

Cllr David Hall added to the points raised by the Leader of the Council, paying tribute to the work of Taunton Deane Borough Council and Sedgemoor District Council, along with MP's Ian Liddell-Grainger and Rebecca Pow.

87 Adopt SW, Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) - agenda item 5

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families, Cllr Frances Nicholson, introduced the report, highlighting: Devon County Council are the RAA host Authority; the RAA is a carefully developed proposal, which will ensure consistency across the region; regional working and the importance of being able to place children away from their biological families where necessary; and that the number of prospective adopters is falling.

The Director of Children's Services, Julian Wooster, added to the points raised by Cllr Nicholson, noting that Plymouth City Council and Torbay District Council had already approved the establishment of the agency.

Further points raised in debate included: ensuring all children have the right support and are able to reach their full potential; foster carer recruitment; and terms, conditions and travel expectations for staff transferring from SCC to the RAA.

In response to the points raised in debate, the Director of Children's Services noted: the Somerset staff team would be hosted by Devon, but physically located in Somerset; that regional working would strengthen foster caring across the region; and that Somerset County Council would be closely monitoring service delivery.

The Leader of the Council summarised the points raised in debate, noting the importance of helping all children reach their full potential and the importance of regional working.

Following consideration of the officer report, appendix and discussion the Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the recommendations within the attached Business Case attached at Appendix A for establishing a Regional Adoption Service (Adopt South West Regional Adoption Agency)
2. Approve the delegation of the County Council's statutory and legal functions relating to adoption services (as set out in Appendix 2 of the attached Business Case) to Devon County Council which will host the proposed Adopt South West Regional Adoption Agency. As host authority Devon County Council will provide:
 - Leadership for all adoption services across the RAA
 - Recruitment, assessment and training of adopters
 - Post Adoption support for all children within the designated boundaries.
 - Oversight of Adoption Support Fund applications

- Family finding and matching child with adopter
 - Agency Decision Maker for the adopters
 - Adoption support for any child that moves out the RAA area, for a period of 3 years.
 - Quality assurance framework for adoption
 - Accountability for the adoption service aspect of a Local Authority Ofsted inspection framework.
 - Any associated procurement activity required by the Regional Adoption Agency
3. Authorise the Director of Children's Services and Director of Finance, Legal and Governance to finalise and agree the proposed Inter Authority Agreement and any other appropriate legal agreements with Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council in order for the proposed services set out within this report and its appendix to be provided by the Regional Adoption Agency.
 4. Agree to the transfer of Staff under TUPE regulations to Devon County Council and authorises the Director of Children's Services and HR & OD Director to complete all necessary actions that required to support the delivery of the adoption services by the Regional Adoption Agency.
 5. Note the retained functions as set out in Appendix 2 of the attached Business Case and that the commissioning of the adoption services will still be undertaken by the Director of Children's Services.
 6. Note that an annual report on the performance of the Regional Adoption Agency will be provided to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families and the Scrutiny Committee for Children and Families.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED: As set out in the officer report

REASON FOR DECISION: As set out in the officer report

88 **SOMERSER RIVERS SUTHORITY (SRA) ENHANCED PROGRAMME OF FLOOD RISH MANAGEMENT WORKS AND THE SRA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND CONSTITUTION – agenda item 6**

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development introduced the report highlighting: the establishment of the Somerset Rivers Authority following the 2013/14 flooding in the County; the SRA was funded through a 1.25% Council tax precept; and that today's report set out budget proposals which were endorsed by the SRA Board at their meeting on the 7th March.

The Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure and Director of Commissioning highlighted that the work of the SRA was in addition to the work completed by each of the partner authorities.

Further points raised in debate included: recognition that flooding is a County wide issue; cross border working with neighbouring authorities, noting that rivers catchment areas cross County boundaries; the importance of the SRAs work; the positive impact of projects completed in West Somerset; ensuring the SRA budget is fully utilised; the SRA have achieved

more by working together; the impact of flooding on the economy; work to allow the SRA to become an independent precepting body including a Private Members Bill; direct government funding for the SRA; and coastal erosion and flooding including the erosion of the road at Blue Anchor.

The Leader of the Council requested the Council's thanks be passed to David Warburton MP for his work on the Private Members Bill.

In response to the points raised in debate, the Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure and Director of Commissioning highlighted that the SRA's work did not include coastal erosion, but there is a Regional Flood and Coastal Committee which is administered by the Environment Agency; and that many of the Somerset Rivers Authority partners have cross-County remits.

The Leader of the Council summarised the points raised in debate, and highlighted the recent Peer Review's positive comments regarding the SRA.

Following consideration of the officer report, appendix and discussion the Cabinet RESOLVED to:

1. Approve the revised Local Memorandum of Understanding (including the Constitution of the SRA) attached as Appendix D;
2. Note the outstanding issue regarding risk sharing across the partnership and note the actions proposed.
3. Agree the case (set out in 'legal implications' for exempt information) for Appendix C to be treated in confidence, as the case for the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing that information.
4. Approve the SRA Budget for 2018/19, (Appendix A) in accordance with the recommendations of the SRA Board from its meeting on the 7th of March 2018
5. To the release of funding committed from all sources in 2018/19 for the purposes of the SRA, subject to receipt of those funds, in accordance with the budget for 2018/19 as set out in item 4 above;
6. To provide forward funding in advance of drawing down Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Growth Deal funding to support the delivery of the Enhanced Programme (Appendix B and C (confidential)).
7. That the detailed management of the 2017/18 Budget and Enhanced Programme within the control total allocated to the SRA is undertaken in accordance with the constitutional, financial regulations and decision making arrangements of SCC as accountable body.

89 **ANY OTHER URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS** – agenda item 7

There was no other business.

(The meeting ended at 10.32am)

CHAIR