

## Appendix D

### Children's Services Committee: 21 December 2010

#### Comments Regarding Supplementary Savings Proposals contained within the Corporate Budget Strategy Update presented to Executive on 7 December 2010

At its meeting of 21 December 2010, the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the supplementary savings proposals presented to the Executive at its meeting on 7 December, which affected the Children's Services Directorate.

Members acknowledged that due to the timing of publication of the agenda for the Executive meeting on 7 December, the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee had already been given the opportunity of commenting upon these savings proposals at its special meeting of 30 November and were therefore content to reaffirm the comments and recommendations made at this previous meeting.

In order to assist the Executive however, these comments and recommendations are reproduced below:

#### 2. CS5a – Remodelling of Services to Young People including the Youth Service – Service Reduction

Whilst considering this proposal, the Portfolio Holder drew Members' attention to a supplementary savings proposal regarding this service, which would be considered by the Executive at its meeting on 7 December. In essence, this supplementary proposal recommended accelerating service reductions so that all were achieved in 2011/12, rather than the phased approach over 2011/12 and 2012/13 as originally planned.

Members were particularly dismayed at this latest initiative, which in their opinion would not allow sufficient time to build capacity and provide training and support to the voluntary sector and schools that a move away from council run provision to a commissioning approach would require.

The Committee therefore agreed to urge the Executive to consider adopting the original 2 phased approach to the remodelling of services to young people.

**RECOMMENDATION: Whilst reluctantly acknowledging the need to support the remodelling of services to young people, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee urges the Executive to adopt a 2 phased approach to the proposal, as originally outlined (i.e. a saving of £570k in 2011/12 and a further saving of £1.328M in 2012/13).**

#### 4. CS9a – Music Service

The Committee was content to reiterate and endorse the recommendations agreed at its meeting on 23 November regarding this particular savings proposal, which are reproduced below:

At its meeting of 23 November 2010, the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee considered the future provision of Bedfordshire Music Service and in particular examined the 4 service options presented. Members debated at length the key issues affecting the service and also received an ePetition from members of the public entitled "Save the Music Service", which currently had 391 signatures and drew to a close on 10th December 2010.

It was Members' opinion that insufficient regard had been given to collaborating with interested parties to identify creative ways to preserve the service and moreover, the service review itself was ill-timed, given that the outcomes flowing from the independent Henley review of music education would be available for consideration before the end of the year.

The Committee therefore agreed the following recommendations for Executive consideration:

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 1. That the Executive be requested to reserve its decision until such time as the outcomes of the Henley Review have been published and ensure that nothing irrevocable is done to the music service in the meantime;**
- 2. That the Executive take steps to bring together at the earliest opportunity a small representative group of interested people to identify creative ways in which to achieve retention of Bedfordshire Music Service; and**
- 3. That the Executive receive and respond to the ePetition entitled "Save the Music Service".**