

CABINET

MINUTES OF MEETING Thursday, 12 March 2020

PRESENT: Councillor Brett (in the Chair); Councillors Daalat Ali, Emsley, Iftikhar Ahmed, Blundell, Heakin, Rowbotham and Wardle

OFFICERS: S. Rumbelow (Chief Executive); M. Widdup (Director of Neighbourhoods); A. Fallon (Director of Public Health); G. Hopper (Director of Children's Services); S. McIvor (Director of Adult Care); D. Wilcock (Monitoring Officer); J. Murphy (Chief Finance Officer).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors R. Massey, Rana, Wazir, Dale.

100 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor N. Emmott

101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

102 SPECIAL GUARDIANSHIP

The Cabinet considered a report of the Monitoring Officer advising Members of the findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman to which the Cabinet had a duty to respond, including as to whether the Council accepted the recommendations within the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's report. The report also sought approval for consultation on a revised Special Guardianship Support Policy. Members noted too the Council's full compliance with the recommendations for the compensatory payments to Mr and Mrs B.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the draft Special Guardianship Policy is approved for consultation.**
- 2. That the Cabinet approve to backdate payments for 3 years with a cap at £10k for all those eligible for Special Guardianship Allowance payments within the period.**
- 3. That the Director of Children's Services and Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services be delegated authority to establish a governance procedure for the administration of back payments to Special Guardians.**

Reason for resolution

With consideration to the Council's financial position and the legal considerations contained within the submitted report, it was considered that the compensation package agreed would provide a fairly generous payment for all Special Guardians whether they have brought a case or a complaint against the Council or not.

Alternatives considered

Members could have determined to agree to the recommendations of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman at a cost of £903,000; to backdate for 3 years with no cap at a total cost of £619,000; to backdate 3 years with a cap at £7,500 per Special Guardian and a total cost of £516,000; or, to not accept the recommendations of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.