

Extract of Executive Board Minutes relevant to the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19 NOVEMBER 2015

68	PROPOSAL TO RE-PROFILE THE DEDICATED SCHOOL GRANT – KEY DECISION
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, on the outcome of consultation on the proposal to re-profile the Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

At its meeting on 1 October 2015, the Board had agreed to a consultation with all primary and secondary schools and the Schools Forum, on proposals to re-profile the DSG to ensure that it could be balanced over the next two financial years. A consultation document was sent to all schools, seeking their preference to two possible options (Option A and Option B), as set out in the report.

Following discussions on the results of the consultation and the likely impact of each Option, the Schools Forum agreed to recommend approval of Option B to Executive Board.

Reason(s) for Decision

To ensure that there was a fair distribution of resources across the DSG and that the DSG was profiled so that its budget commitments were sustainable.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Consideration was given to reducing the schools budget by £1.8 million to balance the budget in 2016/17. However, the minimum funding guarantee would cap any reductions to 1.5%, i.e. approximately £863,000.

Implementation Date

1 April 2016.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the proposal to re-profile the DSG funding for 2016/17 and 2017/18 be approved; and
- 2) Option B, as set out in the report, be supported.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2015

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CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2016-17 – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People and Economy, which provided a summary of the Capital Programmes for 2016/17 within the People and Economy Directorate.

The Board was advised that in February 2015, the Department for Education (DfE) announced the schools capital grant allocations for 2015/16, as well as indicative allocations for the two year period 2016/17 and 2017/18. By introducing three year allocations, the DfE was enabling those responsible for the school estate, to plan effectively and make strategic investment decisions. The report contained details on the indicative funding notified for 2016/17, as well as how the School Condition Allocation and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account funding would be allocated. It was noted that schools were required to make a contribution to the cost of capital repair works, and it was estimated that this contribution would be in the region of £34,219, based on the current budget costs for the works.

Halebank Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School was included in the DfE's Priority School Building Programme. It was reported that the project commenced on site in July 2015, with a completion date of April 2016. Once the building was complete, the mobile classroom currently on site would be re-located to another Halton school should the need arise, and at a location to be determined. Members were advised that the estimated cost of this re-location would be circa £30,000.

It was further reported that in January 2014, Fairfield Junior School was expanded to allow the integration of the Infants School, to form Fairfield Primary School. However, as the school would still operate from two separate buildings, a number of improvements were required to address the building and organisational issues at the newly combined primary school.

Reason(s) for Decision

To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

1 April 2016.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Capital funding available for 2016/17 be noted;

- 2) the proposals to be funded from School Condition Capital Allocation and Capital Expenditure Revenue Account be approved;
- 3) the proposal to relocate the mobile classroom from Halebank Voluntary Controlled Church of England Primary School be approved;
- 4) the proposals for Fairfield Primary School be approved; and
- 5) Council be recommended to approve the Capital Programme for 2016/17.