

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16 JANUARY 2020**EXB 67 | SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021 – KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on School Admission Arrangements for 2021.

The Board was advised that in October 2019, Halton Local Authority issued a statutorily required consultation on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2021 intake. It was noted that the consultation ran until 8 November 2019, with no changes proposed to the current oversubscription criteria for admission to Local Authority maintained community and voluntary controlled primary schools. No responses to the consultation were received.

It was further noted that all Halton 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).

The Board expressed its concerns that Government Policy in relation to school admission arrangements and Academy Schools, seriously limited the ability of the Council to respond to concerns expressed by parents about where their children went to school.

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 2021 academic intake.

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 2021/22 academic year;
- 2) where appropriate, schools be invited to increase their numbers to help support the Council to help meet the preference of parents about where their children attend school;
- 3) schools be invited to take advantage of funding available to them from Government to increase their buildings to accommodate increased pupil numbers where necessary; and
- 4) the Leader, on behalf of the Executive Board, write to Mr Twigg M.P. and Mr Amesbury M.P. to seek their support in respect of school admissions arrangements in Halton.

EXB 68	SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2020-21 – KEY DECISION
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The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided a summary of the Schools Capital Programmes for 2020/21.

The Board was advised that the Department for Education (DfE) had not yet announced the Capital Grant Allocation for 2020/21 at the time of writing the report. However, given the timescales for some of the capital projects, the report used the 2019/20 allocation as the basis for presenting the report to the Board.

The report set out details of the indicative funding available to support capital projects across the school estate as well as how the School Condition Allocation would be utilised.

Reason(s) for Decision

To deliver and implement the Capital Programmes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

Capital Programmes for 2020/21 would be implemented with effect from 1 April 2020.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the position regarding capital funding from the Department for Education for 2020/21, be noted;

- 2) the proposals to be funded from the School Condition Capital Allocation, be approved; and
- 3) Council be recommended to approve the Capital Allocations for inclusion in the Budget report.

EXB 69

INTEGRATED, UNIVERSAL, TARGETED AND SPECIALIST YOUTH PROVISION POST JULY 2020

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on a proposed integrated universal and targeted youth provision contract.

The Board was advised that the Education Act 1986 (updated in 2008), set out the statutory requirements for local authorities to provide youth work in three areas – positive activities; decision making by young people; and 14-19 learning.

It was reported that the continued reduction in youth services had come at a time when those services were most needed, with the risk of child poverty and material deprivation in the UK on the rise in recent years. Members were advised that Halton had a long history of providing young people with opportunities to develop their own unique talents and to access early help.

It was noted that Halton Youth Provision worked together with a range of agencies to help young people through early intervention and offering a range of support to prevent problems from getting worse. It was proposed that the Integrated Youth Service would have an indicative budget of £633,527 per annum, split across three core functions as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) approve the procurement of the new integrated, universal, targeted specialist youth provision for a three year contract with the option to extend for a further 1 plus 1 year.

EXB 70

THE FUNDING FORMULA FOR MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS AND HIGH NEEDS FOR 2020/21

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which outlined the proposal for the Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block Funding Formula for Halton, for mainstream schools and academies for 2020/21.

The Board was advised that the Dedicated Schools Grant was split into four blocks. In July 2017, the Secretary of State confirmed the introduction of the National Funding Formula from April 2018, which calculated the Schools Block element for Halton.

It was reported that after consultation with schools and the Schools Forum, it was decided that Halton mainstream schools and academies would move to the National Funding Formula with transitional protection for 2018/19, as detailed in the report.

On 11 December 2019, a report which highlighted the key changes to the funding of mainstream schools and academies was presented to the meeting of the Schools Forum. Following consultation in November 2019, it was reported that the majority of schools supported the proposal that Schools Forum make a decision on the appropriate level for the Minimum Funding Guarantee at their meeting in January 2020.

Members noted that the grant allocations announced on 19 December 2019, showed an increase of £2.29m to the High Needs Block for 2020/21 compared to the 2019/20 allocation.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the continuation of the National Funding Formula for 2020/21.