

CHILDREN'S SERVICES PORTFOLIO DECISION RECORD

2 February 2010

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Cath Hill (Children's Services Portfolio Holder)

Officers: Sue Johnson, Assistant Director - Planning & Service Integration
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer
Alan Kell, Asset Manager
Sarah Bird, Democratic Services Officer

47. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies – Governor Support Officer

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To request the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services consideration and approval of the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative Governors to serve on school governing bodies where vacancies currently exist and to those where terms of office have expired or about to expire.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

The report summarised the process for inviting applications for representative governors and the criteria for their selection. A schedule setting out details of vacancies together with applications received in respect of the vacancies had been considered at the General Purposes Committee held on 11 December 2009 and these were detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

The Portfolio Holder queried whether an application form had been received regarding the vacancy at Grange School and was informed

that there was a form on file in the department.

In relation to a forthcoming appointment at Owton Manor Primary School the Portfolio Holder asked that discussion take place with the Chair of the Governing Body to elicit whether the Local Authority Governor could become a Community Governor thus enabling an interested Elected Member to take a place on the Governing Body.

The Portfolio Holder was informed that a number of other vacancies were due to be considered later that week by the General Purposes Committee.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved recommendations of the General Purposes Committee in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school Governing Bodies. A schedule outlining recommendations of the General Purposes Committee was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

48. Update of Schools Capital Works Programme 2009/10 – Asset Manager

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To update the Portfolio Holder in respect of revised costings relating to the Schools Capital Works Programme for 2009/10 and to confirm the inclusion of a number of new schemes into the programme

Issues for consideration by the Portfolio Holder

The report updated the Portfolio Holder on changes to the 2009/10 programme regarding new initiatives and how they would be funded.

Appendix 1 to the report charted the progress of individual schemes from the original approved programme. A number of variations to the original schemes were also outlined in the report. More funding was now available to ensure that the enhanced programme could go ahead and the report detailed the sources. Any funding earmarked for these schemes could be carried forward into the next financial year if the schemes were not complete.

A number of variations were outlined to the Portfolio Holder including:-

- Brougham – heating system

- Fens – roof work
- Rift House – heating
- Stranton – windows
- Eldon Grove – additional space
- St Hild's – Space to Learn
- Brierton – remodelling
- Brinkburn – pool

The Portfolio Holder asked whether sponsorship opportunities for the Space to Learn Project had been progressed and was informed that these were in relation to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and furniture rather than actual building work.

There were also a number of new projects put forward for the 2009/10 programme:-

Holy Trinity – improvements to outdoor area
Lynnfield – improvements to teaching space
Rift House – internal re-organisation
Springwell – covered linkway

The revised works programme meant that costs were now projected to be £4,185,711 which was a significant increase on the estimates in the initial report. A breakdown of the areas where this funding had been obtained was outlined in the report. The Portfolio Holder expressed satisfaction with the current arrangements whereby schools pooled capital for repairs to buildings as this meant that children were not being educated in inadequate badly ventilated classrooms. It was clarified that those schools which had been identified for rebuilding under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme would only have urgent repairs made to them. However, as it was unclear when the Primary Capital Programme funding would be released, primary schools were still being maintained as necessary.

It was noted that part of the contingency funding would be used to rectify problems with the caretaker's bungalow at Stranton School.

Decision

The Portfolio Holder approved the revised Schools Capital Works Programme for 2009/10 as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

49. Local Authority – Access to Information

Under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of the

Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) order 2006

Minute 50 – Procurement of Specialist Outdoor Play Equipment for Exmoor Grove Para 3 information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person.

50. Procurement of Specialist Outdoor Play Equipment for Exmoor Grove – *Assistant Director - Planning & Service Integration*

Type of Decision

Non key.

Purpose of Report

To seek retrospective approval for the procurement of specialist outdoor play equipment for Exmoor Grove short break care centre.

To request a direction for an exception to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in respect of this procurement.

Issues for Consideration by Portfolio Holder

These were detailed in the exempt section of the minutes.

Decision

This was outlined in the exempt section of the minutes.

The meeting concluded at 10.35 am.

P J DEVLIN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

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