

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 13th MARCH 2014

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB169 HALTON HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2013-18 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, on Halton's Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018 (the Strategy).

The Board was advised that the local authority had conducted a full Strategic Review of Homelessness in accordance with the Homelessness Act 2002. A Homelessness Strategy had been formulated for the five year period to 2018, based upon findings and recommendations of two other documents, as detailed in the report. It was reported that during 2012/13, a Homelessness Scrutiny Review was conducted by Members to review supported accommodation services within the district. A number of recommendations were made, which formed part of the Strategy.

It was noted that the Localism Act 2011, introduced many changes to homelessness and allocations legislation, and that the new allocated powers would impact on future homelessness and service delivery. The legislative issues and implications for the Council's policy were detailed in the report for Members' information.

Reason(s) For Decision

Local Authorities were required to produce a strategy in accordance with the Homelessness Act 2002.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

No alternatives were considered, as a strategy was required to establish the key challenges, objectives and priorities for

tackling homelessness in Halton over the coming years.

Implementation Date

April 2014.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and Halton's Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018 be approved.

Strategic Director
- Communities

EXB170 DE-COMMISSIONING OF BELVEDERE SUPPORTED HOUSING SCHEME

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities, which sought approval to decommission and close the Belvedere Supported Housing Scheme.

The Board was reminded that in July 2012, it received a report which set out proposals to reconfigure a number of homeless accommodation services, following a scrutiny review undertaken by the Health Policy and Performance Board. A new hostel in Albert Road, Widnes would open in 2015, at which point Belvedere would be decommissioned.

It was reported that occupancy levels at Belvedere had significantly declined over recent months. However, the Council had a block purchase contract with Community Integrated Care (CIC) for the provision of housing related support at the premises at a fixed monthly sum, irrespective of occupancy levels. It was noted that there was an opportunity to bring forward the plan to close Belvedere and secure a budget saving in 2014/15.

The report set out details for the inclusion of the site in regeneration proposals for Runcorn Old Town, currently underway.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the decommissioning and closure of Belvedere Supported Housing Scheme be approved; and
- 2) upon closure, it be agreed that the building be made safe and secure and disposed of in accordance with the Council's approach to vacant properties.

Strategic Director
- Communities