

REPORT TO: Council
DATE: 18 October 2023
REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive
PORTFOLIO: Leader
SUBJECT: Urgent Decisions
WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To bring to the attention of Council urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report is noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Council's Constitution gives authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions which are required before the next formal meeting of Executive Board/Council.

These must be made in consultation with the Leader of the Council where practicable, and with the Operational Director – Finance and/or Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services where necessary. They must also be reported for information to the next practically available meeting of the Board.

3.2 More information on each can be found on the Council's website here:

<http://councillors.halton.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1>

3.3 The urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of Council:

Date Decision taken	Decision details
15 August 2023	Pioneer Programme To allow the Council to accept a request from Ingeus to act as their sub-contractor to deliver a pilot employment programme known as 'the pioneer programme'. This requires a variation to the contract that the Council has with Ingeus to enable the Council to draw down additional funds (£130k) to recruit employment support staff.

	<p>Ingeus have been invited to submit a rapid submission to Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to deliver this pilot and in turn, Halton BC have been asked to confirm their participation as soon as possible</p>
<p>11 September 2023</p>	<p>Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund (MSIF) – Workforce Fund 2023/24</p> <p>The recruitment and retention of sufficient social care staff with the appropriate skills, knowledge and behaviours is critical to improving adult social care capacity.</p> <p>The DHSC have strongly encouraged local authorities to work closely with providers to use this additional funding to grow workforce capacity and they expect growth in workforce capacity to support more local authorities to cope with potential winter challenges in the short-term.</p> <p>The main challenges currently within the Halton adult social care sector are Older People Care Home capacity (Residential and Nursing), with a number of units closed due to lack of staffing capacity, along with Domiciliary Care staffing capacity.</p> <p>It is therefore proposed that this funding is allocated to Older People Care Homes (External and Internal Care Homes) in the Borough, along with Halton’s contracted Domiciliary Care provider, to support workforce capacity.</p> <p>It is anticipated that improving workforce capacity in these areas will also have a positive impact on hospital discharge pathways and associated waiting times.</p> <p>NB. This decision applies to the 2023/24 funding only.</p> <p>The reason why this decision needs to be made is that the DHSC require confirmation of how the monies are to be spent by the end of September, so there is not the opportunity to present to Executive Board in advance of this.</p>

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none other than the constitutional requirement to report urgent decisions for information.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The report is for information, and there are no risk issues arising from it.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None.

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

9.1 No background papers were used in the preparation of this report. Further information on the decisions taken is available from the link in Paragraph 3.2.