

DECISION NOTICE

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

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Children and Families

Date: 21 June 2017

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

Decision: Following consultation with the Executive Director of People, and the Director of Legal Services, approval be given for the Council to enter into an Integrated Services Agreement with Trafford, Stockport, Manchester and Salford Councils from 3rd July 2017. Such agreement to be substantially in the form of the agreement attached to the report.

Background: On 8th March 2016 Cabinet resolved that Cheshire East Council enter a Regional Adoption Agency with Trafford, Stockport, Manchester and Salford Councils and decisions concerning the specific detail of arrangements be delegated to the Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Director of Children's Services and the Director of Legal Services.

The five local authorities have subsequently created a single Regional Adoption Agency, to be known as **Adoption Counts**, which will deliver unified adoption services across the geographical boundaries of the five authorities.

The terms relating to the establishment and operation of Adoption Counts are contained in the Integrated Services Agreement attached to the report. .

Pursuant to the Integrated Services Agreement and Regulation 12(7) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, the five authorities have agreed that Stockport Borough Council will be the host authority for Adoption Counts.

The Government have made it clear that there is no option for adoption services to remain as they currently are. Other partnership options were considered during the bid stage but the strength of established arrangements in Four4adoption, within which Cheshire East has been working closely with Tameside, Stockport and Trafford for a number of years, offered the greatest potential of success.

Background Documents:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer.

Approved:

Signed
Councillor George Hayes (Cabinet Member for Children and Families)

Date:

21 June 2017

Advising Officers:

Signed
Nigel Moorhouse (Director of Childrens Social Care)

Signed
Mark Palethorpe (Acting Executive Director People)