

YOUNG PEOPLE AND SPORT

A record of decisions made by the Executive Member with responsibility for Young People and Sport on:-

TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER, 2007

following consideration of the matters detailed below in the presence of:-

Councillor J. Byrne	Executive Member for Young People and Sport
Councillor Ashcroft	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Mrs Swarbrick	(as deputy for Councillor Mrs Rothwell) Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Ms. M. Asquith	Director of Children's Services
Mr S. Arnfield	Director of Corporate Resources
Ms C. Davies	Head of Finance
Ms A. Gorton	Extended Schools Remodelling Adviser
Mr T. Sinkinson	Strategic Services Manager
Ms J. Thompson	Assistant Director, Positive Contribution
Miss K. Treadwell	Democratic Services Officer

12. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which contained information related to decisions taken at previous Executive Member meetings.

The Executive Member for Young People and Sport NOTED the progress on the decisions previously taken, as detailed in the Appendix.

13. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO REVENUE AND CAPITAL MONTH SIX MONITORING REPORT, 2007/08

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which informed the Executive Member of the revenue and capital financial position for the second quarter (month six) of the 2007/08 financial year.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

14. QUARTER TWO, PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD, 2007/08

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which updated the Executive Member on performance in key areas of the Children's Services Department as at the end of the second quarter of the current financial year.

The Executive Member NOTED the report.

15. CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO INITIAL STRATEGIC BUDGET OPTIONS 2008/09

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which informed the Executive Member of the Strategic Budget Options in respect of the Children's Services portfolio for 2008/09.

The report advised that the initial strategic budget options for Children's Services had been prepared based on:-

- the full passporting of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) to the Children's Services Portfolio; and
- cashable savings of 4% being sought in respect of the non schools element of the Children's Services portfolio.

The report advised that, at this stage in the year, it was difficult to predict the likely level of resources available to departments. In terms of schools budgets, the recent DCSF announcements indicated that the DSG would increase by 4.4% in 2008/09.

The report went on to state that the majority of standards fund grant allocation had been announced and Bolton had received an increase of 5.9% for 2008/09 compared to the current year.

The report advised that the Department would be required to generate savings equal to 4% of the non-schools budget, this represented £1.7 million savings requirement against a budget of just over £43 million.

The report stated that a number of budget considerations had been identified, together with a range of strategic policy options for 2008/09. Inflationary, superannuation pressures and capital debt costs amounted to £6.9 million across the whole portfolio. In addition, the Department had to identify efficiencies for the base budget as, previously, the Department had identified funding of £1.4 million to support the financial position in 2007/08 but this had only been available for one year.

The report advised that, in order to fund these pressures the Department was currently undertaking work to identify cashable savings. Some of the processes adopted by the Department included analysis of the potential to generate efficiencies through business process re-engineering; benchmarking exercises to indicate areas of higher than average spend to be investigated; value for money reviews and maximising the use of external funding. The potential savings identified included:-

	£
Agency Placements	50,000
Integrated Youth Offer Review	500,000
Early Start and Children's Social Care	157,500

Finance Unit	20,000
Departmental Management Realignment and Capacity Building	135,000
Children's Trust	59,800
Children's Services Departmental	250,000
Expenditure Reductions	
Music Service	103,000
Education Social Work Service	91,200
Behaviour Support	60,000
Schools Centrally Held Contingency	100,000
Schools Centrally Held Maternity Costs	65,900
Total Local Authority Department Savings:	1,172,300

The impact of the savings target of 4%, the identified budget pressures and one off savings from 2006/07 resulted in a total savings requirement of £ 3.385 million. It was explained that the external grant regime increases, outlined below, which totalled £2,213,600, together with the potential savings identified above, would enable this total saving to be met:-

	£
Children's Fund	376,000
Review and Mainstreaming of Early Start	300,000
Choice Advisor Grant/ Children Missing Education	20,000

Early Years (extended services grant)	339,000
Early Years (quality and assurance)	167,000
Early Years (Marketing)	150,000
Early Years (Realignment of staffing costs)	343,000
Extended Services Sustainability	443,600
Schools ICT Support	50,000
ISA	25,000
Total External Funding Alignment:	2,213,600

The report advised that whilst available funding would be insufficient to meet all the demands and options in the centrally held schools block, there would be some funding available for growth within the delegated schools block. The report advised that increase in spend within the centrally held block was limited. However, this limit might be breached by the Authority with agreement of the Schools Forum in order to support activities which were supporting schools in their delivery.

Appended to the report were full details and figures for the resource options.

The Executive Member for Young People and Sport NOTED the budget options and APPROVED: -

Consultation with Schools and the Schools Forum with regard to the strategic budget options, now detailed.

16. BOLTON ARENA

The Director of Corporate Resources submitted a report which outlined the proposed financial arrangements to enable Bolton

Arena to maintain and keep their facilities up to date.

By way of background information the report reminded the Executive Member that several loans had been made to the Arena in order to enable them to keep their facilities up to date.

The report stated that the Arena was currently looking at its facilities in the Health and Fitness suite. The Arena was looking to reinvest in this area with a view to helping to maintain and, if possible, grow membership within Health and Fitness.

The report advised that the loans which had been provided to date had enabled the Arena to either grow or maintain its user base and the Arena had always made the required repayments.

It was therefore proposed that instead of the Arena constantly requesting further loans from the Council that a single loan was provided on a rolling basis. This would proceed as follows:-

- the Council would provide an overall loan of £750,000 (the current outstanding loan was £537,000);
- the Arena would repay this loan over ten years, including interest, which would amount to 120,000 per annum; and
- at any time the Arena could draw down further loans up to £750,000.

The Arena had indicated that this would meet their foreseeable needs and would provide a more effective way for them to plan and undertake improvements to the facilities.

The report advised that, under this arrangement, the Council would undertake the works which maintained the overall ownership and investment in the Arena. The Arena would seek quotes for the work, complying with the Council's Standing

Order arrangements.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

That Bolton Arena be provided with a rolling £750,000 loan in order to maintain and keep their facilities up to date, subject to the agreement of the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance.