and progressing work around our longer term ambitions including:
 - providing sustainable and inclusive growth;
 - exploring opportunities to invest within our communities to enable them to grow and make connections;
 - developing our vision for place based working including future phases of our approaches to Stockport Family and Place Management;
 - enhancing and progressing the further digitalisation of our services; and,
 - the continued delivery of our new integrated models of health and care.
- 1.3 Whilst this work is already starting to result in changes for local people, we know that we also need to address immediate pressures within our 2018/19 budget. In response to this we have developed a series of proposals, including local taxation considerations, throughout the year and have taken some time to understand these further with local people and partners.
- 1.4 Throughout this process we have continually sought to carefully balance what we do with our longer term ambitions to ensure we can support immediate and longer term financial sustainability.
- 1.5 We have presented these savings proposals in a series of updates since the summer. Since then we have been working on our proposals, understanding from local people and partners their views and further and developing these to reflect this feedback, as well as other considerations or opportunities that have emerged.
- 1.6 Following this period we are now in a position to present updated proposals for those areas which fall within our 'non-pooled' budget. Within this report we will be outlining our current financial context, the approach that we've taken to seeking and understanding views from local people and presenting final proposals for consideration and approval.

2. FINANCIAL CONTEXT

- 2.1 Since the completion of the MTFP Summer Review a number of changes both locally and nationally have impacted on the Council's MTFP and the forecast savings requirement including announcements made by Government within the 2017 Autumn Budget. We expect little change to our Settlement funding when the 2018/19 Provisional Local Government Funding Settlement is announced by Government in mid-December.
- 2.2 Along with other local authorities, we have lobbied Government for additional funding to be made available by Government within the Settlement to support the Council to meet the significant costs of increasing demand and demographic pressures linked to Children's and Adult Social Care services and the proposed pay inflation and pay spine changes over the next two years. However we also note that the four year settlement will end in 2019/20 and as a result there continues to be significant risk and uncertainty to the forecasts and assumptions underpinning the MTFP beyond this date.
- 2.3 Whilst we welcome the Government's continuing commitment to the reform of the Local Government Financing Regime, particularly in relation to the further retention of Business Rates and fairer funding, we also recognise the timeframe for this has been delayed by the ongoing Government negotiations for the UK exit from the European Union. The continuing uncertainty around the reform and potential impact to the MTFP make financial planning beyond 2019/20 difficult. Nevertheless the Council as part of the Greater Manchester 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot remains at the forefront and influential in the decisions being made about the future reforms. Furthermore we remain committed as part of our Growth and Reform Programme to ensuring the Council is able to implement a self-financing funding model by 2019/20.
- 2.4 We note the Council's Quarter 2 forecast outturn position and the significant pressures faced within the Children and Families Services and Adult Social Care Portfolios as a result of increasing demand and demographic cost pressures. Whilst we recognise that Council Officers are continuing to work on financial recovery plans to bring costs in these areas back in line with agreed Cash Limit budgets, we also note that significant risks in achieving these plans. We will therefore need to consider the allocation of contingencies on a permanent basis and the use of one-off resources where the pressures are non-recurrent as part of the 2018/19 budget setting process.
- 2.5 Linked to this we remain committed to aligning the Council's Adult Social Care and Public Health Portfolio budgets to Stockport Together and to the pooled budget with Stockport CCG. However the scale of transformational change needed to realise the benefits of Stockport Together to mitigate these budget pressures is significant. Indeed we recognise that the plans for integration are ambitious and contain significant risks.
- 2.6 We recognise the significant financial challenge the Council faces over the medium term period. Linked to this we made an early commitment to consider the contribution local taxation should make to support the essential public

services delivered to Stockport residents. As a result in October we proposed a 4.99% increase in Council Tax (1.99% General and 3% Adult Social Care Precept) in 2018/19. We did not take the decision lightly and have weighed up the impact the increase would have on Stockport residents whilst ensuring the Council remains financially sustainable. We recognise that this increase will be an additional burden on Stockport residents at a time when incomes have stagnated and we know families – both in and out of work – are struggling. However, in common with many councils across the country and within Great Manchester, we feel there are no alternatives following seven years of austerity that has seen the Council deliver savings of more than £100m. It is also noted that the Government is clear that it expects councils to fund local services through locally raised income, specifically that the Government spending power for Local Government assumes *'local authorities increase their Band D council tax in line with the 2% referendum limit throughout the period 2019-20'*¹.

- 2.7 The uncertainty and volatility of Local Government funding and the increasing cost pressures require the Council's medium term financial planning to be robust on a recurrent basis. We remain committed to ensuring the Council's MTFP remains financially resilient through continuing our Growth and Reform Programme, continuing the integration of health and social care budgets and the appropriate use of local tax rising powers in line with Government policy.

3. BUDGET PROPOSALS (2018/19)

- 3.1 A set of proposals have been developed to enable the delivery of a balanced budget against our non-pooled budget within 2018 as well as the foundation for growth and reform in future years. This suite of proposals is summarised below:

Table 1: Overview of budget proposals (non-pooled budget)

Directorate	Proposal	Saving Requirement 2018/19 (£000s)
Children and Young Peoples	Income Generation: CYP Traded Services	260
	Early Years Grant for Central Support Services	350
	Service Redesign	367
	Reductions to Services	356
	Alternative Funding	88
	Budget Profiling	205
Place	Parking Tariffs – Town Centre Parking	150
	Parking Tariffs – District Parking	350
	Highways Reactive Maintenance	400
	Waste Environmental Campaign	500
	Income Generation: Cost Recovery and Income Generation	100
Corporate and Support	Information, Advice and Guidance	200

Directorate	Proposal	Saving Requirement 2018/19 (£000s)
Services	Digital by Design Phase 2	1000
	Income Generation: CSS Traded Services	50
	Income Generation: Income from Assets	100
	Income Generation: Events and Registrars	50
	Insurance Fund	500
TOTAL		5,026

3.2 Accompanying the non-pooled budget proposals identified above, we also presented a suite of savings proposals across our Adult Social Care and Public Health services at our meeting in November. These proposals totalled £5,695m (including use of Improved Better Care Fund) which takes overall proposed savings up to £10,721m. We are currently consulting on these proposals and will be bringing an update following this to our meeting in February.

Non-pooled Budget Proposals

3.3 Of the proposals we brought forward earlier in the year (outlined in table.1), we have started implementing those that refer to internal budget realignment, internal budget initiatives or decisions taken earlier this year:

- CYP Traded Services
- Early Years Grant for Central Support Services
- CYP Alternative Funding
- Budget Profiling
- Highways Reactive Maintenance
- Waste Environmental Campaign
- Digital by Design Phase 2
- Income Generation (*CSS Traded Services; Income from Assets and Events and Registrars*)
- Insurance Fund

3.4 The remaining proposals have been developed further including through consultation where it has been required:

- CYP service redesign
- CYP reductions to services
- Parking Tariffs (Town and District Centres)
- Information, Advice and Guidance

3.5 The final proposals take into account this feedback (further detail of which is outlined below and in appendix.2) and are now appended to this report for consideration and decision.

3.6 A summary of where further information is available on all the 2018/19 non-pooled budget proposals can be found in appendix.1

¹ See paragraph 4, p.1 of the Core Spending Power Explanatory Note, published online at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/603209/Core_spending_power_final_settlement_Explanatory_note.pdf

Consultation and Engagement

Approach

- 3.7 The Cabinet has been keen to ensure that all interested parties are offered the opportunity to comment on the proposals, and to provide feedback informing its decisions.
- 3.8 We formally consulted with a range of people and groups, using various methodologies and timescales, as part of developing the proposals below. Specific details for each are included in the relevant updates appended to this report:
- Apprenticeship service
 - Free School Bus Passes
 - Children's Centres and Start Well Offer
 - KITE contract
 - Information, Advice and Guidance
- 3.9 We also issued formal notice for comments on changes to parking tariffs, the response to this are summarised within the parking proposal at appendix.5.
- 3.10 The consultations ran between 6th October and 10th November 2017, and were promoted using the following approaches:
- Online Questionnaires on the 'Have Your Say' page of the Council's website
 - Standpoint machines in Libraries
 - Paper copies of questionnaires in public buildings
 - Posters in community buildings
 - Frequently Asked Questions accompanying questionnaires online
 - Letters to service users
 - News releases
 - Social media advertising
- 3.11 A further summary of this consultation, including an overview of who was consulted in relation to each proposal, is available in appendix.2.
- 3.12 In addition to these specific consultation exercises, proposals involving any implications for employees have been subject to a formal 45 day consultation. This are outlined in paragraph 3.21 below.
- 3.13 Cabinet has also made a commitment to broad member engagement to ensure transparent decision making relating to the budget. As such all proposals have been shared with the relevant scrutiny committees for comment. Those proposals requiring a decision to implement (i.e. those which require a change or reduction in service) have been shared twice with the relevant scrutiny committees. A summary of scrutiny feedback is attached to this report. In addition to this all budget reports have been shared with CRMG

scrutiny to ensure robust oversight of the growth and reform programme.

Equality Considerations

- 3.14 We have always been mindful of the impact of proposals on local communities. Comprehensive Equalities Impact Assessments have been undertaken where appropriate and these include any consideration emerging from the relevant consultation and engagement exercises.
- 3.15 As well as these individual exercises, we understand that individuals, or groups of people with similar circumstances, may be affected by more than one proposal. Or that there may be cross-cutting implications that we hadn't originally anticipated. Throughout this development phase we have sought to understand this through being transparent about our proposals so that there are opportunities for this to be identified.
- 3.16 However, we know that there are groups of our population who for various reasons may be likely to be in touch with more than one of our services and as such we may expect to see trends in changes for those groups. This also a reflection of changes and reductions to universal services in the past within the Council and that we are increasingly needing to review more targeted and specialist services.
- 3.17 The proposals we present within this report are likely to impact upon a range of groups identified as 'Protected Characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010, however given the nature of the services involved we expect implications to largely relate to the following groups:
- **Age:** Apprenticeship and Free School Transport proposals both propose changes to services working directly with young people. We also understand that older people are more likely to access our face-to-face or non-digital Information, Advice and Guidance offer.
 - **Disability:** Apprenticeship and Information, Advice and Guidance proposal apply across the population however we understand that people with disabilities are more likely to access support from these services. The Special Educational Need and Disability proposal whilst not anticipated to have an impact on public facing service delivery does directly support children and young people (along with their families) with disabilities
- 3.18 Whilst not a protected characteristic, we understand that socio-economic status can be a common factor across all equality groups. Given a number of our proposals affect services that are likely to be accessed by low income households we are therefore particularly mindful of the impact our decisions may have on some of our most vulnerable residents.
- 3.19 We have sought to introduce proportionate measures to mitigate against any negative impact from specific proposals, as well as cumulative implications, wherever possible whilst still seeking to redesign services to ensure we are best able to meet the needs of local residents particularly those who are vulnerable. These measures are built into our updated proposals which are attached to this report.

- 3.20 We are also prioritising our inclusive growth ambitions, digital inclusivity initiatives, greater cross-organisational working and community investment as a way to more broadly and sustainably mitigate against the impact of reducing council services across our communities.

Workforce Implications

- 3.21 In line with previous iterations of the Council's Growth and Reform programme it is acknowledged that this level of fundamental redesign will have a significant impact on the current workforce. Council employees will need to adjust to new ways of working, potentially within new teams and in redesigned services.
- 3.22 Proposals prepared to address saving requirements and budget pressures within 2018/19 include some with employee reductions. This includes:

Table.2: Employee reductions resulting from non-pooled budget proposals:

Directorate	Proposal	FTE Reduction (18/19)
Children and Young Peoples Services	<i>CYP Reductions to Services</i>	
	Apprenticeships	1.2
	Youth Offending Service	2
	School Age Plus	2
	<i>Service Redesign</i>	
	KITE	1
	Start Well Offer	1
	SEND Support	1.6
CSS	Information, Advice and Guidance	6.45
	Digital by Design	55
TOTAL		70.25

- 3.23 Further work is underway to develop the detail in the proposals relating to Adult Social Care and Public Health which will enable us to have a clearer view on the scale of this across the entire workforce.
- 3.24 The Council has a robust but fair Restructuring and Organisational Change Policy which governs the way in which redesign exercises with staffing implications are managed. Staffing Business Cases have been developed and the trade unions as well as the directly affected employees have had the opportunity to respond to proposals during a period of formal 45 day consultation. As well as the information already provided in the proposals presented to Cabinet, these documents have included:
- The details of all posts directly affected by the change;
 - Organisational structure charts of the service before and after the proposed change;
 - Job descriptions for any proposed new posts;
 - The arrangements and timescales for consulting with the appropriate employees, unions and public (if applicable);

- Methods employed or proposed to reduce any adverse impact on employees including minimising redundancies; and
 - Details on the proposals for the method of selecting employees for redundancy, and where appropriate, the proposals for ring fencing arrangements, slotting into posts and recruiting to new/remaining posts.
- 3.25 During the consultation period affected employees, their Union representatives and where appropriate other stakeholders were given the opportunity to comment upon the draft proposals which provides the opportunity to help shape the future of service delivery in the identified areas. A final Staffing Business Case will then be shared following this consultation period. The timeframes for the consultation period are contained within the individual business cases.
- 3.26 The Council remains committed to managing the potential redundancy situation by voluntary means wherever possible. Employees who are formally put at risk will have priority access to internal vacancies which in turn may create some movement out of the affected area into other vacant roles across the Council.
- 3.27 Employees who are placed at risk of redundancy will be offered Voluntary Redundancy (VR) as a mechanism to achieve the required savings by voluntary means. VR opportunities are linked to specific service reviews and in the first instance will be limited to the proposals outlined in Table.2. As with previous consultations with staff, and in accordance with the Restructuring and Organisational Change Policy, the proposed approach and timing of any Voluntary Redundancy offer will be confirmed and consulted upon in each of the individual draft Staffing Business Cases.
- 3.28 There are no plans to offer Council-wide opportunities to volunteer for redundancy outside of specific service changes or reductions. In general the notice period for any staff within scope of these service changes who choose to take Voluntary Redundancy will be linked to statutory notice.

Partnership Considerations

- 3.29 Our growth and reform ambitions are dependent upon positive and robust relationships with our partners, communities and associated bodies. Our proposals will affect our partners in different ways and throughout their development we have sought to work closely with those partners both to understand the implications but also to collectively shape future services. A number of our proposals identify opportunities for greater integration of services with partners (such as across Children and Young Peoples services). This emphasis will only continue to develop over the future and is underpinned within our partnership Borough Plan.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

4.1 The Cabinet are recommended to:

- Discuss the progress outlined within this report and note the considerations outlined within section.3 in relation to consultation, workforce implications and equality implications;
- Discuss the updated proposals appended (appendix 4-7) and consider the recommendations below:

Children and Young Peoples Proposals (appendix.4)

- Consider the consultation responses and updated proposals and approve these for implementation;
- Note the commitment in relation to the Free School Bus Passes proposal to review existing arrangements and return to Cabinet in February with further detail on mitigating actions;

Parking Charges (appendix 5):

- The Cabinet has considered these responses and concerns raised through the consultation process and resolved to;
 - Arrange for officers to meet with the groups and individuals who have contacted the council to review detailed proposals and alternatives before implementation, assessing potential alternatives which will generate similar levels of savings;
 - Review tariffs annually to assess income levels and impact upon car park usage and displacement onto residential streets;

Income Recovery and Cost Recovery (appendix.6):

- Consider the updated proposal and approve this for implementation

Information, Advice and Guidance (appendix.7):

- Consider the consultation responses and updated proposal and approve this for implementation.
- Note the commitment to bring a further report to Cabinet in February with proposals relating to Adult Social Care and Public Health.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Medium Term Financial Plan Cabinet Response: Stockport's Growth and Reform Programme (Cabinet, 15th August 2017)
- Inclusive Growth and Reform Programme: Update (Cabinet, 3rd October 2017)

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Holly Rae on Tel: 0161 474 3014 or by email on holly.rae@stockport.gov.uk

Appendix.1 – 2018/19 Budget Proposals

Directorate	Proposal	Saving Requirement 2018/19 (£000s)	Further Information	Scrutiny Consideration
Children and Young Peoples	Income Generation: CYP Traded Services	260	<i>Update in appendix.3</i>	<i>Children and Families (September 17)</i>
	Early Years Grant for Central Support Services	350		<i>Children and Families (September 17)</i>
	Service Redesign	367	<i>Update in Appendix.4</i>	<i>Children and Families (Sept and Nov 17)</i>
	Reductions to Services	356		<i>Children and Families (Sept and Nov 17)</i>
	Alternative Funding	88	<i>Update in appendix.3</i>	<i>Children and Families (November 17)</i>
	Budget Profiling	205		<i>Children and Families (November 17)</i>
Place	Parking Tariffs – Town Centre Parking	150	<i>Proposal in appendix. 5</i>	<i>Communities and Housing (October and November 17)</i>
	Parking Tariffs – District Parking	350	<i>Proposal in appendix. 5</i>	<i>Communities and Housing (October and November 17)</i>
	Highways Reactive Maintenance	400	<i>Update presented to October Scrutiny</i>	<i>Communities and Housing (October and November 17)</i>
	Waste Environmental Campaign	500	<i>Update presented to October Scrutiny</i>	<i>Communities and Housing (October and November 17; next update February 2018)</i>
	Income Generation: Cost Recovery and Income Generation	100	<i>Proposal in appendix.6</i>	<i>Communities and Housing (October and November 17)</i>
Corporate and Support	Information, Advice and Guidance	200	<i>Proposal in appendix. 7</i>	<i>CRMG (July and November 17)</i>

Directorate	Proposal	Saving Requirement 2018/19 (£000s)	Further Information	Scrutiny Consideration
Services	Digital by Design Phase 2	1000	<i>Update presented to October Cabinet meeting</i>	<i>CRMG (September 17)</i>
	Income Generation: CSS Traded Services	50	<i>Update in appendix.3</i>	<i>CRMG (September 17)</i>
	Income Generation: Income from Assets	100	<i>Update in appendix.3</i>	<i>CRMG (September 17)</i>
	Income Generation: Events and Registrars	50	<i>Update in appendix.3</i>	<i>CRMG (September 17)</i>
	Insurance Fund	500	<i>Overview in Aug Cabinet report</i>	<i>CRMG (September 17)</i>
TOTAL		5,026		

Appendix.2 – Consultation Summary

The table below provides a breakdown of those formally consulted in relation to each proposal.

Title	Consultations	Response Rates
Apprenticeship service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrutiny Committees• Service Users• Residents• Partners• Businesses• Employees	600 online responses from the public and Partners across the various questionnaires and 71 paper questionnaires.
Free School Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrutiny Committees• Service Users• Partners• Residents	540 online responses.
Children's Centres and Start Well Offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrutiny Committees• Service Users• Residents• Partners	202 responses online and 20 paper questionnaires were completed.
KITE Contract	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrutiny Committees• Service Users• Partners	51 responses to the online survey from various interested stakeholders.
Information, Advice & Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scrutiny Committees• Residents• Partners	283 online responses and 91 responses collected from standpoint machines in Libraries.

Summaries of the results of the consultation carried out in relation to each proposal are set out below.

A. Apprenticeship service - Participation and Education

Background

1.1 The proposal was; To close the Apprenticeships Store and all associated events and activities cease, to change the methodology of recruiting apprentices, thereby closing the Apprenticeship Pool in the council and reducing the number of Apprenticeship posts (54 Apprenticeship posts are dis-established in Participation and Education Services and possibly re-established elsewhere, 4 posts are deleted) and also to reduce staffing associated with the above work.

Methodology

1.2 The consultation approach included surveys, briefings, meetings and stakeholder groups. The consultation was communicated by press releases,

social media messages, and posters in various community locations. Paper copies were available on request.

Results

- 1.3 The key findings of the consultation were:
- 82% of respondents (195 respondents) disagreed with the closure of the Apprenticeships Store.
 - 64% of respondents (14 respondents) disagreed with the closure of the Apprenticeships Pool.
 - All the staff in the Participation and Education Services (excluding the apprentices who were not consulted on the human resources business case) strongly disagreed with the proposals, and therefore disagreed with the loss of associated staffing.
- 1.4 The most popular reason amongst young people and parents for not closing the Apprenticeships Store was the reduction in access to impartial specialist information, support and opportunities for accessing an Apprenticeship. Many respondents gave specific examples of the support they had received from the Apprenticeships Store. Concerns were expressed that young people may be forced into academic / unsuitable courses which they later left early, and that the Apprenticeships Store's closure would have an adverse effect on the young and vulnerable. Many stated that closing of the Apprenticeships Store would lead to increased costs later and fewer Apprenticeship opportunities. Some stated that the closure seemed short-sighted.
- 1.5 The majority of respondents and staff in the Participation and Education Service disagreed with changing the methodology of recruiting apprentices, thereby closing the Apprenticeship Pool, and deleting 4 apprentice posts. Several stated that the flexibility of the pool for pressure on workloads was useful. A minority stated that they would like to recruit and appoint their own apprentice. Staff in Participation and Education Services referred to the contribution the Apprenticeship's Pool is making to the Council's strong performance against public sector Apprenticeships targets to date and the Princess Royal Training Award.

B. Participation and Education (Non- Apprenticeships)

Background

- 1.6 The proposal was to cut events and activities funded by Participation and Education Services that support successful 'transitions' into education and training at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 including two events (June and October) in the Town Hall for Years 10-13.
- 1.7 The proposed savings come from a combination of reducing funding for room hire, hospitality, postage and printing. The following key events were proposed to be cut:
- 2 Post 16 Education and Training Information events (June and October)

- 2 events to review the Supported Apprenticeships Scheme for Looked After Children
- 1 curriculum information sharing event between colleges, schools and council staff

Methodology

- 1.8 The consultation was communicated by press releases, social media messages and posters in various community locations. Paper copies were available on request.

Results

- 1.9 The key findings of the consultation were that the majority of respondents strongly disagreed with cessation of the Post 16 Education and Training Information events in the Town Hall.
- 1.10 There were 378 respondents: 41% (156 respondents) were parents, 35% (133 respondents) were aged 11-18, the remaining respondents were aged 19-24 (2%), training providers (4%), schools (4%), colleges (2%), employers (2%) support services (2%) or other (7%).
- 1.11 272 (77%) respondents disagreed with proposals to cease the events, of which 64% (227) strongly disagreed. Common themes were:
- The proposals would reduce the availability of face-to-face information, advice and guidance, resulting in difficulty for young people to make informed decisions on their future;
 - Potential increase in those not in education, employment or training;
 - There is nothing else like the Town Hall events available for young people and parents, and school budget cuts cannot re-create careers events like this;
 - It's a shame to deprive young people of the help and support to make their choices;
 - Organisations would have less opportunity for recruitment to their colleges/training which would impact on their business;
 - Opportunities for special educational needs learners and their families would be reduced;
 - Young people feel valued because of these events, and employers may miss out because young people do not realise there are opportunities.
- 1.12 22 respondents (17%) agreed with the cuts and stated:
- The proposals would be a useful contribution to the council cuts;
 - They would save on staff time, save money and resource.
 - Schools should run their own events like this.

C. Free School Transport

Background

- 1.13 The Council is reviewing all services that are provided above the statutory level and whether it is able financially to continue to provide services that are discretionary.
- 1.14 The additional cost to Stockport Council of providing these discretionary school bus passes is approximately £38,000 per annum. The removal of the discretionary element from Stockport's Free School Travel Policy would provide a significant saving for the Council.
- 1.15 The Council proposes to remove the discretionary provision it currently awards above the national requirement for free school travel. This means the Council would no longer provide free school travel to those applicants whose parents are in receipt WTC which has been reduced by their income.

Methodology

- 1.16 An online survey was available on the Councils Have Your Say page from 6th October until 10th November 2017. There were a total of 540 responses to the consultation. An email was sent to various stakeholders alerting them to the online survey.
- 1.17 The consultation was communicated by press releases, social media messages, and posters in various community locations. Paper copies were available on request.

Results

- 1.18 There were a total of 540 respondents to the consultation. Of these: 358 (67%) strongly disagree with the proposal; 56 (10%) strongly agree; 49 (9%) tend to disagree; 41 (8%) tend to agree; 21 (4%) neither agree nor disagree; 11 (2%) selected 'don't know'.
- 1.19 On the options consultation question, a total of 412 (78%) respondents selected 'continue to award for the rest of their time in current school', 64 (12%) selected 'change to statutory minimum entitlement for all applications from 2018/19', 54 (10%) selected 'award for one year only 2018/19'.

D. Children's Centres and Start Well Offer

Background

- 1.20 To achieve the ambition of Start Well, the Council is making the following proposals about Children's Centre and Stockport Family:
 - Keep two of our Sure Start Children's Centres but rename them as 'Start Well Hubs' and continue to deliver integrated early years services.
 - De-designate the other two Children's Centres and rename as, 'Start Well Satellites' and continue to deliver integrated early years services.

- Transfer the responsibility of some existing Children's Centre space and a Stockport Family site to one or more of our stakeholders.
- 1.21 Primarily the proposals would result in Stockport having fewer designated Sure Start Children's Centres, with some Children's Centres becoming Start Well Satellites.
 - 1.22 Secondly, the proposals would result in the transfer of responsibility for identified Children's Centre space and a Stockport Family site to one or more of our stakeholders.
 - 1.23 De-designating two of the four Children Centres will provide the freedom and flexibility to ensure a fit for purpose model. It would allow more staff time to focus on working with families rather than administrative requirements.
 - 1.24 The transfer of other identified buildings to host sites would enable options to be considered for the use of the space for other early years' provision.
 - 1.25 In communities where there is no Hub or Satellite, access to Start Well services will be available through the integrated Stockport Family Service and in partnership with schools. Access to services and interventions at any Start Well Hub or Satellite in Stockport would continue where need has been identified. Teams would work within localities and would operate from Start Well Hubs, Satellites and Health Centres.

Methodology

- 1.26 The consultation took place simultaneously online and via paper copies available in Children's Centres. The process was also informed by three focus groups; these were held with the ECH SC Advisory Board, the Abacus Advisory Board and All Saints CE Primary School.

Results

- 1.27 There was strong overall agreement with the proposals for Brinnington Children's Centre (73%) and Abacus Children's Centre (70%).
- 1.28 The proposal for Belmont & Lancashire Hill Children's Centre received a mixed response with 55% agreement.
- 1.29 There was disagreement for the proposals at Edgeley, Cheadle Heath and Stockport Central Children's Centre with 57% overall disagreement and the strongest level of disagreement at Bredbury, Romiley and Woodley Stockport Family Site (79% disagreement).

E. KITE

Background

- 1.30 The KITE Team of 3.59 posts currently provide assessment and interventions for Looked After Children and Children in Need and is managed by Healthy Young Minds. The proposal is to cease the Kite Team and establish 2 new Health and Wellbeing practitioner posts re-focusing their work to deliver the local authority statutory duties to promote health and wellbeing for looked after children. The proposal is for the new posts to be managed by the Local Authority- Education Psychology Service making a saving of £130k. This proposal would strengthen integrated working with schools, school nurses and Stockport Family colleagues with clear agreed pathways into Healthy Young Minds for accessing specialist mental health services.

Methodology

- 1.31 An online survey was live from 6th October with responses back on 10th November.
- 1.32 There were a total of 51 responses to the survey. Of these: 11 (22%) were foster carers or carers; 11 (22%) were from the Healthy Young Minds service; 8 (16%) were social workers; 6 (12%) were parents & service users; 4 (8%) were School/SEN & Inclusion. There was one respondent from the KITE service and one CCG commissioner. 9 respondents (18%) selected 'other'.

Results

- 1.33 Of 51 respondents, 71% disagreed with the proposals. This figure includes 65% who selected 'strongly disagree' and 6% who selected 'tend to disagree'. 24% of respondents expressed support (10% 'strongly agree'; 14% 'tend to agree') whilst a total of 6% selected 'neither agree nor disagree'.

F. Information, Advice and Guidance

Background

- 1.34 The Council has to reduce the amount it spends on Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) by £200K in 2018/19. The council needs to save money while continuing to meet current and future demand for advice by changing the way services are delivered across the borough
- 1.35 The proposal is to retain quick advice through drop in sessions and to continue to offer appointments, but to review the numbers delivered in each location to ensure current and future demand can be met and that the available resource is distributed appropriately across the borough. This will include reducing the number of drop in sessions in some areas and prioritising areas with higher demand such as the Council's Priority areas of Adswood, Bridgehall, Brinnington, central Stockport, Offerton and Reddish.

Methodology

- 1.36 The survey was made available on line and promoted as part of the Councils corporate consultation process. In addition standpoint machines / tablets were made available in libraries across the borough with Library staff available to help people to use the machines. Advice staff also encourages service users to complete the survey. The consultation was communicated via press releases, social media messages and posters in various community locations.
- 1.37 There were 284 responses online and 91 responses from the standpoint machines, giving an overall response of 375.

Results

- 1.38 The findings show that there is demand for an advice service which is available in community locations both for quick drop in advice and appointments for face to face advice. In all cases the findings were that the preferred location to deliver this advice was in the Council's priority areas. There was however support for access to advice at all the current locations.

Appendix.3 – Summaries on 2018/19 proposals currently in implementation

1. Early Years Grant for Central Support Services

This proposal was presented as part of the August and October Cabinet papers and sets out to increase the centrally retained element of Early Years funding (within the dedicated schools grant (DSG) framework) to circa 3.7% to achieve a £0.350m saving on the cash limit budget by re-directing costs to the DSG which is still within the 5% allowed by the regulations. A further £0.157m will be redirected to the DSG in 2019/20 to support the MTFP saving requirement. Engagement with early years providers took place during October and this change will now be built into the 2018/19 Budget.

2. CYP Alternative Funding

This proposal has involved the transfer of a small number of resources from cash-limit funding to grant monies or other external income streams. This change will be built into the 2018/19 Budget.

3. CYP Budget Profiling

This proposal has involved a review of non-staffing spend and includes, non-staff reductions on an existing contract, longer term reductions on premature retirement costs and cessation of spend on what has been categorised as non-essential spend across services. This change will be built into the 2018/19 Budget.

4. Waste Environmental Campaign

This initiative involves a behaviour change campaign with Keep Britain Tidy to increase recycling levels by 3% therefore reducing disposal costs. A detailed update on progress will be shared with the Communities and Housing scrutiny committee in February 2018.

5. Income Generation (*CSS Traded Services; Income from Assets and Events and Registrars; CYP Traded Services*)

Further income generation and traded opportunities are currently being explored alongside a review of current service level agreements to ensure full cost recovery of existing traded arrangements.