

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting12th March 2015

1. Title of Item/Report

Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2015-2016

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that outlined how the Local Authority (LA) was meeting its duty to secure sufficient childcare and included information about the supply of and demand for childcare, details on any gaps in provision and an action plan on how they would be addressed.

The Childcare Act (2006) and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on Early Education and Childcare – September 2014, required Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Local Authority) to secure sufficient childcare, as far as was reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who were studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

The Children and Families Act 2014 repealed the duty on the local authority to prepare assessments on the sufficiency of provision of childcare in their area at least every 3 years and replaced this with the duty to report annually to elected council members on how they were meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare. There was also a requirement to make this report available and accessible to parents.

As part of the changes there was no longer a requirement to undertake consultation to support the Assessment.

Local authorities were responsible for determining the appropriate level of detail in their report, geographical division and date of publication.

In addition, local authorities were required by legislation to provide information, advice and assistance to parents and prospective parents on the provision of childcare in their area.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and the associated priorities for 2015-2016 be approved.

2. The Childcare Sufficiency Assessment Action Plan for 2015-2016 be approved.

3. Reasons for the Decision

The Childcare Act (2006) and the associated statutory guidance for local authorities on Early Education and Childcare – September 2014, requires Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (the Local Authority) to secure sufficient childcare, as far as is reasonably practicable, for working parents, or parents who are studying or training for employment, for children aged 0 – 14 (or up to 18 for disabled children).

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Cook declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 18 – Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2015-2016 as his wife was a registered child minder.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 20th March 2015

Proper Officer
16 March 2015