

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A record of decisions made by the Executive Member with responsibility for Children's Services on:-

MONDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2010

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

Councillor Adia	Executive Member for Children's Services
Councillor A. Walsh	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Mrs Swarbrick	Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Ms. M. Asquith	Director of Children's Services
Mr J. Livesey	Assistant Director
Ms. J. Thompson	Assistant Director
Mr. D. Grogan	Assistant Director
Mrs C. Binks	Group Accountant
Mr. A. Jennings	Democratic Services Manager

30. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS

The Director of the Chief Executive's Department submitted a report which contained monitoring information related to decisions taken at the Executive Member's previous meetings.

The Executive Member for Children's Services NOTED the progress on decisions previously taken.

31. UPDATE REPORT ON DAWES STREET SKATE PARK

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which provided an update on the Dawes Street Skate Park and the attempts to identify an alternative town centre location.

The Executive Member was reminded that the renewal of the Dawes Street Skate Park planning application was deferred at the Planning Committee to allow the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to consider a report on the current use of and future proposals for the town centre skate park facility. This included an update on current management/policing arrangements and a review of potential alternative sites.

The report provided details on the outcome of the discussions at the Scrutiny Committee and they acknowledged the work that had taken place to improve the management arrangements for the Dawes Street Skate Park and the efforts that had been made to identify an alternative town centre venue. They also acknowledged the ongoing use of the Dawes Street Skate Park and the need to possibly look at a more advanced level specification for any future alternative sites. However, they also put forward a number of recommendations:

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1. Requested action to be taken, including consultation with young people, to address the immediate issue of skate board use on the town hall square;
2. Supported the proposal to carry out further consultation with young people about the current and future skate board provision in Bolton town centre, including the possibility of alternative and/or advanced skate boarding facilities; and
3. To encourage the proposal for the Council to work with key partners and stake holders to explore a possible third sector partnership bid for funding to support the costs of construction, equipment etc.

The necessary consultation had been undertaken after the Scrutiny Committee and a project team established to examine

the issues raised and to recommend possible future action including the possibility of a third sector partnership bid for funding of an alternative venue.

The Executive Member NOTED the report and supported the actions proposed by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee in response to current and future town centre skate park boarding provision in Bolton and AGREED that a further report be submitted in November following consultations and the recommendations of the project board and that the Director contact the community safety team/police regarding their monitoring of skateboarding in Victoria Square.

32. PROCUREMENT OF NEW PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought the Executive Member's approval to authorise officers to negotiate the procurement and delivery of two new primary schools via the Local Education Partnership (LEP) with Balfour Beatty Education.

The Executive Member was reminded that as part of Phase 1 of Bolton's Primary Capital Programme it was agreed to expand both Clarendon and Church Road Primary Schools to full, two form entry schools each with a planned admission number of 60 intake places. To achieve this would involve the rebuild of Clarendon Primary School on land adjacent to the existing school and in respect of Church Road Primary School this would involve the rebuild of the school on a nearby site.

The report advised that, despite Bolton's BSF proposals not going ahead, the Local Education Partnership (LEP) which had been established with Balfour Beatty Education still remained in existence. Therefore, an opportunity existed to use the LEP to deliver the new school development in Bolton if this could be seen to offer real value for money savings and overall efficiency.

The report provided details in respect of the benefits of using the existing LEP in terms of cost, time and value for money.

In conclusion, it was stated that initial discussions had taken place with Balfour Beatty Education with regard to their ability to deliver the two new primary schools for Bolton, in a timely and cost effective way, and it was proposed that these discussions were now developed further in respect of the possible procurement of two new primary schools at Clarendon and Church Road Primary Schools.

With respect Church Road it was reported that the actual capital costs of £6.5m were subject to a Government announcement on capital allocations as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, although the Government were encouraging the use of a system build solution which could lead to a reduction in the construction cost without loss of the building's integrity.

The interim designs would be shared with the Children's PDG.

The Executive Member AUTHORISED –

- (i) The Director of Children's Services to negotiate the procurement and delivery of two new primary schools at Clarendon and Church Road Primary Schools via the Local Education Partnership with Balfour Beatty Education; and**
- (ii) The Director of Chief Executive's Department to complete the necessary legal formalities.**

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

The background papers and reports in relation to the following items were considered confidential as defined in paragraphs 1 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of each case, the public interest in their exemption outweighs the public interest in their disclosure.

33. ACCESS AND INCLUSION DIVISION RESTRUCTURE PROPOSALS

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which detailed proposals regarding the rationalisation of management vacancies within the Inclusion and Engagement Division of Children's Services.

The report outlined proposals to achieve the savings target identified in the report to the Executive on 28th June, 2010 of £227,000 in relation to the management responsibilities within the Inclusion and Engagement Division of the Children's Services Department.

Consequently, the Executive Member's approval was sought for the deletion of the following posts:-

- Assistant Director – Access and Inclusion – vacant post;
- SEN Strategy and Development Manager – vacant post as of 1/10/2010; and
- SEN Consultant – 0.5 FTE vacant post.

It was stated that the deletion of the above posts would realise a saving of £197,500.

The report would also be considered by the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity at her meeting on 29th September, 2010.

The Executive Member AGREED the proposals, as detailed in the report, for consultation purposes with staff and trade unions.

34. SEN INCLUSION ADVISORY SERVICE (SENIAS) AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS OUTREACH

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which outlined proposals to deliver support, advice and guidance to children with significant and complex learning difficulties in mainstream schools via an integrated multi agency support service based at Ladywood School to be managed by the leadership of that school.

The report explained how the above would be achieved and also set out the proposed structure which avoided any loss of jobs.

The report would form the basis of formal consultation with key stakeholders during the autumn term 2010 with a report back to the Executive Member in November 2010 on the outcome of the consultation.

The aim was to implement the proposal from January 2011

The report would also be considered by the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity at her meeting on 29th September, 2010.

The Executive Member APPROVED the recommendations as detailed in the report for consultation with staff of the SENIAS service and other relevant stakeholders.

35. INTEGRATION OF SPORT, HEALTH AND INCLUSION, PLAY AND YOUTH – BUILDINGS

The Executive Member NOTED that this item had been withdrawn.

36. PLAYING FOR SUCCESS

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which set out the findings of a review of the Playing for Success Team in response to the cessation of Government Grant from 31st March, 2011.

The Executive Member was advised that Playing for Success (PfS) was a national educational improvement initiative which facilitated partnerships between the DfE, Local Authority and Professional Sports Clubs. The main aim of the initiative was to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy and ICT for targeted primary and secondary school children by providing learning sessions outside normal school hours. However, the Government had now announced the cessation of the Playing for Success Grant as from 31st March, 2011 and, therefore, there was a need to set in place arrangements to close down the work of Playing for Success.

In view of the above, a review had been undertaken of the Playing for Success Team, details of which were provided in the report and a number of proposals were put forward.

All the proposals would be subject to consultation with staff, trades unions and other stakeholders.

The report would also be considered by the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity at her meeting on 29th September, 2010.

The Executive Member APPROVED the proposals as detailed in the report for consultation with staff, trades unions and other stakeholders.