

# **CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD**

12 June 2007

The meeting commenced at 10.00am at The Avondale Centre, Hartlepool

**Present:**

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Adrienne Simcock, Director of Children's Services  
Alan Kell, Project Manager  
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer  
Rachel Smith, Principal Project Officer (Strategy and Procurement)  
Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

### **3. 2007/08 Capital Works Programme – Revised Access Programme** - *Director of Children's Services*

**Type of decision**

Non-key

**Purpose of report**

To seek approval to the revised Access Programme of capital works.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

On 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007 a report outlining the overall Capital Works Programme for Children's Services for 2007/08 was approved by the Portfolio Holder. This report provided details of the funding available and the schemes proposed under the following financial headings:

- Modernisation
- Access
- Revenue Contribution towards Capital Outlay

The original Access programme allowed for £167,000 worth of expenditure on six separate initiatives. A revised programme was now proposed covering nine schemes at a similar level of expenditure. The revised programme had been compiled on the basis of those areas/sections of school buildings which were showing clear signs of failure or need and

therefore presented a greater level of risk. Details of the revised programme were attached as an appendix to the report.

**Decision**

That the revised Capital Works Programme for Access Initiatives 2007/08 be approved.

**4. To approve and make an Instrument of Government -  
*Director of Children's Services***

**Type of decision**

Non-Key

**Purpose of report**

To request the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services to approve and make an Instrument of Government for a foundation secondary school in order to establish a new constitutional model for the governing body.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

In accordance with the school Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulation 2003, the Governing Body of Manor College of Technology agreed at a meeting of the Governing Body held in April 2007 to a variation of the Instrument of Government in relation to their new Foundation status. The proportion of places on the Governing Body which must be reserved for different categories of governors for Foundation Schools was amended to increase the number of community governors, decrease the number of Local Authority governors and introduce partnership governors.

**Decision**

That the Instrument of Government be approved,

**5. Engagement of Technical Advisers for the Building  
Schools for the Future (BSF) Programme - *Director of  
Children's Services***

**Type of decision**

Non-Key

**Purpose of report**

To seek approval to engage Technical Advisers for the Building School for the Future (BSF) Programme.

### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

Hartlepool Borough Council will join the national BSF programme as a "Wave 5" authority in Autumn 2007. As part of this the Council must produce a "Strategy for Change" (SFC) which will set out how the BSF funding will be used to transform learning in Hartlepool by reviewing the current situation with regard to the suitability and condition of existing school buildings and considering the potential scope of building work to be undertaken at each individual school. In order to ensure the successful completion of this Strategy it will be necessary to engage Technical Advisors to assist in this role

Following discussions it had been agreed that the level of technical advice and experience required was not available within the Council. The Children's Services Department had therefore begun a tendering process to appoint external Technical Advisors. Two companies had responded and it was proposed that they be invited to interview on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007. The Principal Project Officer advised that the reason for this short deadline was to ensure that the Technical Advisors were able to visit each of the secondary schools before the end of the Summer term and provide provisional information on the potential scope of building work in September 2007 when the "Wave 5" authorities would launch. Furthermore if Technical Advisors were not engaged and the SFC not approved Hartlepool would not receive BSF investment.

Funding for the engagement of Technical Advisors would be available through the BSF funding reserve and their engagement would be procured under a formal contract to be drawn up with the support of the Chief Solicitor.

### **Decision**

That the engagement of Technical Advisers for the Building School for the Future (BSF) Programme be approved.

## **6. School Term and Holiday Dates: School Year 2008/09 - Director of Children's Services**

### **Type of decision**

Non-Key

### **Purpose of report**

To seek the agreement of the Portfolio Holder to the pattern of school term and holiday dates for the school year 2008/2009 for community and controlled schools in Hartlepool.

To seek the agreement of the Portfolio Holder in recommending those

dates to the governing bodies of aided schools in Hartlepool.

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The report detailed the current state of play nationally, regionally and locally on the pattern of the school year. Information was provided on the consultation that had taken place and the general consensus from local authorities in the region to adopt the regional model although slight variations might occur. A provisional School calendar for 2008/09 was attached as an appendix to the report.

**Decision**

- i. That the schedule of term and holiday dates for 2008/09 for 2008/09 for community and controlled schools in Hartlepool be approved.
- ii. That the schedule of term and holiday dates for 2008/09 be recommended to the governing bodies of aided schools in Hartlepool.

**J A BROWN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

**PUBLICATION DATE: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007**