

APPENDIX 1

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH JULY 2007

EXB10 TO SEEK A WAIVER OF CONTRACT STANDING ORDERS

The Sub-Committee noted that it was a requirement of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme that each authority establish and fund a BSF delivery team. In Halton a commitment was provided in the Strategy for Change Part 1 document submitted in October 2006 to form such a team to drive the development of the BSF Programme.

The pivotal position in the team was the post of BSF Programme Director. This position had been undertaken on an interim basis by Daniel Hennessey, from the MD Consultants, who has worked for Halton under contract for an average of four days per week from September 2006. As the Interim Project Director since September he had managed to acquire detailed knowledge of the secondary special provision, funding, school organisation, asset management and other challenges facing Halton in delivering the BSF Programme.

In addition, to his role in Halton as Interim Project Director, Halton had benefited from his considerable national experience as a 4PS national advisor and Gateway Reviewer for BSF.

It was noted that advertisements for BSF Project Directors had ranged from £80,000 for posts in Salford and Portsmouth to up to £100,000 for the post in Suffolk. These were full time temporary posts, which would attract on costs and other benefits such as car allowance. To advertise a BSF Project Directors Post on the most senior Operational Director scale of 155 would provide an annual salary of £77,907, below the current market rate. After adding on costs and other benefits such as car allowance this post would cost in the region of £102,200 per annum for an estimated 215 working days per year an average cost of £475 per day. In order to increase capacity, in the last two months quotes were requested from several other consultancy firms. The daily rates provided ranged from £700 to £900 per day.

It was therefore proposed that the current Interim Project Director be offered a contract for 173 days per years, an average of four days per week at a daily rate of £416. This would cost a total of £71,968 per annum. In order to continue to secure the services of the consultant throughout the key early stages of the programme, it was suggested that the contract be let for two years initially until September 2009. A review of the contract would need to be

undertaken no later than June 2009.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Strategic Director Children and Young People be authorised to agree a contract for 173 days per annum at £416 per day for a period of two years initially until September 2009. To review no later than June 2009 the post of BSF Project Director; and

(2) Legal Services be requested to draw up a contract for the BSF Project Director role.