

## **APPENDIX 1**

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

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2010**

##### **97. CHILDCARE CAPITAL FUNDING**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People on childcare capital funding 2009/11.

The report detailed the level and source of funding, funding criteria, the bidding process and also gave details of the proposed allocation of funding in the 2010/11 financial year.

The Board noted that capital funding had been allocated from the Department for Children and Families, to enable the provision of free early education introduced by the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) in 2008. The grant had three main aims:-

- to improve the quality of the learning environment in early years settings, providing free entitlement, to support delivery of the EYFS, with a particular emphasis on improving play and physical activities and ICT resources;
- to ensure all children, including disabled children, were able to access provision; and
- to enable private, voluntary and independent providers to deliver the extension to the free offer for 3 and 4 year olds and to do so flexibly.

Members discussed the details of the Childcare Capital spend detailed in Appendix 1, attached to the report. It was agreed that this information should be included in the Authority's report to Governing Bodies.

**RESOLVED: That**

- (1) the proposed allocation of Childcare Capital Funding for ICT equipment be approved; and
- (2) the proposed allocation of Childcare Capital Funding for capital repairs and/ or development/equipment be

approved.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2010**

### **103. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2011-KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which set out the fulfilment of the requirement under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the Education Act 2002, the Education and Inspections Act, 2006 and associated regulations, to determine Halton Local Authority's (LAs) School Admissions Policy for LA maintained community and voluntary controlled schools, and co-ordinated admission schemes for all primary and secondary schools for September 2011 following statutory consultation.

It was noted that the LA also consulted on the admission arrangements to its maintained nursery schools for the September 2011 intake.

Members were advised that the Government now required Local Authorities to manage the In-Year Admissions process for children moving between schools during the academic year from September 2010 onwards and the consultation paper was issued alongside the above consultation paper seeking views on an appropriate model.

It was further noted that in January 2010 a statutory required consultation paper on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2011 intake was issued. A copy of this consultation was appended to the report for information. The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report, together with information regarding implications for policies and the Council's priorities.

The Board discussed the sensitivity issues encountered during the admission process. There was a slight spike in population of school children, in terms of admissions, this year which was expected to reduce next. Concerns were raised over children having to travel further to attend schools. In response it was noted that as parents accepted or declined places, nearer school places may become available for some children. Out of a total 3500 preferences only 13 had raised concerns.

#### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The decision was statutorily required and any revision to the proposed arrangements may adversely affect school place planning as detailed in 7.1 of the report.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Other options considered and rejected included the allocation of places through random allocation (lottery) as this method could be seen as arbitrary and random.

## IMPLEMENTATION DATE

The Policy allied for the September 2011 academic intake and would apply for three years unless further central or local government changes were required.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board approves the School Admissions Policy Admission Arrangements and co-ordinated schemes for admission to primary and secondary schools for the 2011/12 academic year; and
- 2) the Board approves the adoption of the In-Year Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme as statutorily required for September 2010 onwards.

*(NB: Councillor Nelson declared a personal interest in the following item due to being the Chair of Governors for the Grange School).*

## **104. PRIMARY SEN UNIT REVIEW - KEY DECISION**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which summarised the response to the statutory consultation undertaken on Primary Special Education Unit (SEN) Provision in Halton. An outline of the decision making process was included in the report for information.

Members were advised that the review of SEN units resulted in a set of proposals designed to provide flexible provision within mainstream schools that allowed pupils to spend as much time as possible learning alongside their peers, depending on their individual needs.

It was noted that consultation took place in March 2009 and the feedback from the initial consultation had led to revised proposals with a second round of consultation in June 2009 after approval to commence consultation on the revised proposals which was given by Executive Board in 2009. Detailed in the report for information were the provisions that were proposed. The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the

report in addition to a copy of the statutory notice and proposal for information.

It was reported that there had been 137 responses to the formal consultation with 135 responses in support of the proposals published in the statutory notice.

Members were advised that the decision maker (Executive Board) must decide the proposals within two months of the end of the representation period otherwise the decision must be referred to the adjudicator for a decision. Appended to the report for information were details of the issues the decision maker needed to consider.

The report also set out the proposals in detail for each school that would be affected by the proposals.

The Board noted that all parties involved had been consulted despite reports in the local press to the contrary. Members discussed and welcomed the increased provision set out in the review.

#### REASONS FOR DECISION

To enable the process to be completed within statutory timescales. Decision to proceed to implementation must be made within two months of the end of the formal consultation.

Mainstream Primary SEN units are not matching the present and future requirements of the Borough. At present, there are surplus places within Primary mainstream SEN units.

#### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

To leave provision as it is. This would leave vulnerable to challenge on the basis of need and value for money.

#### IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Approval to proceed with the proposals for primary SEN unit provision must be agreed within two months of the end of the six weeks statutory notice period (21<sup>st</sup> April 2010). Implementation in September 2011 to be in line with the implementation of the agreed Secondary resourced provision.

#### RESOLVED: That

- 1) to receive the report on the proposals for Primary SEN Unit

provision; and

- 2) to approve the proposals, in line with the response to the formal consultation, within the statutory timescale of two months from the end of the representation period (deadline 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010).

#### **105. SCHOOL ORGANISATION - THE HEATH A SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE- KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which set out the response to the statutory consultation to make a prescribed alteration to expand The Heath A Specialist Technology College from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 so that it could offer 1350 with a proposed published admission number of 270. It was noted the report also sought a decision from the Board on the proposal.

Members were advised that during the consultation on future secondary provision in Halton, it was agreed that The Heath Specialist Technology College be expanded so that once the BSF building work had been completed the school would provide 270 places per year with a total of 1350 places for 11 – 16 year olds.

Detailed in the report were the aims of the proposals to expand the size of The Heath Specialist School. The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report in addition to the details of the 63 responses which had been received.

Members were advised that the fourth bullet point in paragraph 3.2 of the report should have read as follows: Reduce the number of pupils choosing to access secondary education outside the borough.

It was further noted that the decision maker (Executive Board) must decide the proposal within two months of the end of the representation period otherwise the decision must be referred to the Adjudicator for a decision. Appended to the report was a copy of the statutory proposal details of the consultation and the issues the decision maker needed to consider. It was also noted that the decision must be given whether it was approved or rejected and should include the factors and criteria for the decision. Details of who copies of the decision must be sent to were outlined in the report.

#### **REASON FOR DECISION**

To provide more choice and diversity and retain pupils within the Borough.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

N/A.

## IMPLEMENTATION DATE

The decision needed to be made by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2010.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the school be enlarged, as part of the Halton BSF programme and The Heath School be rebuilt and refurbished; and
- 2) the proposed capacity of the school will increase to 1350 from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and the proposed admission number increased to 270.

## **106. COMMISSIONING OF POST 16 PROVISION IN HALTON- KEY DECISION**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which informed members of the abolition of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) under the Apprenticeship Skills Children and Learning Bill (ACSL) and transfer of statutory duty and powers to Local Authorities from April 2010.

It was reported that on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, the LSC would be abolished and all functions previously carried out by the LSC with respect to 16 – 19 education and training would transfer either to local authorities or the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA). A number of brand new duties and powers for local authorities would be created.

It was noted that local authorities would have the central commissioning role for all education and training for young people aged 16 – 19 and up to the age of 25 for those with learning difficulties, and for those people in youth custody aged 10 to 18.

Members were advised that the Strategic Director for Children and Young People had now assumed lead commissioning responsibility for Post 16 Education and Training in the Borough and sat on the Riverside College Board which was the major provider of post 16 education in Halton. It was noted that this would not be appropriate from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 when the Council would assume statutory commissioning responsibility due to

inherent conflict of interest. The role was recommended to go to the Operational Director – Employment, Economic Regeneration and Business Development. This would be subject to a suitability interview by Riverside College Board.

Appended to the report for information were the key responsibilities for partners who were central to the commissioning process. The transferred LSC posts and resources would be fully funded through a Special Purposes Grant along with a contribution towards non employment costs would be made. Key documents that had been published that would support the transition were referred to in the report.

It was further reported that the 14 – 19 reform programme was a substantial element of the transfer. Details of this transfer were outlined in the report for information.

Members were further informed of the transition from the LSC to the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) which would be established to take on the post 19 functions of the LSC. It was reported that the SFA would route around £3.5 billion of funding to further education colleges and other providers including the Third Sector, primarily in response to customer (employer and learner) choice on programmes such as Train to Gain. It was further noted that the SFA would operate through three customer focused gateways which were outlined in the report for information.

The report also set out the Delivery Plan, policy implications and commissioning details.

The Board discussed the amount of funding provided to ensure every young person was engaged in training or education in terms of whether it was a sufficient amount. In reply it was noted that the provisions and progress would be monitored closely by the Council.

## REASONS FOR DECISION

Council assumes responsibility for commissioning of post 16 provision from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010. Through commissioning the Council would be able to ensure that a broad range of high quality 14 – 19 pathways was available for all young people. The Strategic Director for Children's Services would be the lead commissioner of provision, therefore could not sit on Riverside College Board.

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

Statutory Responsibility therefore no other options available.

## IMPLEMENTATION DATE

1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

RESOLVED: That the Council

- 1) assumes responsibility for commissioning of post 16 provision with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010;
- 2) receives LSC staff under TUPE regulations to support post 16 commissioning;
- 3) ensures a holistic approach to planning by reporting on post 16 commissioning to the Local Strategic Partnership and Employment Learning and Skills Strategic Partnership;
- 4) Executive Board receives a report as part of the annual commissioning cycle for post 16 education and training; and
- 5) replaces the Strategic Director for Children and Young People with Operational Director for Employment, Economic Regeneration and Business on Riverside College Governing body.

## **107. PLAYBUILDER PROJECT**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Young People which recognised the significant contribution that the Playbuilder Project had made in respect of National Indicator N199.

It was noted that 13 play areas had been delivered over the first two years of the scheme, details of which were outlined in the report for information, and considerable positive feedback had been received.

The proposed 9 sites for 2010/11 were set out in the report for consideration. Members were advised that successful delivery of the Playbuilder project would make a significant contribution to embed play in local policy in particular to National Indicator N199 (Satisfaction with Outdoor Play Facilities).

Arising from the discussion it was noted that the Tell Us Survey had reported a 10% increase in satisfaction levels and the Board wished to note its thanks to the team from the Children and Young People Directorate and broader Council involved in developing the sites and innovative new designs of the play areas and the positive effect they have had on the



Borough.

#### REASONS FOR DECISION

To agree (8) projects to be progressed in Playbuilder Project year 3.

#### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

N/A.

#### IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Three year capital programme with annual capital allowance.  
Implementation of year 3 projects to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Executive Board note the progress, especially in respect of National Indicator N199; and
- 2) agree proposals for 9 year 3 projects.