

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

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2023****EXB62 | SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2024-25 – KEY DECISION**

The Board received a report of the Executive Director – Children’s Services, which requested the approval of the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Schemes, for admission to primary and secondary schools, including Academy, Free School and Voluntary Controlled schools for the September 2024 intake.

The Board was advised that in October 2022, the Local Authority issued a statutorily required consultation on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2024 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.

The report provided details of the consultation, which ran until 11 November 2022; no responses to the consultation were received. Additionally, no amendments to the oversubscription criteria were suggested, as these worked well and met the requirements of the Department for Education’s School Admissions Code.

It was noted that all Halton’s 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 2024 academic intake.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Schemes, for admission to primary and secondary schools for the 2024/25 academic year.

<b>EXB63</b>	<b>CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 2023/24 – KEY DECISION</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Children’s Services, which provided a summary of the capital funding received by the Council from central Government to support Schools Capital Programmes for 2023/24.

The Board was advised that the Department for Education (DfE) had not announced the School Condition Allocation Capital Grant for 2023/24 however, given the timescales for some of the proposed capital projects, there was a requirement to present this report, so it was compiled using the 2022/23 allocation, which was £747,836.

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

None.

Implementation Date

Capital Programmes for 2023/24 would be implemented with effect from 1 April 2023.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the position regarding capital funding from the Department for Education for 2023/24 be noted;
- 2) the proposals to be funded from the School Condition Capital Allocation be approved; and
- 3) the capital allocations are put forward for inclusion in the budget report to full Council be approved.

<b>EXB64</b>	<b>CHILDREN &amp; YOUNG PEOPLE’S SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY SERVICES: RECOMMISSIONING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CHESHIRE &amp; MERSEYSIDE ICS – KEY DECISION</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Children’s Services, which requested authorisation to recommission Children and Young

People's Speech and Language Therapy services in partnership with NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB), with the new contract to start in August 2023.

A comprehensive consultation with a broad range of stakeholders on the requirements of the new service was currently taking place and the service specification for the new contract would be costed following conclusion of the consultation exercise.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the recommissioning of the service in partnership with NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB.

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2023**

<b>EXB109</b>	<b>HIGH NEEDS PROVISION CAPITAL ALLOCATION – PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS &amp; DISABILITY PROVISION – KEY DECISION</b>
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The Board considered a report of the Executive Director, Children's Services, which advised that in March 2022, the Council had received notification from the Department of Education that it would be allocated £3.3m in capital funding over a two year period, to support the provision of new places and/or to expand existing provision for pupils and students with high needs. The report set out the progress to date and sought approval for the proposals made with regard to expanding the special educational needs and disability provision in Halton.

#### Reason(s) for Decision

The Council is required to demonstrate appropriate identification of need against spend from the High Needs Capital Allocation Grant. To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

#### Implementation Date

It is intended that the first phase of additional provision could be offered from September 2023, the next phase from January 2024, and the remainder from September 2024.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Board approves in principle the proposals for the additional Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision and the issuing of statutory notices for those schools where applicable – detailed in Appendix A.