

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 18 November 2021
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 Executive Board urgent decisions taken since the last meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

2.1 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.

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:

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

3.3 The urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of Executive Board:

Date Decision taken	Decision details
21 October 2021	WONDE – School Voucher Scheme – to reach the most vulnerable children in the Borough it was decided to use the voucher scheme that worked so well for the Covid Winter Grant Scheme, administered by a company called WONDE. Due to tight timescales a full tender was not feasible.
1 November 2021	Household Support Fund Spending Plan – there was a need to put arrangements in place as soon as possible, to ensure the funding was fully utilised and delivered promptly. Therefore, urgent approval was sought to enable the Plan to be implemented.

<p>9 November 2021</p>	<p>Children’s Social Work Capacity – Managed Service. Current Children Social Care workforce capacity is low with a high number of vacancies and excessive use of agency staff. There is an urgent need to respond to lack of capacity, understand and improve the quality of casework. The Managed Service approach will quickly secure experienced social work teams that will provide the capacity needed immediately and provide time for a new approach to recruitment to take effect and will be sourced from a framework.</p>
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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.