

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 17TH AUGUST, 2020

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

Councillor Galloway	- Executive Cabinet Member – Children's Services
Councillor Donaghy	- Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor McGeown	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Sanders	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Hornby	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Wright	- Minor Opposition Spokesperson

Officers

Mr. P. Rankin	- Assistant Director Planning, Performance and Resources
Ms. L. Butcher	- Head of Finance
Mr. I. Walker	- Assistant Director Staying Safe
Ms. M. Maguinness	- Director of Strategic Commissioning NHS Bolton CCG/Bolton Council
Mrs. V. Ridge	- Democratic Services Manager

5. 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.

**6. PEOPLE DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL MONITORING
2020/2021 QUARTER ONE**

The Directors of People and Corporate Resources submitted a joint report which outlined the financial position in respect of the Department of People services portfolio for 2020/2021 as at Quarter One.

The Executive Cabinet Member was advised that the revenue outturn position for the Local Authority block was expected to be in line with budget following use of reserves of £5.96 million. With regard to revenue expenditure for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) this was to be £398,000 greater than the grant available.

In terms of capital expenditure, the original capital programme approved at Council in February, 2020 totalled £23.967 million and expenditure at the 30th June, 2020 was £914,000 against a revised programme of £17.948 million.

The report also advised that reserves were expected to be £8.893 million at the 31st March, 2021 and of this £8.198 million related to capital monies held for future work on schools and £1.704 million related to schools balances and other DSG reserves.

The Executive Cabinet Member NOTED -

- (i) The financial final outturn position of the portfolio as at 30th June, 2020;**
- (ii) The changes within the Capital Programme as detailed in the report; and AGREED –**
- (iii) That the Director of People be given delegated authority to call off on the framework(s) for the**

Capital Programme as detailed in Section 3 of the report now submitted.

7. GOVERNING BOARD RECONSTITUTION GROSVENOR NURSERY

The Director of People Services submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval of the proposed revised Instrument of Government for the Governing Body at Grosvenor Nursery School.

The Executive Cabinet Member was reminded that Governing Bodies who wished to reconstitute or vary their Instrument of Government must do so under the Schools Governance (Constitution) Regulations 2012. Furthermore, in reviewing their constitutions, governing bodies should review their effectiveness, including the extent of their size and structure being fit for purpose and their members having the necessary skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

With this in mind, the Governing Body of Grosvenor Nursery School at their meeting on 6th June, 2020 agreed that a request be made to revise their current Instrument of Government in order to increase the co-opted governor positions from 4 to 7 to allow the board to retain experienced governors that had the necessary skills and experience. This would increase the overall size of the governing body from 9 to 12 governors and it was stated that the change was permissible in line with the Schools Governance Constitution Regulations.

A copy of the current and proposed constitution was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the proposed changes to the revised Instrument of Government for the Governing Body at Grosvenor Nursery School as detailed in the report and AUTHORISED the sealing of the revised Instrument by the Council's Legal Services Team.

8. GOVERNING BODY RECONSTITUTION ST MATTHEW CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Director of People Services submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval of the proposed revised Instrument of Government for the Governing Body at St Matthew CE Primary School.

The Executive Cabinet Member was reminded that Governing Bodies who wished to reconstitute or vary their Instrument of Government must do so under the Schools Governance (Constitution) Regulations 2012. Furthermore, in reviewing their constitutions, governing bodies should review their effectiveness, including the extent of their size and structure being fit for purpose and their members having the necessary skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

With this in mind, the Governing Body of St Matthew CE Primary School at their meeting on 19th November, 2019 agreed that a request be made to revise their current Instrument of Government in order to decrease the number of parent governors from 4 to 2 and increase the co-opted governor capacity from 2 to 4. It was explained that the change was required as the Board found it increasingly difficult to recruit from the parent body and the co-opted positions allowed for a wider recruitment background. The overall size of the governing body board remained the same.

The Executive Cabinet Member was also advised that as the School was voluntary controlled, approval was required by the appropriate body, Manchester Church of England Diocese and the request was approved at a Schools Committee meeting held on 11th February, 2020. It was also stated that the change was permissible in line with the Schools Governance Constitution Regulations.

A copy of the current and proposed constitution was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the proposed changes to the revised Instrument of Government for the Governing Body at St Matthew CE Primary School as detailed in the report and AUTHORISED the sealing of the revised Instrument by the Council's Legal Services Team.

9. GOVERNING BODY RECONSTITUTION BLACKSHAW PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Director of People Services submitted a report which sought the Executive Cabinet Member's approval of the proposed revised Instrument of Government for the Governing Body at Blackshaw Primary School.

The Executive Cabinet Member was reminded that Governing Bodies who wished to reconstitute or vary their Instrument of Government must do so under the Schools Governance (Constitution) Regulations 2012. Furthermore, in reviewing their constitutions, governing bodies should review their effectiveness, including the extent of their size and structure being fit for purpose and their members having the necessary skills required to contribute to the effective governance and success of the school.

With this in mind, the Governing Body of Blackshaw Primary School at their meeting on 12th March, 2020 agreed that a request be made to revise their current Instrument of Government in order to decrease the co-opted governor positions from 6 to 4 to allow the Board to remove longstanding vacancies. The Board had reviewed their own effectiveness through regular skills audits and therefore felt that they had the necessary skills and experience to remain effective. This would decrease the overall size of the governing body from 12 to 10 governors and it was stated that the change was permissible in line with the Schools Governance Constitution Regulations.

A copy of the current and proposed constitution was detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED the proposed changes to the revised Instrument of Government for the Governing Body at Blackshaw Primary School as detailed in the report and AUTHORISED the sealing of the revised Instrument by the Council's Legal Services Team.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

The background papers and report 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.

10. COMMISSIONING OPTIONS APPRAISAL FOR THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES – INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CHILD PROTECTION

The Director of People Services submitted a report which provided an update on the current Independent Advocacy for Looked After Children (LAC) and Child Protection (CP) Service and also presented commissioning options for consideration regarding the future delivery of the service.

The Executive Cabinet Member APPROVED –

- (i) The retendering of the Independent Advocacy for Children Looked After and Child Protection as detailed in the report; AGREED –**
- (ii) To explore an all age advocacy approach;**
- (iii) To delegate permission to the Director of People to approve the contract award; and AUTHORISED –**
- (iv) The Borough Solicitor to carry out all the necessary legal formalities.**

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