



Executive Summary of Agenda Item No.12

Report title: Regionalisation of Adoption Proposals (Adoption West)

Wards affected: All

Strategic Director: John Readman

Report Author: Hilary Brooks – Service Director, Care & Support – Children and Families

Recommendation for the Mayor's approval:

1. That the Mayor endorses the outline proposals for the development of the Adoption West Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) following changes in legislation and new statutory guidance.
2. That the Mayor notes that proposals have been endorsed by Cabinet or the equivalent in Bath & North East Somerset, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire local authorities.
3. That the Mayor endorses the preferred option to work towards developing the Regional Adoption Agency in the form of a Local Authority Controlled Entity, leading to final decision by all local participating authorities in March 2017.
4. That the Mayor notes a full business case will be presented for consideration to cabinet in 2016

Key background / detail:

a. Purpose of report: To inform Cabinet of the outline proposals for the development of the Adoption West Regional Adoption Agency (RAA) and approve public engagement on these outline proposals.

b. Key details:

1. Regionalisation of adoption services is part of the government agenda set out in 'Regionalising Adoption' (July 2015), and further developed in 'Adoption; A Vision for Change' (March 2016). Government guidance makes it clear that it is committed to working with the sector to ensure that, where possible, all local authorities move to Regional Adoption Agencies (RAAs) voluntarily and in a way that works for them and for the overall national response to the needs of our most vulnerable children.
2. The paper outlines the South West region's proposals regarding development of a regionalised agency in response.
3. The preferred option is to work towards developing the Regional Adoption Agency in the form of a Local Authority Controlled Entity, leading to final decision by all local participating authorities in March 2017 and a full business case will be presented to Cabinet in due course.

