

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 21 JANUARY 2021**EXB 58 | SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENT 2022 – KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on School Admission Arrangements for 2022.

The Board was advised that in October 2020, Halton Local Authority issued a statutorily required consultation on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2022 intake for Primary and Secondary Schools (attached as appendices 1 and 2 respectively). The Primary Scheme also included the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools for whom the Local Authority was the admission authority.

Since the publication of the Executive Board agenda, the Board was advised of a proposed amendment to the Primary Co-ordinated Scheme, this was presented on screen. It was proposed that Paragraph 9.1, under *Oversubscription Criteria* be amended to four criteria instead of three, so criterion 1 would be split into criteria 1 and 2. The reasons for this were provided to the Board and the proposal was agreed.

The report provided details of the consultation, which ran from 1 October 2020 to 13 November 2020. No changes were proposed to the current oversubscription criteria for admission to Local Authority maintained community and voluntary controlled primary schools.

It noted that all Halton secondary schools were either academies, free schools or voluntary aided and were therefore their own admission authorities, with responsibility for consulting and determining their own admissions criteria and their own Published Admission Number (PAN).

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was statutorily required.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Other options considered and rejected included the allocation of places to community and voluntary controlled schools through random allocation (lottery), as this method could be seen as arbitrary and random.

Implementation Date

The Policy and co-ordinated schemes would apply for the September 2022 academic intake.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Coordinated Schemes for admission to Primary and Secondary schools for the 2022/23 academic year.

EXB 59	CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2021/22 – KEY DECISION
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided a summary of the capital funding received by the Council from central Government to support Schools Capital Programmes for 2021/22.

The Board was advised that the Department for Education (DfE) had not announced the Capital Grant Allocation for 2021/22 at the time of writing the report. However, given the timescales for some of the capital projects, there was a requirement to present this report, so it was compiled using the 2020/21 allocation, which was £903,847.

The report set out details of the indicative funding available to support capital projects across the schools estate and also explained how the School Condition Allocation would be utilised.

Reason(s) for Decision

To deliver and implement the Capital Programmes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

Capital Programmes for 2020/21 would be implemented with effect from 1 April 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

- 1) notes the position regarding capital funding from the DfE for 2021/22;
- 2) approves the proposals to be funded from the School Condition Capital Allocation; and
- 3) agrees that the capital allocations are put forward for inclusion in the budget report to full Council.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 25 FEBRUARY 2021

EXB 65

HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT POLICY – KEY DECISION

The Board received the *Home to School Travel and Transport Policy*, as required under the Department for Education (DfE) Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance (statutory guidance) 2014; the Education Act 1996; and the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

It was noted that the Council's current Policy was regularly reviewed to ensure it met statutory requirements. Further to an investigation made by the Local Government Ombudsman, the Council was asked to consider some recommendations that would further enhance the Policy and assist parents and carers in their understanding of school admissions and eligibility to assistance with transport.

The revised Policy incorporated the Ombudsman's recommendations and there were no changes to the eligibility criteria, which were statutorily set. It was noted that in addition to the minor Policy amendments, a revision of the guidance notes and application forms was in progress. These would provide enhanced information for parents and carers and support them with their application for assistance with transport.

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision is required to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport and provide assistance with transport to eligible children and young people.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

With immediate effect following approval.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board approve the Home to School Travel and Transport Policy 2020-21 (Statutory School Age) for implementation, with immediate effect.

EXB 66

YOUTH PROVISION – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update on the Integrated Youth Support Service consultation and proposed future model.

The report provided details of feedback from the recent Halton Youth Provision consultation and set out the Council's proposed response. It was noted

that the consultation evidenced that there was support for the proposed model and areas of agreement included: the need to work in partnership across all sectors, the importance of valuing volunteers and existing local voluntary and community provision providers, and the need for qualified workers to support those children and young people in most need. Further, the proposal put forward had taken account of the feedback whilst also recognising the financial challenges faced, the changing service needs and the current and future landscape due to Covid-19.

Reason(s) for Decision

To agree the future shape of youth services in Halton

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

To put the service out to the market as one commission. This was rejected, as it did not allow local organisations with good local networks the opportunity to provide a service.

Implementation Date

1 April 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board approves the implementation of a new model of grant funded and commissioned Youth Provision across Halton.