

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board Committee Minutes Relevant to the Children, Young People and Family's Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2011

EXB30 SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL TRAVEL POLICY 2011- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise on the Sustainable School Travel Policy 2011.

The Board was advised that Section 508A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed a general duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport. The four main elements of the duty were outlined in the report.

The Sustainable School Travel Policy 2011 drew together the four required elements and supported the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan, ensuring that Halton fulfilled its statutory requirements.

Reason for Decision

The decision was required to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

The Academic year 2011 and reviewed annually.

RESOLVED: That the Sustainable School Travel Policy be approved for implementation from September 2011.

EXB31 – BSF LOCAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (LEP) STRUCTURE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which outlined the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Local Education Partnership (LEP) Governance Structure for the membership of the Strategic Partnering Board.

The governance arrangements for the Halton BSF programme were summarised in diagrammatic form within the report. It was noted that strategic decisions regarding the direction of the Halton LEP Company were retained by the LEP Board, with appropriate powers delegated to the Strategic Partnering Board (SPB), to enable the programme to be delivered in a timely manner.

Under the terms of the Strategic Partnering Agreement, the Authority had one voting member on the LEP Board – currently Halton Borough Council's Chief Executive; there was also provision for two Local Authority Observers to attend each meeting.

Members noted that the report detailed the Board Structure and remit for the LEP and the SPB, with further details of the activities of the both Boards attached as an appendices to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The agreed governance arrangements of the Halton Local Education Partnership be noted; and
- 2) The following Local Authority representatives of the Strategic Partnering Board be approved: the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families, the Operational Director Children's Organisation and Provision and the Divisional Manager, Transforming Environments.

EXB32 – HALTON AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise on the Halton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

The Board was advised that there was a statutory duty on the Local Authority (LA) to establish and convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (the Conference) to review the agreed syllabus for Religious Education (RE) every five years. The role of the Conference was to produce and recommend an Agreed Syllabus for adoption by the LA. It was noted that the Agreed Syllabus needed to meet fully the requirements of the Education Act 1996 and be educationally sound.

The constitution of the Conference was prescribed by the Department for Education and Science. The recommended composition of the required representative committee was detailed in the report, with the number of representatives appointed to Committees A and B reflecting the proportionate strength of denominations in the area.

The Board noted the minutes of the Halton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and the Halton Agreed Syllabus Conference, held on 11 July 2011, attached at Appendix 1. It was further noted that the Borough Council had a statutory duty to ensure that the agreed RE syllabus met the needs of the diverse faiths in the Borough and adopted an inclusive approach to religious diversity in line with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the minutes of a meeting of the Halton SACRE and the Halton Agreed Syllabus Conference on 11th July 2011 attached at Appendix 1 be received; and
- 2) the Board accept the recommendation of the Halton Agreed Syllabus Conference for Religious Education to readopt the 2006 to 2011 Syllabus as the Halton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education from 1st September 2011 for a further five years.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

EXB49 - RESPONSE TO THE JAMES REVIEW PRIORITY SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which provided an update on the Sebastian James Review of Education Capital. The report also outlined the Priority School Building Programme (PSBP).

The Board was reminded that, following a Government announcement in July 2010 to end all school capital projects, Sebastian James was commissioned to lead a review of the Educational Capital Build Programmes. The review would identify how to streamline the process and thereby allow more money to be spent on the educational establishments and less on consultants and bureaucracy.

The review was published on 8 April 2011, and made a total of sixteen recommendations, detailed at Appendix A. The Department for Education (DfE) had initiated a twelve week consultation exercise, inviting comment on the review paper prior to the Secretary of State issuing his response.

The report highlighted the key issues and implications for Halton. This included Halton being recognised as the Lead Responsible Body in the Borough and the holder of the Local Investment Plan. Within this role, the authority would need to provide Condition Surveys for all school buildings to

the DfE and be able to articulate the future development plans for all educational buildings in the area.

The Board noted that the DfE were commencing a privately financed programme to provide Local Authorities with school facilities for those schools in the worst condition. The PSBP would support between 100 and 300 schools with 20% of the programme delivered each year over the next 5 years; the first schools would open in academic year 2014-15. The report detailed the criteria the Local Authority and the school must accept before being considered for inclusion in the project.

Reason for Decision

If the Authority was successful in securing funding this would provide funding to rebuild Halton schools with the worst conditions.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Consideration had been given to the option of not submitting an applications form. This was rejected as this was the only funding available for the LA to bid for, to rebuild its primary and secondary schools with the worst condition issues.

Implementation Date

Local Authorities must register by 7 October 2011 and complete and submit any application by 12 noon on Friday 14 October 2011.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the findings of the Sebastian James Review of Education Capital be noted; and
- 2) the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, in consultation with the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families be authorised to submit applications for the PSBP for all schools that meet the Department for Education (DfE) condition criteria.

EXB50 – SHORT BREAK STATEMENT

the Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the new statutory requirements regarding short break services to disabled children and their families.

In 2008, Halton became part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme, which provided access to a range of short break services for disabled children and their families. This programme formally ended in March 2011, with new statutory practice guidance and financial investment effective from 1 April 2011 to provide short breaks for disabled children.

The Board was advised that the Government had stated a clear commitment to “continued investment” in short breaks with a nationwide financial commitment of £800 million until 2015 as part of the Early Intervention Grant. It was further noted that in addition to this, Halton had been allocated £241,942 to support the Authority towards capital expenditure incurred in relation to short break services.

As part of Statutory Guidance, all authorities must:

- (i) Publish a statement of short break services on their website;
- (ii) Keep their short breaks statement under review;
- (iii) State in their Service Statement the range of short breaks services available, the criteria by which eligibility for services would be assessed, and how the range of services was designed to meet the needs of families with disabled children in their area;
- (iv) Consult with parents as part of the review of the statement.

Halton’s Statement, attached at Appendix 1 for Members’ consideration, complied with statutory guidance and took account of the views of partners and comments made by families and providers.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted;
- 2) the draft Short Break Statement be agreed; and
- 3) the Statement be formally endorsed by the Children’s Trust.

SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local

Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and

- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

EXB51 – CONNEXIONS UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the procurement options for future Information Advice and Guidance service for children and young people and the contractual implications between the six Greater Merseyside Local Authorities and the Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership.

The Board was asked to consider the service delivery requirements from 2012-13 and the arrangements needed to secure that delivery. At the meeting, it was confirmed that at the last Learn Together Partnership meeting, the Directors of Childrens' Services had agreed that 2012/13 service specifications be used with negotiations with Connexions and for the procurement exercise.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Executive Board agrees that work can continue on a City Region level;
- 2) a parallel procurement process can be undertaken for 2012/2013; and
- 3) Subject to agreement by the Directors of Childrens' Services on 24th September 2011, service specifications can be used with negotiations with Connexions and for the procurement exercise.