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Executive Board Sub Committee

Thursday, 7 February 2008 10.00 a.m. Marketing Suite, Municipal Building



Chief Executive

ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

PART 1

Item Page No

- 1. MINUTES
- 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members) to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.

- 3. CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO
 - (A) SPENDING AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2007

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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 7th February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Financial Services

SUBJECT: Spending as at 31st December 2007

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report the Council's overall revenue and capital spending position as at 31st December 2007.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) reserves are established as set out in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Revenue Spending

- 3.1 Appendix 1 presents a summary of spending against the revenue budget for each Department, up to 31st December 2007. In overall terms, revenue expenditure is below the budget profile. The budget profile is only a guide to eventual spending and spending is historically higher in the latter part of the financial year. In addition the financial implications of the recently announced Pay and Grading review will only come through towards year-end.
- 3.2 Expenditure on Foster Care, Childrens Agency Placements and Boarded Out Allowances is lower than anticipated, the latter two being through fewer out-of-Borough placements. However, these are heavily demand led budgets and the position may change very quickly.
- 3.3 There have been significant staffing vacancies during the year across a number of Departments. Staffing costs within Schools Meals are above budget profile largely due to higher than expected levels of sickness
- 3.4 Income is currently below budget profile in respect of the Stadium, School Meals, Market rents and Industrial Estate rents. However, additional income has been generated within the Children & Young People Directorate from the provision of extra services to schools.

- 3.5 Spending on Community Care is below budget profile, however, spending on the Adults with Learning Difficulties pooled budget is currently higher than expected. Steps have been taken to ensure that spending will be contained within the Directorate budget by year-end.
- 3.6 Investment returns are currently better than expected despite the volatility in the financial markets. As a result investment income is expected to exceed the budget target by year-end.
- 3.7 Following a review of the balance sheet the capital financing requirement has been amended, resulting in a reduction of the minimum revenue provision.
- 3.8 Overall spending is expected to be below budget by year-end. Mainly due to the factors set out in paragraphs 3.6 and 3.7. Therefore the 2008/09 budget proposals currently being considered by the Council include making provision within the 2007/08 final accounts for items of time limited expenditure relating to Building Schools for the Future and the Mersey Gateway.
- 3.9 Work is on-going to assess the financial implications of potential equal pay claims. Similarly other key reserves such as the Insurance Reserve will be reviewed at year-end to ensure their adequacy.
- 3.10 It is important that budget managers continue to closely monitor and control spending through to the end of the financial year.

Capital Spending

- 3.11 A summary of capital spending is shown in Appendix 2. Capital spending to 31st December 2007 totalled £16.9m, which is 83% of the planned spending of £20.3m at this stage. However, this only represents 46% the total capital programme of £36.6m.
- 3.12 Although historically capital expenditure is significantly higher in the latter part of the financial year, it is important that project managers maintain pressure to keep projects and spending on schedule and in particular to ensure that all external funding is maximised.

4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The Council must have internal controls and processes in place to ensure that spending remains in line with budget.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 None.
- 8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1072
- 8.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

APPENDIX 1
Revenue Expenditure to 31st December 2007

	Annual Budget	Budget To Date	Actual Spend	Variance To Date	Actual Including Committed
	£'000	£'000	£,000	£'000	£'000
Specialist Services Business Planning & Resources Universal & Learning Services Community Services Children and Young People Directorate	12,055	7,640	7,158	482	7,911
	11,059	1,584	1,413	171	1,480
	2,388	955	863	92	883
	1,162	280	-108	388	-94
	26,664	10,459	9,326	1,133	10,180
Environmental Health & Regulatory Highways & Transportation Major Projects Regeneration Stadium, Catering & Cleaning Environment Directorate	10,491	8,669	8,568	101	8,959
	13,868	5,394	4,682	712	5,162
	395	183	165	18	267
	1,257	679	636	43	662
	1,707	1,111	1,639	(528)	1,639
	27,718	16,036	15,690	346	16,689
Legal, HR & Organisation Development Policy & Performance Exchequer & Customer Services Financial Services ICT Services Property Services Financial Arrangements Corporate and Policy Directorate	1,220	3,073	3,067	6	3,266
	3,840	1,623	1,564	59	1,653
	5,393	6,463	6,449	14	6,473
	0	1,066	991	75	1,007
	48	2,111	1,839	272	2,462
	767	3,918	4,200	(282)	4,247
	-10,996	1,203	856	347	916
	272	19,457	18,966	491	20,024
Culture & Leisure Services Adult Services Health & Partnerships Older People Health and Community Directorate	13,286	4,916	4,682	234	4,682
	12,675	6,539	7,483	(944)	7,880
	2,484	1,871	1,427	444	1,624
	12,292	5,902	5,339	563	5,460
	40,737	19,228	18,931	297	19,646
	95,391	65,180	62,913	2,267	66,539

APPENDIX 2

Capital Expenditure to 31st December 2007

	Capital Allocation	Allocation Profile To Date	Actual Expenditure	Total Remaining Allocation
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Children & Young People Directorate Universal & Learning Services Specialist Services	4,629	2,197	1,655	2,974
	22	0	0	22
Environment Directorate Environmental & Regulatory Highways & Transportation Major Projects Stadium	2,516	1,892	1,757	759
	9,024	5,971	5,620	3,404
	10,442	4,377	3,335	7,107
	130	127	121	9
Health & Community Directorate Culture & Leisure Health and Partnerships Older People Adult Services	501	186	157	344
	3,820	2,536	1,726	2,094
	255	145	142	113
	249	131	134	115
Corporate & Policy Directorate Policy & Performance ICT Services Property Services	120	80	56	64
	1,552	732	523	1,029
	3,359	1,961	1,688	1,671
	36,619	20,335	16,914	19,705

REPORT: Executive Board Sub-Committee

DATE: 7 February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Environment

SUBJECT: Enhancement of Variable Message Signs System

WARDS: Borough Wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report requests the Sub-Committee's agreement to the award of a contract for the supply, installation and commissioning of Comet Urban Traffic Management Control (UTMC) database software for the Variable Message Signs System within the Borough. The report identifies significant benefits arising from operating systems that are compatible with neighbouring authorities. Procurement is therefore proposed to be restricted to one supplier and the waiving of standing orders is sought.

2. RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) That Procurement Standing Orders 3.1 to 3.7 be waived to obtain equipment that is the same as neighbouring authorities to allow future joint use.
- 2) That the quote from Siemens Traffic Controls for the supply, installation and commissioning of Comet UTMC database software for £59,326.00 be accepted.
- 3) That the Authority agrees to pursue joint working with the Merseyside Authorities, Warrington BC and Highways Agency for joint use of each others Variable Message signs, using reciprocal arrangements

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 16 November 2006 Executive Board Sub-Committee approved a report for the provision of Variable Message Signs (VMS) on the approaches to the Silver Jubilee Bridge, to provide information on traffic conditions and proposed works. Six signs have now been installed and are operational, and we are generally receiving good feedback regarding the information supplied. A further two signs are to be installed within the next few weeks.
- 3.2 The signs are currently controlled via a computer in Rutland House and arrangements have been made for the signs to be set outside of office hours by the staff within the 24/7 Team at the Contact Centre. The Contact Centre staff have a library of pre-determined legends, which they can set when requested by the Police or the Highways On Call staff. For planned events the system is programmed in advance to switch the signs on/off. The system is continuing to be developed to improve the information provided to the travelling public.

- 3.3 However on Thursday 18 January 2007, the Silver Jubilee Bridge was closed due to a high-sided vehicle being blown over in the high winds. Following the incident, a review of the procedures was carried out and following discussions with other bridge operators (mainly in Scotland) and the Police, thresholds for the staged closure of the bridge, initially to high-sided vehicles and ultimately a total closure are being drafted to produce agreed protocols with Cheshire Police. To enable these decisions to be made based upon actual wind speeds on the bridge an anemometer (wind speed measuring instrument) has been ordered and should be installed shortly.
- 3.4 During the development of the protocols it was felt the best way forward was to automate the system so that the messages to warn of high winds and closure of the bridge to high-sided vehicles are displayed automatically when predetermined wind speeds are reached. It was always envisaged when the system was proposed that there would be some automation, to allow the signs to be activated by the system when predetermined scenarios occur. To facilitate this automation there is a need to install some additional equipment and software, which links the different systems together, this software is called a Common Database. This software will also be used to link our system to those of our neighbouring authorities and the Highways Agency's systems, who will reciprocate with similar sharing arrangements for their signs
- 3.5 A number of options are available to provide this common database, however as most of our systems (i.e. variable message signs, journey time monitoring system (JTMS), remote monitoring of traffic signals (RMS)) have been supplied by Siemens Traffic Controls a price has been obtained from them for the supply, installation and commissioning of a Comet UTMC common database for £59,326.00. This price includes for linking to the anemometer and training the relevant staff. This is compatible with the system used by our neighbouring authorities and the Highways Agency and hence enables the proposed sharing of facilities whilst avoiding expenditure for all.
- 3.6 The common database will eventually link with the JTMS to be able to supply journey time data for journeys across the Silver Jubilee Bridge. The JTMS is to be linked with the Cheshire Police system to provide additional data on traffic flows within the Borough.
- 3.7 The proposed system development is a further step to comply with the requirements of the Traffic Management Act to provide information to drivers on traffic conditions and monitor traffic flows. It is likely that the system will need to be expanded, when funding is available.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Under the Traffic Management Act there is a requirement to provide information to drivers on traffic conditions and to monitor traffic flows.

5 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Resource Implications

Funding for the installation costs will be provided through the LTP and operational costs through the Intelligent Traffic Systems Revenue Budget.

5.2 Social Inclusion Implications

5.2.1 None

5.3 Sustainability Checklist

5.3.1 Under the Traffic Management Act there is a requirement to provide information to drivers on traffic conditions and monitor traffic flows. Providing better information to the travelling public helps reduce congestion and delays, which results in reduced pollution and frustration to motorists.

5.4 Best Value

5.4.1 The use of tried and tested systems, which are already in use by neighbouring authorities, provides good value for money.

5.5 Legal Implications

5.5.1 None

5.6 Crime and Disorder Issues

5.6.1 None

5.7 Human Rights Act Implications

5.7.1 None

6 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

6.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

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REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 7 February, 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Environment

SUBJECT: Procurement of additional security services

and CCTV equipment on Halebank

Industrial Estate

WARDS: Ditton

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report summarises the business case for the procurement of additional CCTV security equipment and services for the benefit of businesses located on Halebank Industrial Estate. The report also seeks Executive Board Sub approval to waive standing orders for procuring the additional CCTV security equipment and security services.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) the Operational Director Economic Regeneration be authorised to award the contract for the additional CCTV security equipment on Halebank Industrial Estate to Druants in the sum of £25,295.21 and that in light of the exceptional circumstances and in accordance with SO 1.6 Procurement Standing Order 4.1 be waived on this occasion in view of the impracticality and problems associated with having two contractors providing similar and complementary services on the estate; and
- (2) the Operational Director Economic Regeneration be authorised to award the contract for providing additional security services to businesses located on Halebank Industrial Estate to Druants at a rate of £1.09/day per company for key holding and £0.34/day per company for an alarm / incident response service and that in light of the exceptional circumstances and in accordance with SO 1.6 Procurement Standing Order 4.1 be waived on this occasion in view of the impracticality and problems associated with having two contractors providing similar and complementary services on the estate.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Business case supporting the proposal to waive Standing Orders

- 3.1 In 2005, six private security companies were invited to submit quotations to install a CCTV security system and provide a monitoring and response service for businesses located on Halebank Industrial Estate. Druants Security were subsequently awarded the contract, effective between 13 October 2005 and 12 October 2010
- 3.2 The security services Druants Security are currently contracted to deliver include:
 - Dedicated CCTV monitoring & 24 hour recording from Druants Security's control room
 - In the event of irregularities or incidents discovered by the security officer(s) in monitoring the CCTV system the Contractor shall provide a response to Halebank Industrial Estate and if so required contact the Police and the relevant Service User's Key Holder
 - In the event of irregularities or incidents reported to the security officer(s) at the monitoring station the Contractor shall provide a response to Halebank Industrial Estate and if so required contact the Police and the relevant Service User's Key Holder
 - A list of Key Holders shall be maintained for all firms paying the Service Fee (the Service Users)
 - There will be mobile patrols in a motor vehicle using prescribed routes to observe and monitor Halebank Industrial Estate
 - In the event of irregularities or incidents discovered by the security officer(s) in conducting the patrols the Contractor shall contact the Police and the relevant Service User's Key Holder.
- 3.3 Businesses on Halebank Industrial Estate voted in favour of creating a Business Improvement District (BID) in the recent BID Ballot, which was announced on 7th December 2007. The 'yes' vote means that the BID business plan and all the additional services must be delivered from 1st April 2008 31st March 2013.
- 3.4 The BID Business Plan requires the procurement of additional CCTV equipment to enhance the existing system by improving the functionality and coverage of the system and increase detection rates. The BID Business Plan details the procurement of additional cameras coving the three entrances to the estate and making the existing cameras more intelligent through the use of passive infra-red (PIR) sensors.
- 3.5 The additional CCTV security equipment is to be purchased from funds ring-fenced within the Business Parks Improvement Programme's 2007-08 budget.
- 3.6 The BID Business Plan includes the provision of a range of security services, which are over and above those delivered in the existing

contract with Druants Security. The additional security services included in the Business Plan are:

- Key holding (365 days a year)
- Alarm / incident response service (4 call outs per year per company)
- 3.7 The additional security services will be procured from 1st April 2008 using revenue generated from business located on Halebank Industrial Estate from the BID Levy, which is payable from every company or property owner with a rateable property.
- 3.8 If the purchase of additional security equipment was to be subject to financial standing orders, this could result in a different company installing the new equipment. In this event, Druants would be under no obligation to:
 - Permit this additional equipment to be connected and integrated into the existing system
 - Monitor the additional cameras from their monitoring room
 - Maintain the additional cameras
- 3.9 It could also result in a second security company operating within Halebank Industrial Estate for the key holding and alarm / incident response services, with Druants continuing to provide the services under the existing contract.
- 3.10 From an operational point of view, two security companies operating on Halebank Industrial Estate is likely to be both difficult to manage and could lead to confusion. For example:
 - Different security officers operating on-site for differing security services
 - Potential for conflicting / incompatible company procedures
 - Each security company blaming each other where performance is sub standard
 - Confusion within the business community as to which company performs which service
 - Businesses reporting incidents to the wrong security company, which could result in the incident not being responded to and a crime being committed or apathy from the resident businesses
- 3.11 Druants have provided a quotation covering the costs for both the additional CCTV security equipment and services, as follows:
 - The price of the additional CCTV security equipment is £25,295.21 and includes additional cameras, hard disk recorders, columns, connection to power supply, installation of ADSL lines for

- transmission, PIR detectors, civil works, ancillaries and commissioning.
- The unit cost for providing a key holding service is £1.09 per day.
 This cost will only be paid to Druants for companies using this service and will be paid using revenue generated through the BID Levy.
- Unit cost for providing an alarm / incident response service (4 callouts per year) is £0.34 per day. This cost will only be paid to Druants for companies using this service and will be paid using revenue generated through the BID Levy.
- Unit cost charged to and payable by an individual company in the event of an alarm or incident response is £30 (once their 4 callouts per year that have been used).

Value for money and competition

- 3.12 The market was tested when Druants were awarded the original contract for Halebank Industrial Estate in 2005 based on price and quality.
- 3.13The costs associated with the CCTV equipment are comparable to those provided within the original contract for Halebank Industrial Estate awarded to Druants in 2005.
- 3.14 Druants are the Council's approved security contractor for the provision of similar security services to the Council and Schools (key holding, emergency response, guarding, opening and closing of buildings etc). Druants were awarded this contract based on a competitive tendering process.
- 3.15 The quotation Druants have provided for the additional services are considerably lower than their standard rates. For example, the cost of an additional alarm or incident response will be £30 rather than their usual fee of £42.
- 3.16 The figures provided in paragraph 3.11 are below those estimated within the BID Business Plan. Value for money has been achieved as a result of the economies of scale that will be achieved by Druants resulting from their existing presence on the estate.
- 3.17 Any security service that a Halebank business may want to procure in the future that falls outside the scope of the Halebank Industrial Estate BID will be subject to competitive quotations within the market place.

Transparency

3.18 Transparency will be achieved by ensuring a clear audit trail for the procurement of the security services. There will be records illustrating the number of companies using the additional services and the associated

costs. This information will be reported to businesses through the formal accounting procedures. This information will be accessible, if required, under the Freedom of Information Act

Propriety and Security

3.19 Integrity clauses will be built into the contract document and only officers with a need to know will have information about the contract.

Accountability

3.20 The accountability would remain with the Operational Director Economic Regeneration. The value of the contract is exempt under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The issues and priorities addressed through the implementation of the Halebank BID Business Plan are directly aligned to the Community Strategy:

Safer halton

Reduce overall crime (in line with Halton's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership targets).

Urban Renewal

- Attract additional businesses to Halebank
- Increase the number of jobs in Halton
- 100,000 sq mts of new and improved floor space

Employment Learning and Skills

- Increase employment rate
- Increase VAT registrations (new companies)

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Children and Young People in Halton

There are no implications arising from this report.

Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The programme of work set out in the BIDs proposals, will assist with the ongoing challenge to retain existing and create new jobs.

A Healthy Halton

There are no implications arising from this report

A Safer Halton

The Halebank BID Business Plan provides a package of crime prevention initiatives that are designed to deter crime from the estates, including plans to either enhance existing CCTV security systems, or install new systems which will assist in designing out crime on the estates, which will be backed up by a response to incidents.

Halton's Urban Renewal

BIDs are considered to be an excellent exit strategy for projects funded through the Halton Strategic Partnership, as the BIDs will attract a significant private sector contribution (more than £1 million over 5 years) to contribute towards the economic regeneration of the borough.

6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no other implications arising from this report.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

The risks of requesting competitive quotations are outlined in paragraphs 3.8 – 3.10.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality or diversity issues arising from this report.

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REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 7 February 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health & Community

SUBJECT: Disabled Facilities Grant

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To seek approval to consult on a charging policy for the repayment of 'Top ups' to facilitate adaptations to people's homes.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

i) Consultation on the introduction of repayment of 'Top ups' provided to facilitate adaptations to people's homes be approved.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 If a Halton resident aged 19 years or over is assessed as needing to have their home adapted so that they can carry on living there then the Council may grant a 'Top up' towards the cost of the work. This is either because the person has insufficient funds to pay for it themselves or the work will cost more than the current £25,000 ceiling that is available to them in the form of a Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG).
- The Council adopted a Fairer Charging Policy in 2003 for Social Care provision. It is proposed to consult service users and carers about applying this policy to financially assess people who receive a 'Top up'. This would determine if they can afford to repay the 'Top up' granted back over a period of time but under the Fairer Charging Policy.
- 3.3 It is also proposed that service users and carers be consulted on whether people who own property that is adapted using 'Top ups' paid by the Council have a deferred charged placed against their property. Consultation will also take place on the circumstances under which a property could be sold without repayment of the 'Top up' being sought e.g. to move to another area to be nearer carers or to maintain employment.
- 3.4 The consultation exercise will take place from mid April to mid May with a range of people including past 'Top up' recipients, current

adaptation applicants and some disabled and older people. CSCI will be invited to observe this process.

- 3.5 A variety of mechanisms will be used during the consultation process including survey questionnaires, open days for discussion purposes and 1 to 1 interviews where requested.
- The process will also be used to devise a debt repayment policy and to determine which benefits people are in receipt of will give automatic eligibility for payment of 'Top ups'.
- 3.7 Halton has an annual budget of £125,000 a year, which can be granted to service users/carers who need their homes adapted for works.. This budget also funds all minor adaptations, the majority of which are carried out through a contract. Details of payments made as "Top ups" in previous years are provided below:

Year 'Top up' allocated	£ Total granted	£ granted to those aged 19 and over
04/05	83,500	70,500
05/06	75,000	70,700

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The consultation exercise will result in the need to devise a new policy governing the allocation and repayment of 'Top ups'.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- A high level of demand for 'Top ups' to fund major adaptations with no repayment clauses could impact on the provision of funds to other people who need essential adaptations to their homes.
- The minor adaptation budget is under increasing pressure and consultation on whether adults should be asked to repay 'Top ups' granted to adapt homes will assist in the long term management of that increased demand on the budget.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The proposed charging framework being consulted on does not involve charging children for adaptations made to properties to enable them to live there.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

The proposed charging framework being consulted on would not

include proposals to take any money from the earnings of disabled people towards the cost of 'Top ups' granted to adapt their properties.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Income raised from repayment of 'Top ups' would be used to fund adaptations to other people's properties.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Adaptations made to properties enable people to live in them more safely as they ensure a safe living environment.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Adaptations made to properties enable people to continue to live in their own communities.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Some users may choose not to proceed with adaptations if they are obliged to repay any "Top up" element or if a charge is to be placed on property. This equates to people choosing not to accept personal care services for which they will be charged. The assessment process would identify the level of risk and provide an opportunity to consider alternatives in situations where people choose not to proceed.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 Introducing the systems outlined in this report would ensure that limited resources for adaptations are used efficiently enabling more disabled people to continue to live at home independently.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

9.1 None