

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Extract of Executive Board, Executive Board Sub Committee, 3MG Executive Sub Board and Mersey Gateway Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board**

#### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 8 APRIL 2010**

##### **PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

#### **112. HALTON LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (LTP3) CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES: APPROVAL FOR A PERIOD OF CONSULTATION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which sought to gain the approval of the Executive Board of the content of the Halton Local Transport Plan (LTP3). Challenges and Opportunities document for the purposes of a four week period of consultation.

It was reported that LTPs were initially introduced by the Transport Act 2000 which set a statutory requirement for local transport authorities to produce an LTP every five years and keep it under review. Halton Borough Council as a Unitary Authority was the transport authority for the area of Halton and, as such, was required to produce an LTP. It was further noted that the current LTP ran until March 2011 with the third LTP (LTP3) due to commence in April 2011.

Members were advised that as required by the 2008 Local Transport Act, LTP3 would be in two parts, details of which were set out in the report for information. It was reported that Halton would be producing an individual LTP3 but it had been recognised that working in partnership with the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority (Merseytravel) or ITA which was statutorily obliged to produce the LTP on behalf of itself and the Merseyside Districts would be beneficial for the sub-region.

The report set out the policy framework, the preparation required for LTP3, the anticipated challenges and opportunities, the proposed consultation strategy and the next steps.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the LTP3 Challenges and Opportunities document be approved, for the purposes of a four-week period of consultation; and
- 2) further editorial and technical amendments that did not materially affect the content of the LTP3 Challenges and Opportunities document be agreed by the Operational Director, Highways, Transportation and Logistics, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, as necessary, before the document is published for consultation.

### **113. TRANSPORT CAPITAL IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME 2010/11**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which sought approval to the inclusion of the 2010/11 Transport Capital Implementation Programme into the Council's 2010/11 Capital Programme.

It was reported that during the period of the first Local Transport Plan (LTP 2001/2 – 2005/6) the amount of LTP funding allocated was, in part, dependent on annual assessments of the progress that each authority had made in delivering its LTP.

It was noted that the commencement of the second LTP brought with it much less rigorous reporting requirements based upon a collaborative approach between the DfT and the local authorities, to enable weakness in progress to be jointly addressed and strengths built upon.

Members were advised that the new approach required the de-coupling of the link between funding and performance which resulted in the DfT in its November 2007 settlement letter confirming the block allocations for the period 2008/9 – 2010/11 for both Integrated Transport Capital and Highways Capital Maintenance.

Detailed in appendix A to the report was the Transport Implementation Programme for 2010/2011 with the sum of £9,412,114 to be incorporated into the Council's Capital Programme.

Outlined in the report was the following allocations for 2010/11:

- LTP Integrated Transport Allocation £1,767,000;
- Additional funding from national Primary Route Network £14,2888,000;
- Bridge Strengthening and Maintenance allocation £4,980,000;
- Capital Programme for bringing streets to adoptable standard £100,000;
- Council's capital "Flood Defence" Programme £100,000;
- "Street Lighting" Capital programme £200,000; and
- Road Safety Grant (which would be paid as a capital grant) £75,114

Arising from the discussion Members discussed the Safer Roads Partnership and the decrease in deaths on roads in addition to the remedial works being carried out on Silver Jubilee Bridge and agreed that a presentation regarding the bridge works would be welcomed.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board recommend the Council to approve the incorporation of the Transport Implementation Programme for 2010/11 as detailed in Appendix A in the sum of £9,412,114 into the Council's 2010/11 Capital Programme.

## **ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND SPORT PORTFOLIO**

### **114. WIDNES RECREATION CLUB**

Members considered a report of the Strategic Director, Adults and Community which sought to determine a way forward for the provision of services at the venue previously known as Widnes Recreation Club.

It was noted that Widnes Recreation Club was originally founded by ICI as a Sports and Social Club for their employees in Widnes. The Club was a non-profit organisation and re-invested income in the Clubhouse and encouraged sporting and community activity.

Members were advised in recent years the Club had struggled to survive financially due to a combination of lack of income primarily through the Social Club and the increasing burden of coping with urgent and renewed works. The Members of the Club resolved that on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2009 to cease trading

on 31<sup>st</sup> December. At that point the lease was surrendered back to the Council.

It was further noted that the Council gave an undertaking to ensure that the operation of the pitches and changing rooms would continue, irrespective of the future of the Club. This commitment had been honoured. It was reported that at the point of closure there were 7 major sports, 24 sections, 55 teams and over 600 participants who used the sporting facilities on a regular basis. There were also a significant community usage of the indoor facilities ranging from snooker, darts, photography, table tennis, indoor bowling and dance. It was understood that most of the indoor groups had been successful in finding alternative premises.

Members were advised that the Council needed to consider the future of the site and the proposal now was to seek expressions of interest to undertake the management and development of the site in line with Halton priorities. The ownership of the site would remain with the Council and suggestions were detailed in the report for consideration.

The Board discussed safety of the building in terms of Anti-Social Behaviour and vandalism and noted that the Council's Property Services Department were keeping the building secure.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Strategic Director of Adults and Community, in conjunction with the portfolio holders for Environment, Leisure and Sport and Corporate Services be authorised to market test for expressions of interest to develop the Widnes Recreation Club site; and
- 2) following market testing, the Strategic Director and Portfolio holder be authorised to move to letting a lease in line with the approach as itemised in Paragraph 4 of the report.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2010**

### **67. SITE ACQUISITION - FORMER GYPROC SITE, DENNIS RD, WIDNES WATERFRONT**

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought authority to acquire with funding from the North West Development Agency, the former Gyproc Site, Dennis Road, Widnes.

RESOLVED: That

1) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy and the Strategic Director for Environment (in consultation with the Executive Member for Corporate and Policy and the Executive Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal) to take such action as necessary to acquire the land from St. Mobain, Gyproc's parent company; and

2) the Executive Board Sub-Committee certify that the decision is exempted from call-in due to the need to conclude the acquisition by the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 MARCH 2010**

### **76. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES**

The Sub-Committee received a report which sought approval to increase existing fees and charges in line with inflation for the following:

Environmental Information, requests for information regarding potentially contaminated land, requests for environmental information, environmental health services charges, hackney carriage and private hire charges, licence fees (other than hackney carriage and private hire charges), Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Highways Act 1980, and miscellaneous.

The Sub-Committee was advised that the increase in fees and charges also included a number of statutory fees that may increase during the coming financial year and Members were asked to agree to these increases as they occurred.

RESOLVED: That the proposed fees and charges be agreed and referred to the relevant Policy and Performance Boards for information.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2010**

### **83. RENEWAL OF THE MERSEY FOREST AGREEMENT**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which advised Members that the original agreement with Mersey Forest had expired and sought support for a further agreement.

The Board was advised that Mersey Forest was the biggest of the UK's 12 Community Forests. It covered 420 square miles (1,082 km<sup>2</sup>) and was part of a 30-year plan to transform the landscape across Merseyside and North Cheshire. The regeneration of The Mersey Forest was being achieved by a partnership comprising of the Forestry Commission, Natural England, nine local authorities, the Mersey Forest Team and various other organisations and individuals who shared the vision for creating The Forest.

The Board was further advised that in the 19 years since it had been established, over 3,750 hectares of new habitat had been created in the Mersey Forest, and around 10 million new trees planted. In Halton itself during this period, there had been 110 hectares of new woodland planted, 45 hectares of non-woodland habitat created, £2.9 million additional funding brought in, and over two thousand community events organised.

It was reported that Halton Borough Council had been a partner in the Mersey Forest since its inception, and the current Agreement was now due for renewal. The new Agreement would run from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

In addition, the Agreement empowered the nine local authorities to work together to support the work of the Mersey Forest. The new Agreement was very similar to the previous one, with changes being made to reflect the local government re-organisation that took place in Cheshire in April 2009.

**RESOLVED:** That the existing Mersey Forest Agreement be renewed and the Strategic Director – Environment and Economy in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Environment, Leisure & Sport, be authorised to determine the terms of the new Agreement following the principles outlined in the report.

### **84. NEW SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH CHESHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment and Economy which sought approval to enter into a three year Service Level Agreement with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, which would enable the Council to deliver its biodiversity commitments.

The Board was advised that the Council currently had a very basic Service Level Agreement with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust through which they gave advice on nature reserve management. Prior to December 2008 they had provided assistance to the Nature Conservation Officer. The current agreement would cost £2,400 per year.

The Board was further advised that the Council currently had a Service Level Agreement with 'Record' for the provision of biological recording and GIS analysis. The current agreement cost £2,170 per year.

In addition, the Council's Open Space Services had responsibility for nature conservation and biodiversity. The Division did not have a designated Nature Conservation Officer and therefore needed to deliver this element of its responsibility through partnership working.

**RESOLVED:** That, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Environment, Leisure & Sport, the Council enter into a Service Level Agreement with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust for the provision of Ecological Advice, Biological Recording and advice on Planning matters.