

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 2 April 2009
PRESENTED BY: Strategic Director – Children and Young People
SUBJECT: To seek a waiver of Contract Standing Orders
WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek a waiver of Contract Standing Orders to permit the extension of the contract of the BSF Programme Director (Daniel Hennessy) from MD Consultants until 31st March 2011.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

- (1) That the Strategic Director Children and Young People be authorised to agree a contract for 217 days per annum at £786 per day for a period from September 2009 until 31st March 2011.**
- (2) Legal Services be requested to revise the current contract for the BSF Project Directors role.**

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The current arrangements for the BSF Programme Director were approved at the Executive Board Sub Committee on 19th July 2007 and a two year contract was agreed until September 2009. However, prior to submission of the Outline Business Case on 22nd April 2009 Partnerships for Schools require confirmation of the future Programme Director arrangements so that they can assess whether the authority is sufficiently prepared to enter competitive dialogue.
- 3.2 The BSF Programme Director role is crucial as it provides the Strategic Direction for the Programme. The current Programme Director has provided leadership, direction and focus to the programme and has ensured that the Programme has met all the key milestones and objectives to date. The Programme Director (Daniel Hennessy) has extensive experience as a 4PS adviser and Gateway Reviewer for BSF and his advice is often sought nationally and by other authorities.
- 3.3 As the DCSF prepare to announce the next Wave of BSF Programmes many authorities are now looking for experienced BSF Programme Directors and Managers to lead their Programmes.

- 3.4 It is therefore proposed that the current BSF Programme Director contract be extended so that he can provide 217 days support to Halton per annum and that the daily rate of pay be £786 from September 2009 until 31st March 2011. The BSF Framework provides information on the Programme Director rates across the country with North West, North East and Midlands rates vary from £745 to £1075 per day.
- 3.5 It is essential that as Halton moves into Programme Delivery there is sufficient appropriately qualified staff. Interim arrangements still exist for the Programme Managers post as it did not prove possible to recruit to this position initially. This post has now been advertised and interviews will take place on 1st April 2009.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs of the BSF Programme Director will be covered by the BSF revenue budget until 31st March 2011.
- 4.2 If the development of a Joint LEP between Halton and Warrington is agreed there will be the opportunity to share the costs of the Programme Director across the two Programmes.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Part of the assessment of the authority's readiness to enter into the procurement phase of BSF will rely on whether Partnerships for Schools consider the authority has an appropriate qualified and resourced team of both in house officers and external consultants. Failure to secure the BSF Programme Director may have major implications in terms of the assessment of the Outline Business Case which could lead to Programme delay.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People

BSF Programme seeks to transform secondary provision across the borough.

6.2 Employment Learning and Skills in Halton

Through access to an excellent secondary school for all pupils, standards will improve providing greater employment prospects for Halton's Children and Young People.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

In developing its secondary schools for the future the authority will demonstrate how it will enable schools to meet the school sport Public Service Agreement through its capital investment and achieve high nutritional standards and encourage healthy living and eating.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Schools for the future will be designed to ensure that children, staff and other community users feel safe and secure on schools sites.

6.5 Halton's Urban

Through the BSF Halton schools will become a major resource for communities they serve and will be designed to offer shared community facilities, linking to other wider regeneration projects as well as being the focus for the local delivery of children's services.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

If the Programme Director contract is not renewed this could impact on the assessment of the Outline Business Case by Partnerships for Schools.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The proposals for the re-organisation of Halton's secondary and secondary special provision seek to provide choice and diversity, promote inclusion and access.

9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

9.1 To secure BSF Programme Director for Halton.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 N/A

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 A decision will be required prior to the submission of Outline Business Case on 22nd April 2009.

13.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Documents

Place of Inspection

Contact

3rd Floor Chester Ann McIntyre –
Building – Grosvenor Operational Director
House, Runcorn and – Business Planning
website and Resources
www.halton.gov.uk/bsf