

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board and Executive Board Sub Committee Minutes Relevant to the Children, Young People and Family's Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2012

EXB98 - FREE SCHOOL SITE PROPOSAL - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise on the two proposals for the location of the Sandymoor Free School.

The Board was advised that the Sandymoor Free School Proposers (SFS) had contacted the Homes and Communities Association (HCA), as the principal land owner of the undeveloped portions of the Sandymoor housing development scheme, to determine if land in their ownership could be developed for their Free School provision.

The Board was further advised that two options were under consideration, as detailed below:-

- Option A- the primary, secondary and 6th form buildings would occupy the existing reserved primary site with all sporting provision provided on the site currently reserved for community use; and
- Option B- the primary, secondary and 6th form buildings would occupy the new site that was closer to the site reserved for community use. The community site would be used for school and community sporting provision and the currently reserved school site would revert back to HCA for residential development.

An appraisal of the two options was contained in the report for Members' consideration.

Reason(s) for decision

This report sought to gain the views of the Executive Board to the proposal that the current designated Primary School site be shared with the Sandymoor Free School so that a response could be made to Partnership for Schools.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

All options considered by the Free School and Partnership for Schools had been considered. It was therefore recommended that the current primary site be retained as for an additional primary school only when this was required.

Implementation Date

February 2012.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the current ownership and provision related to the reserved primary school site be noted; and
- 2) the current school site be reserved for future primary provision.

EXECUTIVE BOARD-SUB MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2012

ES83 – PROCUREMENT OF THE LICENCE FOR THE SCHOOL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director Children and Enterprise which requested that Standing Orders be waived to allow the purchase of the SIMs software licence from the existing supplier for the financial year 2012/13. The proposed waiver would allow time for the new Central Government Information Management and Learning Services Framework (IMLS) to be established in 2013/14.

Central Government were actively encouraging all local authorities to use the new IMLS Framework in order to conduct procurements in respect of 2013/14 contracts onwards. The framework was designed around educational requirements, to increase choice and competition enable legal procurements and drive best value for money. It would also avoid local authorities spending time and expense of running an OJEU competition.

RESOLVED: That Procurement Standing Order 1.8.2(e) and 4.1 be waived in respect of the School Information Management System Licence (SIMs) thereby allowing the licence to be procured from the existing supplier for financial year April 2012 to March 2013.

EXECUTIVE BOARD-SUB MEETING HELD ON 29 MARCH 2012

ES103 - WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT PROCESS FOR COMPANY DELIVERING LEVEL 3 & 4, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKFORCE QUALIFICATION

The Sub Committee considered a request to waive Procurement Standing Orders to extend existing contracts with Heirs and Graces Childcare Training Solutions for one year until March 2013. The up skilling of workforce within the Early Years Sectors continued to be a major target for the Early Years Strategy.

It was noted that following a procurement process last year, Heirs and Graces were awarded a contract to deliver level 3 and 4 Qualifications. Since the award of the contract last year the cost of the course had not increased and it presented value for money backed up with proven, quality training. In addition, 30 staff had begun to study for a 2 year qualification with this company last year and would continue this year. If the waiver was unsuccessful £60,000 of funding earmarked for training of the Early Years workforce would be forfeited. This may lead to the Council being unable to fulfil its statutory duty to place vulnerable two year olds in quality early years provision.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) in light of the exceptional circumstances set out, for the purpose of Procurement, standing orders 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 be waived on this occasion in order to extend existing contracts with Heirs and Graces Childcare Training Solutions for the provision of delivering Level 3 & 4 Qualifications for the Children & Young People's Workforce; and
- (2) the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise be authorised, in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Children, Young People and Families, to enter into the above contracts for one year from April 2012 to the end of March 2013.

ES104 – THE ENTERPRISE GAME – KEY DECISION

The Sub Committee received a report of the Strategic Director -Children and Enterprise, which sought agreement for the implementation and delivery of The Enterprise Game Business Plan April 2012 - April 2015, as recommended by The Enterprise Game Business Group. The Group had been set up to manage the future direction of the Game.

Members were advised that the Business Plan sets out the business case to continue to sell The Enterprise Game in the UK, as a valuable education resource that promoted Halton and contributed towards the Councils planned efficiency savings. The Plan also set out proposals to investigate the long term development of the Game. The investigation would include research into commercial viability of the product in the international market and consideration of the various options for the future legal entity of the product. Information on current and projected game sales was set out in the report.

Members commented that the recruitment of an Independent Sales Representative who specialised in education marketing and sales should be appointed through an external agency.

RESOLVED: That the implementation and delivery of the Enterprise Game Business Plan April 2012 – April 2015 be approved, in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder, and subject to a further report to Executive Board in 12 months outlining the progress of the Business Plan.

ES105 - WAIVER OF PROCUREMENT STANDING ORDERS: CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU 'IDEAL' SERVICE

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director Children and Enterprise which requested a waiver of Procurement Standing Orders to enable Halton Citizens Advice Bureau to be awarded a contract in respect of the revised 'IDEAL' Service. The funding currently provided two general advisors, whom parents and carers with young children could access via a direct telephone line which ensured that they were prioritised. The advice and support required was defined as meeting the debt, employment and benefit needs of parents/carers.

As part of the revision of commissioned services, the IDEAL service was reviewed. Following the review, a revised specification for delivery of the service was developed, full details of which were outlined in the report. The funding agreed for the contract was £80,000 per annum for one year commencing on 1st April 2012.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) on this occasion, in the light of the exceptional circumstances set out below, for the purpose of standing order 1.8.2 (d) where compliance with Standing Orders would result in the Council having to forego a clear financial benefit, Procurement Standing Orders 4.1 be waived in order that the Council does not have to forego a clear financial benefit; and
- (2) the Strategic Director – Children and Enterprise be authorised to enter into a contract with Halton Citizens Advice Bureau in respect of the revised 'IDEAL' Service contract, in the sum of £80,000 per annum for the period 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013, with a possible option of extension to the contract for a further one year from April 2013 to March 2014.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2012

EXB106 - CAPITAL PROGRAMME- SCHOOLS CAPITAL GRANT ALLOCATION - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Capital Programme 2012/13.

The Board was advised that in December 2011, the Department for Education announced the schools capital grant allocations for 2012/13, for each area of capital funding. The report detailed the works proposed for funding from the Capital Maintenance and Revenue Allocation (CERA).

The Capital Programme 2012-13 and the Capital Repairs Programme papers were appended at Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

The Board noted that Basic Need capital funding was allocated to the relative need for new places, based on forecast data provided by local authorities, and was provided to local authorities to provide school places where needed in their area, in all categories of taxpayer-funded schools.

Capital Maintenance funding was allocated to ensure school buildings were properly maintained. The Local Authority schools element was allocated to support the needs of the schools and for Sure Start Children's Centres and the Voluntary Aided Schools element was allocated to Chester Diocese, Shrewsbury Diocese and Liverpool Archdiocese to fund condition and suitability projects at Voluntary Aided Schools. Devolved Formula Capital would be allocated directly to schools for their own use to address building and ICT needs.

It was noted that a further detailed report would be submitted to the Board later in the year containing proposals for the use of the Basic Need Capital allocation for 2012-13.

Reason For Decision

To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

Alternative Options Considered And Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

Capital Programmes to be implemented with effect from 1 April 2012.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the capital funding available for 2012/13 be noted;
- 2) the proposals to be funded from Capital Maintenance be agreed and the position in respect of Basic Need be noted;

- 3) Full Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme 2012/13; and
- 4) a further report be submitted to Executive Board to detail how the Basic Need capital funding would be spent in 2012/13.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 29 MARCH 2012

EXB116 - SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2013

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on School Admission Arrangements for 2013.

The Board was advised that statutory consultation had taken place on the proposed admission arrangements and coordinated admission schemes for the September 2013 intake. In addition to publication via the Council's website, details were also included in the Strategic Director's Spring 2012 Report to Governors, and sent to the four Diocesan authorities responsible for voluntary aided schools in Halton and to neighbouring authorities.

The report contained details of the responses made for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and the co-ordinated schemes for admission to primary and secondary schools for 2013/14 academic year, be approved.

EXB117 - THE HEATH SIXTH FORM FREE SCHOOL PROPOSAL- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on The Heath Sixth Form Free School Proposal.

The Board was advised that The Heath School had submitted an application to the Department for Education (DfE) to establish a Sixth Form for 16-19 age range for a total of 300 students across Years 12 and 13, opening in September 2013. The proposed Sixth Form would offer a wide range of 'A' level courses plus a Foundation Learning Pathway. Consultation to a wide range of people had been undertaken by The Heath School.

The Board noted that at the 14-19 Partnership meeting in November, it had been agreed that where providers were interested in delivery of post-16

provision, the authority would expect to see a set of principles applied, which were listed in the report for Members' information.

It was further noted that the Secretary of State had a duty to consider the impact any new free school would have on existing schools and provision in the area. The report provided a summary of existing sixth form provision for Members' information.

Reason(s) For Decision

The report sought to gain the views of the Executive Board to the proposal to establish The Heat Sixth Form Free School, to submit a response to the statutory consultation.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable

Implementation Date

September 2013.

RESOLVED: That the Board do not support the proposal for The Heath Sixth Form, as there was currently sufficient provision in Halton and its establishment could de-stabilise the provision of other settings and compromise the quality and breadth of education provision available across the Borough.

EXB118 - ACADEMIES STATUS - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise outlining the potential financial implications of the transfer of schools to Academy status.

The Board was advised that the Academies Programme had been introduced to tackle the problem of failing schools for which a sponsor was required. In addition, the Coalition Government had introduced an Academies Programme for high performing schools wishing to opt to Academy status for which a sponsor was not required.

In Halton, three schools had already changed to Academy status, with a number of others showing interest in doing so. Details of funding arrangements which schools received upon conversion to an Academy, were outlined in the report and included:

- an amount equivalent to that which it would receive via the Council's Schools Funding Formula; and
- an amount for services provided to schools individually or as a whole, for which no charge was made.

The Board noted the other financial implications when schools convert to Academy status, such as inclusion in the pension scheme for non-teaching staff, traded services with the local authority, economies of scale in corporate contracts and bulk purchasing arrangements and the length of time it took for conversion to be completed.

Reason(s) for Decision

The report sought to gain the views of Executive Board on the transfer of Halton schools to Academy status, and outlined ways to mitigate the financial impact.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable

Implementation Date

As schools may be considered for transfer to Academy status in September 2012, it was essential that the Council agree its approach to academisation by April 2012.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the potential financial impact of schools becoming Academies be noted;
- 2) a further review of traded services to schools be undertaken to ensure full cost recovery was maintained; and
- 3) individual meetings be held with each Secondary and Special School, and Runcorn and Widnes Primary Schools to determine whether they were considering conversion to Academy Status, along with any proposed timescales.