

**PROPOSED CORPORATE PARENTING PROTOCOL AND
CORPORATE PARENTING ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF
REFERENCE**

Reasons for the Report

1. To consider the proposed:
 - a. Corporate Parenting Protocol; and
 - b. Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC); and
 - c. To identify relevant learning and development opportunities for members of the committee.

Background

2. At an Extraordinary meeting of Council on 20th January 2020, full Council approved a Motion which welcomed the appointment of an independent expert by the then Director of Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children & Families and the Chief Executive, to undertake a review of the Member Safeguarding Protocol. This review was completed and approved by Council on 26th November 2020.
3. The Council also approved the proposed extension of the remit of the independent expert to include various specific issues, including the 'Development of a protocol on the corporate parenting role of Councillors, which aligns with the Member Safeguarding Protocol. This will include a review of the existing terms of reference and operation of the Council's Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee and make recommendations on how the role of the committee can be strengthened.'

Issues

4. The independent expert held a series of discussions with Cabinet Members, Group Leaders, Scrutiny Committee Chairs and offered workshops for all Elected Members to enable them to have their views considered as part of the development of a Corporate Parenting Protocol. The proposed Corporate Parenting Protocol is attached at **Appendix A.**
5. These discussions also provided the opportunity to review the ToR to improve the clarity and focus of the Committee when championing the interests of Children Looked After and Care Leavers.

6. These proposals were subsequently restructured into an appropriate format for adoption and implementation but which retained the relevant wording developed during the Elected Member consultations. The proposed revised Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee ToR at **Appendix B**.
7. The ToR also identifies that “Each member of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee will undertake relevant training, to enable them to properly discharge their duties. The committee is invited to give its views on learning and development opportunities that should be undertaken to enable Members to properly discharge their duties on the committee. This will assist in ensuring that suitable opportunities can be incorporated into the Member Development programme and in the Member Induction programme following the Local Government Elections in 2022.
8. Following its consideration of **Appendices A and B**, it is recommended that the Committee should submit them to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet for their views.
9. Any feedback received from these bodies is intended to be considered as soon as possible. The Committee is requested to authorise the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee, in consultation with the Director of Children’s Services and the Director of Governance and Legal Services to amend Appendices A and B to reflect any relevant feedback as appropriate.
10. The finalised documents will be submitted to Annual Council on 27th May 2021 for consideration and approval.

Financial Implications

11. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

12. The Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (CPAC) is an Advisory Committee established (under section 102(4) of the Local Government Act 1972) to advise and make recommendations to the Cabinet and Council with regard to corporate parenting matters. The Committee may advise the Cabinet and Council on any matters relating to the discharge of their respective functions, within the Committee’s approved terms of reference.
13. Any amendment to the Committee’s terms of reference requires the approval of full Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. To consider the proposed:
 - a. Corporate Parenting Protocol (Appendix A); and
 - b. Revised draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee (Appendix B).

15. To provide views on any relevant learning and development opportunities which should be undertaken by the members of the committee to ensure that they are properly able to discharge their Corporate Parenting responsibilities.
16. Appendices A and B be submitted to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet for consultation and comments.
17. To authorise the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Governance and Legal Services to amend Appendices A and B to reflect any relevant feedback received from CPAC members or during the consultation with the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet, prior to submission to Council.
18. That the Corporate Parenting Protocol (**Appendix A**) and revised draft CPAC Terms of Reference (**Appendix B**) be submitted to Council for approval and inclusion in the Constitution.

DEBORAH DRIFFIELD
Director of Children's Social Services

11 May 2021

Appendices:

Appendix A - Proposed Corporate Parenting Protocol
Appendix B - Revised Draft Terms of Reference for the Corporate Parenting
Advisory Committee

Background Documents -

[Minutes of the Extraordinary, Council - Monday, 20th January, 2020](#)