

DECISION NOTICE

Notice is given that the following decision has been taken under the Provisions set out in the Council's Constitution

Decision maker: Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Decision in the matter of: Regional Adoption Agency - Adoption Counts

Decision: That the extension of the current arrangement to provide service continuity pending the completion of a new partnership agreement, expected by October 2020, be approved.

Background: Cheshire East Council joined the Regional Adoption Agency - Adoption Counts in July 2017. The Agency became responsible for the delivery and management of adoption services which is facilitated through an integrated services agreement between 5 North West regional authorities with Stockport MBC appointed as lead authority.

The partnership agreement provides for services to be supplied by Stockport MBC and a third party provider 'Adoption Counts' through the secondment of staff from the participating North West authorities. The Council has experienced success as a result of the collaboration within the regional arrangement and the next step will be to make permanent the staffing arrangements via TUPE to ensure efficiencies in the use of an activity based financial contribution. This decision would be taken by Cabinet later in the year. Until then it was necessary to extend the Adoptions Counts and Cheshire East Council's participation in the agreement to ensure service continuity.

The decision to extend the current contract agreement has been delegated to the Portfolio Holder for Children and Families.

Background Documents: Report to Cabinet 8 March 2016 entitled 'Regional Adoption Agency'.
Report to Portfolio Holder for Children and Families 21 June 2017 entitled 'Adoption Counts, Regional Adoption Agency'.
Report to Portfolio Holder for Children and Families entitled 'Regional Adoption Agency – Adoption Counts'.

Approved: Councillor Katheryn Flavell
Portfolio Holder for Children and Families

Date: 24 March 2020

**Executive
Director:** Mark Palethorpe
Executive Director People