

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Committee	Children and Young People Select Committee
Date:	14 November 2023
Title:	Working Group Proposal
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is for the Children and Young People Select Committee to consider whether to initiate a Working Group to review and scrutinise the Children's Services Savings Proposal that is subject to Stage 2 consultation. The proposal relates to a reduction in the annual expenditure on library stock.

Recommendation(s)

2. That the Children and Young People's Select Committee:
 - a. Set up a Task and Finish Working Group to oversee and scrutinise the approach and outcomes of the County Council's stage 2 consultation relating to annual expenditure on library stock.
 - b. Agree the Terms of Reference for the Working Group as set out in Appendix 1.
 - c. Agree the membership of the Working Group.

Contextual information

3. The Budget Consultation 2024-2026 Making the Most of Your Money, published in June 2023, proposed a number of reductions in Children's Services budgets, approved by Full County Council on 9 November 2023. One proposal is identified as requiring Stage 2 consultation, which is as follows:
 - Proposal relating to a reduction in the annual expenditure on library stock.
4. **Proposal relating to a reduction in the annual expenditure on library stock;** this would see annual expenditure on library stock, such as books and digital resources, reduced by £200,000, representing an average 17% reduction in the £1.2m spent annually on new physical and digital stock combined. The recommendation is to achieve this through a combination of

reducing spend on physical and digital stock collectively, as this will minimise the impact on any one customer group whilst continuing to meet our statutory duties.

Proposal

5. It is proposed that a Task and Finish Working Group be created which would give an opportunity to see the finalised stage 2 consultation documents, receive updates on the consultation process and coverage for engagement of key stakeholders, and provide feedback on the presentation of the findings of the Stage 2 Consultation process.
6. The Task and Finish Working Group will be able to make independent recommendations to the Select Committee to inform scrutiny of the final savings proposals put forward for consideration by the Executive Members.
7. It is recommended that the Select Committee set up a Task and Finish Working Group for this purpose, review and approve the attached terms of reference, and agree membership.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT (OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY)
COMMITTEE
TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP ON THE DIRECTORATE SP25
PROPOSALS THAT REQUIRE A STAGE 2 CONSULTATION**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Introduction

1.1 This Task and Finish Working Group is being established to assist the Children's Services Directorate with the decision-making process in respect of its SP25 proposals and the associated Stage 2 Consultation in relation to libraries.

2. Role and Purpose of the Task and Finish Working Group

2.1 The Task and Finish Working Group is a working group of the Children and Young People Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee and is appointed in accordance with the Constitution of Hampshire County Council.

2.2 The Task and Finish Working Group's purpose is to oversee and scrutinise the approach and outcomes of the Stage 2 Consultation in relation to the following SP25 Proposals:

2.2.1 Library Service Asset and Stock Review (£0.20m)

2.3 The Task and Finish Working Group will assist the Directorate by giving feedback on the overall approach to engagement with key stakeholder groups and will review and provide feedback on the presentation of the outcome of the Stage 2 Consultation process.

2.4 The Task and Finish Working Group will provide a report on its activities to the Children and Young People Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee for consideration.

3. Objectives

3.1 To support the Directorate with the approach to engagement and consultation with key stakeholder groups.

3.2 To review feedback from engagement and formal public consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, in relation to the Directorate Stage 2 Consultations listed above.

3.3 To consider and provide comment on impact assessments.

4. Outcomes

- 4.1 To provide updates to the Children and Young People Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee on the progress of the Stage 2 Consultations listed above.
- 4.2 To provide feedback regarding the Stage 2 Consultation to the Directorate.
- 4.3 To submit a report to the Children and Young People Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee to be considered alongside any Officer Recommendations before the Committee for pre-decision scrutiny.

5. Method

- 5.1 The Task and Finish Working Group will meet with Directorate officers to consider the evidence leading to recommendations for decisions on the proposed savings proposals.
- 5.2 At each meeting, the Task and Finish Working Group will provide feedback to Officers on the stated objectives of the review.
- 5.3 Where the Task and Finish Working Group reasonably requires further information in order to meet its objectives such information will be provided by Officers.

6. Membership

- 6.1 The Task and Finish Working Group shall be a cross party group made up of Members of the Children and Young People Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee (consisting of a total of 8 Members, (5 Conservative Group, 2 Liberal Democrat Group, and either 1 Labour Group or 1 Independent Group).

7. Meetings

- 7.1 The Working Group will hold an initial meeting on the 13 December 2023 to review the finalised consultation document and to also understand the timeline for reviewing and making recommendations on the outcomes of the planned formal public consultation.
- 7.2 At its initial meeting the Task and Finish Working Group shall appoint a Chairman from among its Members.
- 7.3 The Task and Finish Working Group will meet after the Stage 2 Consultation to provide feedback to Officers and to agree its report to the Children and Young People Select (Overview and Scrutiny) Committee. The content of the Report will be agreed by consensus.
- 7.4 Meetings of the Task and Finish Working Group can be either in person, remote or hybrid.
- 7.5 Following the submission of the Report the Task and Finish Working Group will cease to exist.

8. Code of Conduct

- 8.1 Elected Members of the Working Group shall comply with the Hampshire County Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

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