

COUNCIL 29th NOVEMBER 2023**Cabinet 13th November 2023****73 CONTRACT EXTENSION: CHILDREN'S CENTRE SERVICES - EXEMPT**

Councillor Wilkinson, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children and Young People's Services submitted a report of the Director, Children and Young People's Services which sought an extension to the current Children's Centre services (the "Services") contracts with two existing service providers to support the commissioning and procurement process. Preparations for the tender of the Services were well underway. However, the tender timeline had been impacted due to the complexities of the development and implementation of the new Family Hubs, remedying building conditions of the council-owned premises and the implications of TUPE and Local Government Pension Scheme for staff within the provider Services. Tender preparations were dependent on finalising the service shape and details, i.e., requesting the correct Actuarial Assessment(s) from the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) and understanding the repairs and maintenance required on the buildings and occupational requirements of the providers being included in the contract, impacting the likelihood of a successful provider signing an agreement for them. The proposed contract start date of 1st April 2024, was no longer achievable.

The report outlined background information, options considered, financial, legal, human resources and organisational development, environmental, health and economic implications.

During discussions Members commented on the sensible move regarding community hubs, endorsed the good start these hubs gave children and noted the impact of inflation on voluntary sector organisations. The contribution of the Voluntary and Community Sector organisations was valued.

RESOLVED that it be recommended to Council that the extension to the Children Centre Services to 30th September 2025 be approved.