

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A record of decisions made by the Executive Cabinet Member with responsibility for Children's Services, Looked after Children, Safeguarding for Children and Young People, Schools and Early Years:-

MONDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER , 2022

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

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| Councillor Galloway | - Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services |
| Councillor McKeon | - Major Opposition Spokesperson |
| Councillor Wright | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson |
| Councillor Newall | - Minor Opposition Spokesperson |

Officers

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| Mr P. Rankin | - Deputy Director of Children's Services |
| Mr I. Walker | - Assistant Director – Social Care and Early Help |
| Ms G. Whitehead | - Assistant Director – inclusive Education and Learning |
| Ms L. Butcher | - Head of Finance |
| Ms A. Kelly | - Senior Lawyer |
| Mrs S. Bailey | - Principal Democratic Services Officer |

16. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS

The Borough Solicitor submitted a report which provided an update on decisions taken at previous meetings of the Executive Cabinet Member.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED the report.

17. AMENDMENT TO INSTRUMENTS OF GOVERNMENT FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval to amend the Instruments of Government for Roman Catholic schools in the Borough.

The report advised that the Diocese of Salford had requested the amendment of the Instruments of Government in Roman Catholic schools in Bolton to reflect the amalgamation of parishes to form new parishes with new parish names.

In this regard, the Diocese had requested that that Instruments of Government be amended to reflect the new parish names for the following schools:

- Our Lady of Lourdes – Our Lady of Lourdes and St Gregory the Great;
- SS Osmund and Andrew's, Breightmet – Blessed Dominic Barberi;
- St Teresa's, Bolton – Blessed Dominic Barberi;
- SS Peter and Paul's – St Edmund and St Patrick;
- St Bernard's – Christ the Redeemer;
- St Ethelbert's – Christ the Redeemer;
- St William of York – Christ the Redeemer;
- St Joseph's, Halliwell – St Cuthbert's;
- St Thomas of Canterbury – St Cuthbert's;
- St Brendan's – Corpus Christi;
- St Columba's – Corpus Christi; and
- St John the Evangelist – Corpus Christi

There were no changes to the constitution of the Boards and the changes were permissible in line with the Schools Governance Constitution Regulations.

Full details of the proposed changes were provided in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The revised Instruments of Government relating to Roman Catholic schools in Bolton on the basis detailed in Appendix 1 to the report now submitted; and**
- (ii) The authorisation of the sealing of the revised Instruments by the Legal Services Department.**

18. RECONSTITUTION OF TURTON SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval to reconstitute the Board of Governors at Turton High School.

The report stated that following a review of the skills and experience of the existing Governing Board members and, in light of the number of vacancies, the size of the Board should be reduced from 20 to 15 governors.

The reduction would be made in the co-opted governor category from 15 to 10. The Board felt that this reduction would be a logistically and collaboratively optimum number, whilst retaining the skills and effectiveness of existing board members.

The change was permissible in line with the Schools Governance Constitution Regulations. The current and proposed constitution was outlined in Appendix 1 to the report and the revised Instrument of Government was attached at Appendix 2.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED -

- (i) The revised Instrument of Government for Turton School Governing Body, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the report now submitted; and**
- (ii) The authorisation of the sealing of the revised Instrument by the Legal Services Department.**

19. RECONSTITUTION OF THE VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNING BOARD

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval to reconstitute the Board of Governors at The Valley Primary School.

The report stated that the Governing Body considered that its constitution was large in terms of similar primary schools and that there were currently three vacancies (2 x Co-opted and 1 x Parent Governor). Reconstitution would provide an opportunity to reduce the size of the Board from 18 to 16 governors by one Co-opted and one Parent Governor as this would streamline the Board and promote effective working.

The change was permissible in line with the Schools Governance Constitution Regulations. The current and proposed constitution was detailed at Appendix 1 to the report and the revised Instrument of Government was attached at Appendix 2.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED -

- (i) The revised Instrument of Government for The Valley School Governing Body, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the report now submitted; and**
- (ii) The authorisation of the sealing of the revised Instrument by the Legal Services Department.**

20. FEE REVIEW – SHORT BREAK CARERS - BOLTON SHARED CARE

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which outlined proposals to increase the fees paid to Bolton Shared Care short break foster carers, day carers and sessional carers following a recent review.

The report outlined the current fees paid to sessional carers hourly rate and advised that the amount was required to be increased in line with Government legislation and guidance in respect of the minimum living wage of £9.50.

In this regard, the report proposed that Real Living Wage amount of £9.90 be used and that payment should be back dated to 1st April, 2022.

The report stated that a review and increase in fees would reflect the rising costs of living and better reflect the value placed on the highly specialised care and support provided by carers to disabled children and young people in Bolton. In addition, an increase in fees would help to retain Local Authority foster carers making Bolton competitive with outside agencies.

It was noted that calculations based on the current level of activity on the scheme would indicate that the increase could be funded with no overall increase to the Bolton Shared Care Budget.

The Executive Member APPROVED –

- (i) The proposed increase in fees for all categories of Bolton Shared Care short break carers, backdated to 1st April, 2022, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted; and**
- (ii) The uplifting of future years (sessional carers) in line with the real living wage, as outlined in the report now submitted.**

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

The background papers and reports in relation to the following item were considered confidential as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

21. CASH COLLECTION AND CASH VALUABLES IN TRANSIT SERVICES

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval for the continuation of the Cash Collection and Cash and Valuables in Transit service with the current provider Security Plus Ltd from July 2022 to June 2024.

The report outlined the services currently provided as part of the Contract which had originally been tendered as part of the North West Consortium ESPO Purchasing Framework.

The existing Contract had commenced with Security Plus Ltd in 2018 and ended in July 2020. An option to extend the Contract for a further two years had been agreed.

Security Plus Ltd had continued to provide a reliable service throughout the last four years, particularly during the recent pandemic period and approval was sought to continue the current arrangement for a further two years up to June, 2024.

Full details of the services provided and associated costs were provided in the report. It was noted that there were currently 45 schools who continued to receive the service with the annual costs being fully recharged to schools or individual service areas.

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The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

The continuation of the Cash Collection and Cash and Valuables in Transit service with the current provider Security Plus Ltd, from July 2022 to June 2024, on the basis detailed in the report now submitted.