

## **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

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

**MONDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2009**

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

Councillor Adia	Executive Member for Children's Services
Councillor Ashcroft	Major Opposition Spokesperson
Councillor Mrs Ronson	Minor Opposition Spokesperson(as deputy for Councillor Mrs Swarbrick)
Ms. M. Asquith	Director of Children's Services
Mrs J. Thompson	Assistant Director, Positive Contribution
Mr J. Daly	Assistant Director, Staying Safe
Mr A. Gardner	Chief Accountant
Ms D. Burdon	Study Support Co-ordinator
Mr J. Ashworth	Governor Support Lead Officer
Mrs K. Smith	Senior Performance and Improvement Officer

### **27. MONITORING OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS**

The Director of 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.**

## **28. INSPIRING TONGE WITH THE HAULGH: DESIGN PHASE**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which provided an update on the progress of Bolton's Inspiring Communities Campaign and also sought the Executive Member's approval to the recruitment of a number of posts. The Executive Member was advised that Tonge with the Haulgh had been chosen as one of fifteen projects from deprived neighbourhoods across England to share in a £10 million pot which equated to £450,000 over two years. It was stated that the Inspiring Communities initiative was about getting people in communities working together to boost the aspirations and achievements of their young people in order to raise levels of educational attainment.

The report provided details in relation to the programme and it was advised that it was currently at the design phase which would last until October, 2009 by which time a detailed delivery plan needed to be produced. The Delivery Phase would then commence in November, 2009 and last until Spring, 2011.

The Executive Member was also informed the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) had agreed for the recruitment of a Project Co-ordinator post at grade 9 and this post would sit within the Study Support team. It was also intended to recruit two Key Stage 3 Learning Mentor posts at grade 6 to work directly with targeted young people in secondary schools, however, the CLG had advised that the advertisement of these posts should be delayed until the project plan had been signed off in October, 2009.

**The Executive Member NOTED the progress of Bolton's Inspiring Communities Campaign and AGREED to the advertisement of the posts as detailed in the report.**

## **29. EARLY YEARS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which requested the Executive Member's approval to remodel the Early Years Quality Improvement (EYQI) to provide increased challenge and support for leadership and management of

Private, Voluntary and Independent sector settings and achievement of the Early Years Outcomes duty.

The report advised that a number of quality improvement priorities had been identified for 2009/11 and an Early Years Quality Improvement draft strategy had been developed by the Early Years Strategic Partnership. This was shared through a consultation with all relevant stakeholders during July, 2009. Responses had been positive and the strategy had been amended accordingly.

The report advised that EYQI team would include sufficient graduates with the Early Years Professional Status in order to reflect the DCSF's requirements for every early years setting to be led by a graduate leader with EYPS or QTS by 2015.

The report advised that the costs for the current team and redesigned team had been identified for a four year period and represented a cost saving in each year.

The Executive Member was advised that this proposed change in structure would have a positive impact on some of the most vulnerable children in Bolton and would assist in helping to narrow the gap between the most prosperous and deprived communities in Bolton.

#### **The Executive Member AGREED –**

**(i) To the five new posts of consultant Early Years Professionals (EYP) to mirror the work of the EYPS (QTS) Consultants in the private, voluntary and independent sector, subject to the approval of the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity;**

**(ii) To the creation of one consultant EYP with lead responsibility for inclusion subject to the approval of the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity;**

**(iii) To disestablish eight Quality and Inclusion team posts, including one vacant post and redeploy five Quality and Inclusion officers into vacant posts within Children's Centres. In addition ,two Quality and Inclusion Officer posts to be retained on the Early Start establishment to support the sufficient duty and Children's Centres day care provision subject to the approval of the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity; and**

**(iv) The Draft Quality Improvement Strategy, subject to the Executive Member for Human Resources, Organisational Development and Diversity.**

### **30. CASTLE HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL – REVISED INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval for a revised instrument of government for Castle Hill Primary School to decrease the size of the Governing Body from 15 to 12 governors.

The report advised that due to it being increasingly difficult to recruit and sustain good, committed Governors , the Governing Body had requested that the current instrument of government be revised as follows:-

- 4 parent governors;
- 2 Local Authority governors;
- 3 staff governors; and
- 3 community governors.

The reduction would be achieved by reducing the number of existing Local Authority, community and parent governors.

**The Executive Member APPROVED –**

**The revised instrument of government for Castle Hill Primary School as detailed above; and AUTHORISED –**

**The sealing of the revised instrument by the Council's Legal Services Unit to come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2009.**

**31. CHORLEY NEW ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL –  
REVISED INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval for a revised instrument of government for Chorley New Road Primary School to decrease the size of the Governing Body from 18 to 15 governors.

The report advised that the reason for the review was because they wanted to reduce the current structure leading to a smaller, more focused Governing Body as follows:-

- 5 parent governors;
- 3 Local Authority governors;
- 3 staff governors; and
- 4 community governors.

The reduction would be achieved by reducing the number of existing Local Authority, staff and parent governors.

**The Executive Member APPROVED –**

**The revised instrument of government for Chorley New Road Primary School as detailed above; and AUTHORISED –**

**The sealing of the revised instrument by the Council's Legal Services Unit to come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2009.**

**32. JOHNSON FOLD PRIMARY SCHOOL – REVISED  
INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval for a revised instrument of government for Johnson Fold Primary School to decrease the size of the Governing Body from 14 to 12 governors.

The report advised that due to it being increasingly difficult to recruit and sustain good, committed Governors, it was felt that a reduction in the number of governor positions would lead to a smaller, more focused Governing Body as follows:-

- 4 parent governors;
- 2 Local Authority governors;
- 3 staff governors; and
- 3 community governors.

The reduction would be achieved by reducing the number of existing Local Authority and parent governors.

**The Executive Member APPROVED –**

**The revised instrument of government for Johnson Fold Primary School as detailed above; and AUTHORISED –**

**The sealing of the revised instrument by the Council's Legal Services Unit to come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2009.**

### **33. SS SIMON AND JUDE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL – REVISED INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought approval for a revised instrument of government for SS Simon and Jude CE Primary School to decrease the size of the Governing Body from 17 to 15 governors.

The report advised that due to it being increasingly difficult to recruit and sustain good, committed Governors, especially within the foundation PCC, the following revisions were proposed:-

- 5 parent governors;
- 2 Local Authority governors;
- 3 staff governors;
- 2 community governors; and
- 3 foundation governors.

The reduction would be achieved by reducing the number of existing parent and foundation PCC governors.

**The Executive Member APPROVED –**

**The revised instrument of government for SS Simon and Jude CE Primary School as detailed above; and  
AUTHORISED –**

**The sealing of the revised instrument by the Council's Legal Services Unit to come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2009.**

**34. STRUCTURAL SUPPORT AND REPAIRS TO ROOF  
GABLES AT CLARENDON PRIMARY SCHOOL – USE  
OF EMERGENCY POWERS**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which reminded the Executive Member of the use of the emergency powers procedure to allow the Authority to let a contract to a single contractor to undertake structural support and repairs to the roof gables at Clarendon Primary School.

It was explained that the emergency powers procedure had been used in order to minimise any delays in starting the works in a safe and secure manner along with minimising the risk to children and staff.

**The Executive Member NOTED the action taken under the emergency powers procedure.**

**35. EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS – YOUTH  
CENTRE BUILD – LEVERHULME COMMUNITY CLUB**

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which sought the Executive Member's approval to exempt Standing Orders in relation to contracts for the proposed new Youth Centre build onto Leverhulme Community Club.

The Executive Member was advised that funding had been identified through the Youth Opportunity Fund to provide a new build Pod on the existing Leverhulme Community Club to

house a youth facility. The proposed youth centre would be an extension to the Community Club and would replace the current 'Hut' building with the cost being projected at approximately £160,000.

Based on work which had been previously undertaken in relation to other works at the club, an exemption to Standing Orders was sought to allow the use of previous construction and lead consultancy services to carry out the project.

It was stated that value for money could be demonstrated as the negotiated cost would be based on schedule of rates from the previous contract, adjusted by inflation which had been market tested by tender.

**The Executive Member APPROVED an exemption from Standing Orders and AUTHORISED negotiated procedures to procure the services of:-**

**(i) James and Hague Limited to act as lead consultant for the Youth Centre, Leverhulme Community Club new build extension project; and**

**(ii) Warden Construction Limited to act as main contractor for the above project.**

### **36. EXEMPTION FROM STANDING ORDERS – YOUNG APPRENTICESHIPS SCHEME**

A joint report of the Directors of Children's Services and Corporate Resources was submitted which sought the Executive Member's approval to exempt Standing Orders in relation to contracts for the provision of the Young Apprenticeships Programme.

The Executive Member was advised that, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010, the Learning Skills Council (LSC) was to cease existence and the responsibility for the commissioning of services which related to education provision for 16 to 19 year olds would transfer to the Local Authority. However, in advance of the main transfer of responsibilities at that date, the responsibility in relation to the Young Apprenticeship

Programme had transferred with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2009.

The Young Apprenticeship Programme related to the provision of apprenticeship schemes by local organisations within Bolton and totalled annual costs in the region of £125,000. This had been running as a LSC Programme since 2003. Within Bolton, four organisations had previously tendered for the provision of these schemes to the LSC, and it was proposed that for schemes commencing in September, 2009, Bolton Council continued to operate schemes with the existing providers.

The Executive Member was informed that whilst the contract costs for the majority of providers were less than the Authorities threshold for requiring a tendering exercise to be conducted, one provider, Training For Today, offered three types of course for upto 41 students, which for the two year period would amount to a maximum cost of £129,400. However, there had been insufficient time to conduct a tendering exercise and, therefore, approval was sought for an exemption from Standing Orders in this instance.

In terms of the future, it was envisaged that programmes would continue at the current level in future years and, therefore, for programmes commencing in September, 2010, a tendering exercise would be conducted in early 2010 to ensure that value for money was secured in the provision of this programme.

**The Executive Member APPROVED the exemption from Standing Orders as detailed in the report.**

