

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting12th October 2017

1. Title of Item/Report

Adoption Tees Valley Business Case

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that sought approval for the Adoption Tees Valley Business Case. It outlined the background the establishment of ATV as a new regional adoption agency, to meet the requirements of the Education and Adoption Act 2016. It set out the basis for the new organisation, which would be hosted by Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and go live on 1 April 2018.

Once the Full Business Case was approved the project would move into the following implementation phases:

- a. Implementation – the establishment of Adoption Tees Valley
- b. Transition – Local Authorities – looks at the reorganisation of the Local Authority services. This was particularly important for those LA's where Fostering and Adoption were combined services.
- c. Infrastructure Live – this was the milestone in January which needed to be achieved to ensure a go live for the full service in April 2018.
- d. Transition to Adoption Tees Valley – this would be the period from January to April 2018 when the work of the new organisation takes over from the existing local authority arrangements. It also took account of all the workforce development / team building and culture issues.

It was proposed that the initial work for Transition and Implementation commence as soon as possible to ensure a timely implementation. The impact of change on the local authorities could not be underestimated. Additionally, go live was fully dependent upon a number of critical milestones being met:

- Service Manager recruited and in post
- Accommodation identified and made ready
- ICT system purchased and installed
- ICT networks established
- Staffing structure in place and recruitment completed

- Information governance issues resolved, including Data Protection registration and Information Sharing Agreements all signed off by the Caldicott Guardians
- Memorandum of Understanding/S101 agreement signed off by all five local authorities

Members were presented with amended tables to replace those in paragraphs 19 and 21 of the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The ATV Full Business Case as attached at Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
2. The draft section 101 agreement at Appendix 2 of the report be noted.
3. The Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Director of HR, Legal & Communications, Director of Finance & Business Services and Cabinet member for Children's Services be authorised to agree the final details of the partnership agreement subject to there being no substantial changes to the Full Business Case and draft section 101 agreement.
4. A further report be presented to Cabinet in December to formally accept the delegated authority for the ATV from the other four Councils.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To enable the Council; to fulfil the requirements of the Education and Adoption Act 2016, and to support better outcomes and performance for children where adoption is the agreed permanence plan.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight, 20 October 2017

Proper Officer
16 October 2017