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Meeting	Executive
Date	18 July 2019
Present	Councillors Aspden (Chair), Ayre, Craghill, Cuthbertson, D'Agorne, Runciman, Smalley, Waller and Widdowson
In Attendance	Councillor Perrett (in place of Councillor Myers)

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## **PART B - MATTERS REFERRED TO COUNCIL**

### **22. Children in Care Residential Commissioning Plan**

*[See also under Part A]*

The Corporate Director, Children, Education & Communities presented a report which recommended actions to develop the city's residential provision for children in care, in order to better meet their future needs and to comply with the council's statutory duty to have sufficient placements for children in care.

Although the number of children in care in York had remained relatively stable, the current residential offer was not sufficient for the increased complexity of need caused partly by young people entering into care later in childhood. The options available to address this gap in meeting the needs of certain cohorts of children were detailed in paragraphs 20-37 of the report and are summarised below:

**Option 1** – maintain the current position. This would not resolve current gaps or improve future sufficiency.

**Option 2** – sell Wenlock Terrace and have no internal residential provision; spot purchase Independent Fostering Agency and residential placements. This would not represent a planned approach to meeting needs and would leave the council vulnerable to market forces.

**Option 3** – purchase three new buildings, adapt Wenlock Terrace to 6 bed Supported Accommodation, procure new external providers to deliver residential services and provide step-down foster care. This was the recommended option.

In response to questions from Members and matters raised under Public Participation, officers confirmed that:

- the proposed arrangements would offer more flexibility;
- a systematic, therapeutic approach to residential provision would improve placement stability and outcomes for individual children;
- the service had been outsourced for many years; indicative costs of bringing provision in-house (para. 22) were based on potential unit costs and staffing costs.

Recommended: That Council allocate a capital budget of £1.36m, funded from prudential borrowing, to purchase 3 new buildings for the delivery of residential provision in York, with the revenue costs of the borrowing to be met from existing revenue budgets within Children's Services.

Reason: In order to develop the city's residential provision for children in care and ensure that the council meets its statutory sufficiency duty.

Cllr K Aspden, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.33 pm and finished at 6.50 pm].