

**Extract of Executive Board and Executive Board Sub Committee Minutes
relevant to the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board**

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES on 20th JULY 2006

EXB21 YOUTH OPPORTUNITY AND CAPITAL FUNDS

The Board received a report from the Head of Halton Youth Service, detailing the new funding streams from central government, which were designed to develop the involvement and influence of young people within the borough.

It was noted that in March 2006 the DfES announced the roll out of the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund which had been described in the Youth Matters green paper published in July 2005. In Halton, the combined funds totalled £176,914 per annum for two years. The Board was informed that the main purpose of the funds was to “give a voice and influence young people, particularly disadvantaged young people, in relation to things to do and places to go and to convey a powerful message to young people that their needs and aspirations are important.”

This new initiative would involve the development of a Halton YouthBank run for young people by young people. It was noted that it would build on, and link into, the Borough’s recent success in supporting the introduction of the UK Youth Parliament, Borough Youth Forum Cabinet and area based Youth Forums.

The Board was advised that there was a clear definition on the age range of eligible youths, being 13 – 19 years, who would be encouraged to make bids to the YouthBank. It was noted that Halton Borough Council’s finance team would administer the funds in accordance with regulations specified by the DfES.

Members discussed the YouthBank and felt that this was a wonderful opportunity for youths to spend the funds on projects suggested by themselves.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Policy Statement on the use of these funds be agreed;
- (2) the UK Youth Parliament Borough Youth Forum Cabinet be supported by the Youth Service to set up and project-manage a young people’s YouthBank operated “by young people FOR young people” to administer grants and commission services using the Youth Opportunities and Youth Capital Fund as specified in the DfES guidance and monitored through reporting mechanisms by their Government Office representative, Tony McGee;

- (3) the financial regulation of these funds be set up as specified by the DfES and monitored through the CYP Integrated Joint Commissioning Partnership, Connexions' finance and audit team and YouthBank UK Ltd;
- (4) the Halton YouthBank roll out these funds in the form of grants and commissioned projects to increase the number and quality of "places to go and things to do" for and with the young people of Halton;
- (5) the criteria and parameters for who and what gets funded be agreed between the UKYP Borough Youth Forum Cabinet Project Board, Children and Young People's Directorate and Alliance, and Halton Youth Service enduring linkage to the Every Child Matters outcomes, access and inclusion for all, quality and safety of provision funded, and agreed systems to ensure financial regularity;
- (6) the Executive Board receive a report prior to budget setting for 2008, which looks at the success of YouthBank and the implications of mainstreaming this funding from April 2008; and
- (7) that arrangements be put in place and maintained for the proper financial management and control of the funds, such arrangements to be approved in advance by the Operational Director – Financial Services.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES ON 21st SEPTEMBER 2006

EXB36 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

The Board considered a report which provided an outline of the submission requirements for entry into the National Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme and a list of the key issues Halton needed to consider prior to completing any application. The BSF was a national programme through which funding was available for investment to transform all schools or units that taught secondary age pupils. Funding was either in the source of either conventional capital (capital grant and borrowing) and/or PFI credit. Capital projects generally range from £50 to £150m in costs. Projects in Waves 4-6 were initially selected based on educational and social need. As further prioritisation was now required, authorities were now required to demonstrate their readiness to deliver their projects.

The assessment of readiness to deliver would be made by the Department of Education and Skills and Partnerships for Schools. Projects selected for inclusion in Wave four would have to be ready to commence in January 2007. It was proposed, following consultation with Corporate Management Team and Halton Secondary Headteachers that it would be more appropriate for Halton to bid for inclusion in either Wave 5 or 6 so that issues in relation to the most appropriate model for school organisation and more detailed consultation with all stakeholders could be undertaken. The work required to achieve the core criteria outlined in the report could not be

achieved to ensure an appropriate level of preparedness for Wave 4. In addition, it was acknowledged that recruiting a Project Manager, establishing the team and resourcing this facility would be difficult to achieve prior to January 2007.

In order to progress work for a Wave 5 application, there would need to be an urgent audit of the skills and experience within the Council in particular in relation to design, finance, Legal, ICT, Personnel, Audit, Risk Management, Procurement, Insurance and Advisory.

Options needed to be considered to address any skills shortages including the engaging of external staff and providing training for in-house staff. A Project Director would also need to be appointed.

The readiness to delivery submission must be completed in full and returned to both the DFES and PFS no later than 13th October 2006.

There was no revenue funding for the Project and in some authorities the set up costs had been around £2m. Further work was being undertaken with authorities in earlier Waves of the BSF to identify a more accurate sum. This financial revenue resource would be built into the Council's financial plan.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) approval in principle is agreed by the Board in relation to the Authority's commitment to engagement in the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme, in particular the procurement and funding models outlined in the report;
- (2) the capacity and experience of Council staff in key service areas be assessed to identify any additional staffing requirements necessary to establish a project team and the level of any external consultancy required;
- (3) consideration be given as part of the on-going budget process for the allocation of all necessary revenue costs incurred in the establishing and resourcing a Project Management Team within the Authority; and
- (4) subject to the satisfactory outcome on the above recommendations, approval be given to submit a request for participation in Wave 5 of the BSF Programme.

EXEXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE ON 20th JULY 2006

EX16 ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER FOR NEW BUILDING SUPPLY AND CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS AT SAINTS PETER AND PAUL AND WADE DEACON SCHOOLS.

The Sub-Committee received a report on six tenders received relating to the

proposed building and civil engineering works to construct a six lane athletics track complete with changing rooms, including carrying out an attenuated drainage scheme at Saints Peter and Paul and Wade Deacon Schools, Widnes. Mayfield Construction Limited submitted the lowest tender in the sum of £1,449,600.00. This tender exceeded the client's allocated budget and cost savings totalling £58,304.61 had been negotiated with the contractor reducing the building costs to a revised tender of £1,391,295.39 which was now within the client's budget.

The project programme and details of all health and safety issues had been agreed with the clients and the completion of the project was planned for December 2006.

RESOLVED: That Members note the acceptance of a revised tender for the works in the sum of £1,391,295.39.