

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 19 July 2023

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 Council urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: 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/Council.

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 here:

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

3.3 The urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of Council:

Date Decision taken	Decision details
13 June 2023	Following receipt of £3.3M High Needs Capital Funding from the Department for Education, the Local Authority has been undertaking statutory consultation with staff/governors and the public, to expand its Special Educational Needs (SEND) provision in Halton at five schools, and also to expand its SEND provision at some schools where this provision is already offered (where statutory consultation was not required). Due to the timescales to progress/procure and complete any necessary capital works where possible, for a September opening for some of this additional provision, awaiting the July Executive Board meeting would delay commencement of works by circa 5 weeks, may prove

	<p>difficult to obtain contractors at such short notice to undertake required works during the school summer holiday period, and is likely to impact on increased costs should there be any delay in commencement. This request is to approve spend from the High Needs Capital Allocation against expansion of provision at Halton's mainstream and special schools who have expressed an interest in expanding their SEND provision to support in-borough placements..</p>
12 June 2023	<p>To improve the recruitment and retention of Qualified Children Social Workers and reduce the reliance and cost of agency staff.</p> <p>The Halton offer was due to be implemented from the 1 April '23. The implementation plan was delayed due to further due diligence requirements requested by the Chief Officers in light of concerns regarding the financial effectiveness of the offer.</p> <p>A working group led by the Director Children Services involving Children's Social Care, TDU, Finance, HR has been addressing the practicalities of the offer and approval was sought to implement the Halton Offer from 1 July 23.</p>

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.