

MEETING OF THE FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF BOLTON IMPACT TRUST

**MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM
FRIDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 12.00 PM**

Present: K Davies (KD) – Chair of Trustees, T Grimshaw (TG) and Paul Hodgkinson (PH) - Executive Principal

In Attendance: D Smith (DS) - Finance Director and E Stoddard (ES) – Clerk to the Trust

TONY GRIMSHAW IN THE CHAIR

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Trustees were welcomed to the meeting. No apologies for absence had been received; all Trustees were present.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of pecuniary interest were made.

3. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

One item of Any Other Business was notified regarding discussions with a third-party external partner.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

A copy of the minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 11 June 2021 had been circulated with the agenda papers and had been approved at the summer term Trust meeting.

Financial Monitoring Report Summer Term 2020/21 (Minute Number 5)

TG asked if the outdoor play facilities at the Forwards Centre had now been completed. DS stated that the play facilities had now been completed, at a cost of £12,000, and the Academy was very pleased with the work. DS shared pictures of the new facilities on screen.

5. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT 2021-22

Financial Monitoring – Autumn Term 2021-22

DS reported that Trustees had approved the Trust's Budget for the 2021/22 financial year at its meeting on the 13 July 2021. The budget that was set reflected that the Trust would generate a revenue surplus of £345,000 in the year. DS directed Trustees to Table One, which set out the anticipated position for the year. This showed that the Trust was currently anticipating an outturn surplus totalling £353,000, which was a favourable variance of £8,000 from the budget.

DS highlighted the significant variances for each Academy. DS advised that the Local Authority (LA) had commissioned less pupils in September and October at the Forwards Centre than originally budgeted. However, the financial consequences of this reduction had been offset by four pupils being placed by schools within the borough and one placed by Bury LA.

Trustees were informed that Park School had an increased number of traded pupils from both schools and other Local Authorities. There were less commissioned pupils from Bolton Council within the on-site facilities but there had been increased hospital provision at Park School this term.

In the first half of the autumn term, the Local Authority had commissioned an average of 13 part time pupils against a capacity of 24 pupils at Youth Challenge Primary. This has resulted in reduced income of £15,000 for the term.

Trustees were informed that there were more KS3 pupils coming into Youth Challenge Secondary, and these pupils had additional behavioural challenges due to the impact of school closures. Historically, YC Secondary had more KS4 pupils so additional resources were now needed to support the younger pupils. The provision had almost reached the 67 Bolton LA commissioned places; Trustees were advised that once this number was reached the Trust had more flexibility i.e. it could be agreed that just KS4 pupils are accommodated. PH stated that the Trust could not afford to keep absorbing the additional costs and he was in negotiation with the LA about this. A Trustee asked if the Academy received additional funding for the KS3 children with additional behavioural challenges. DS advised that the Trust received a flat rate for pupils even though most had significant needs. Some of these pupils were more challenging than those at Lever Park so this presented a huge challenge in keeping other pupils and staff safe. A Trustee referred to the 67 commissioned places and asked if there was provision available elsewhere for Bolton children above this number. PH replied that the LA used the DPS system so had other providers that they could approach.

DS reported that Lever Park had a broadly balanced budget. This provision received more income than the other academies but there was a considerable amount of spend needed on resources.

Capital Resources

DS reported that there were regular meetings taking place regarding the boiler works at Lever Park and discussions were also taking place regarding amending the specification to include air conditioning. The provision was extremely hot in summer, and this had a noticeable impact on behaviour. Trustees agreed that if this could be included in the works, this would save money in the long term and provided value for money. DS advised that another bid would be submitted for the roof at Lever Park in December. KD stated that at some point the Trust would need to consider alternative energy supplies rather than gas and this needed to be a priority within the Business Strategy. KD suggested that an Energy Efficiency Audit be undertaken to enable the Trust to prepare a long-term plan. TG concurred that this was a sensible approach and added that he was confident that AA Projects would source items for Lever Park that were energy efficient.

Agreed: That consideration be given to undertaking an Energy Efficiency Audit

Cashflow

DS advised that an agreement had been made with the ESFA to pay off the loan of £250,000 in instalments of £50,000 per month commencing January 2022. The debt would be fully repaid by May 2022. TG asked if the monthly amount was achievable for cashflow purposes. DS advised that the agreed repayment would maintain an appropriate level of cash balance for the Trust and enable it to meet its financial commitments. PH added that he felt repaying the loan would be beneficial to the future growth of the Trust and this would strengthen the Trust's Business Strategy moving forward.

Agreed: To receive and note the Autumn Term Financial Monitoring Report 2021-22

6. DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Agreed: That the next meeting dates be as follows:

Friday 4 March 2022 at 12 pm

Friday 10 June 2022 at 12 pm

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Third-Party External Partner

The Executive Principal reported that, following on from the discussions at the Trust meeting regarding a third-party external partner, he had spoken with the CEO to discuss ideas further. PH stated that the Regional Skills Commissioner (RSC) and the ESFA had been very supportive of the discussions so far.

PH stated that he had a meeting scheduled with the Chief Finance Officer next week and asked Trustees to for approval to move forwards with this. PH stated that he would feedback to Trustees via the Business Development Group.

Agreed: That PH proceed to meet with the Chief Finance Officer next week and feedback be provided to Trustees via the Business Development Group.

One more item of Any Other Business was raised at this point.

7.2 Email to Local Authority regarding Lever Park

TG referred to an email sent yesterday by the Executive Principal to G Whitehead, LA Assistant Director, regarding Lever Park and asked what had prompted the email. PH explained that the LA had asked for the Lever Park number to be increased from 69 to 78. PH stated that the email was in response to the request to explain that Bolton were currently at their full capacity and it would not be financially viable to accept additional students at the Bolton rate. TG stated that it was his understanding that the LA wanted to reduce their commissioned numbers across all provisions. PH explained that this did not include Lever Park as the demand there continued to be very high. Trustees discussed the matter and agreed that both the ESFA and DfE expected the Trust to continue with a multi-client model as part of their

Business Strategy. KD stated that a supplementary agreement for additional numbers could potentially be agreed with Bolton, but this would need to be at an increased price to be a viable option for the Trust.

PH reported that he had a meeting with Senior Officers at the LA next week and would feedback to Trustees.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

Agreed: That none of the items of discussion at this meeting be designated as confidential in accordance with the Academy's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

With no further business the meeting closed at 12.45 pm.

SUMMATIVE ACTIONS

Minute Number	Responsible	Action
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Signed as a correct record: _____

Date: _____

(Chair of Finance & Resources Committee)