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| CONSENT TO URGENT DECISION | PART 1 (to be completed by the person seeking consent) | |
| Proposed Decision Maker <i>(please name person or body proposing to take decision, if an officer also state title)</i> | Date for Decision | |
| Leader of the Council | 8 April 2020 | |
| Title: COVID-19 EARLY YEARS FUNDING | | |
| Summary of Matter <p>The impact of COVID-19 has led to the closures of PVI provision as a result of depleted numbers arising from self-isolation and 'stay at home' guidance and the impact of financial support measures, not least the opportunity to furlough workers.</p> <p>Of the c.500 PVI providers, it is known that 133 have already closed the doors and anecdotal evidence is that many more will follow suit in order to preserve the business for the longer term.</p> <p>The need to make provision for sufficient childcare is a statutory duty. This is essentially narrowed to a need, in current circumstances, to ensure sufficient childcare provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children; but is still a duty and requires a continuity of service on a rationalised, geographically spread and viable basis.</p> <p>A hub model is proposed which is based upon the use of existing PVI provider sites together with school sites from the maintained sector. This brings together the need to coordinate two sets of emergency provision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the temporary financial support of PVI hubs located at PVI sites (in the first instance from April to July 2020) • the rationalised continuity of school sites not requiring additional funding because no additional staffing costs are involved. | | |

Proposed Decision

That the Leader of the Council authorises the Strategic Director for People to incur additional expenditure up to £1.1M to fund a network of childcare hubs based in PVI and school settings to ensure continuity of provision of care to meet the needs of COVID-19 key workers and to continue to fulfil the statutory duty of providing sufficient places including for the most vulnerable on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Strategic Director for Resources.

Reasons for urgency

An urgent decision is required of the Leader to ensure the Council can provide sufficient childcare places for keyworkers and vulnerable children during the Coronavirus emergency.

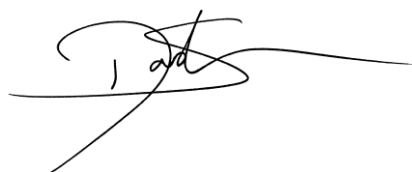
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? *[please identify relevant plan/budget provision]*

No

PART 2 (to be completed by the person giving consent)**Name****Councillor:**

Yousef Dahmash

Signed:

**Office Held**

Chair of Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date consent is given

8 April 2020

