

**Extract of Executive Board Minutes Relevant to the Corporate Policy and Performance Board**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

**EXB11 2017/18 FINANCIAL OUTTURN**

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the final revenue and capital spending position for 2017/18.

The Board was advised that the final accounts for 2017/18 were near completion; the revenue spending for each Department, which would be subject to external audit, was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

It was reported that since 2010, the Council had experienced significant reductions in Government grant funding, which had occurred at a time when the demand for, and costs of, Council services had rapidly increased. Despite this, the Council had managed its finances by restricting spending to only essential items and used its reserves to assist with the funding of services with significant extra cost pressures.

The report provided details on the key budget variances within the following services:-

- Children and Families;
- Adult Social Care;
- Community and Environment;
- Economy, Enterprise and Property; and
- Central Support.

Members were advised that the Council's Reserves and Balances had been reviewed in accordance with the Reserves and Balances Strategy. The Council's General Reserve stood at £3.806m, which was considered not sufficient, given the level of increased service pressure,

continued public spending cuts and the risk of fluctuations in the level of business rates retained. However, it was reported that a number of reserves had been reviewed and a further £1.200m moved into the General Reserve to increase the balance to a more prudent level.

A breakdown of School Budgets and spending for 2017/18 was provided, indicating a total of £3.8m at 31 March 2018. Capital Spending had been revised to reflect an additional allocation of Disabled Facilities Grant funding, received in the final quarter of 2017/18. Capital Spending at 31 March 2018 was 99.4% of the total Capital Programme, and it was noted that no slippage had been calculated on the Mersey Gateway Construction Costs or the Mersey Gateway Liquidity Fund.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the information within the report be taken into account when reviewing the 2018/19 budget monitoring position, medium term forecast and saving proposals for future years.

#### EXB12 TERM CONTRACT TENDER FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, regarding the procurement of a professional services term contract for complete design service for building works across the Borough.

It was reported that the current contract for design services would end on 16 November 2018. It was proposed that a new contract would be awarded for a period of three years with the option for the Council to extend for a further one year. A tender process would commence in June/July 2018, with the anticipated annual value of the contract being £275k. It was noted that tender submissions would be evaluated on both price and quality, with a ratio of 30%:70%, with the outcome being reported to the Board in due course.

RESOLVED: That Members note that a procurement process will be entered into via The Chest, with the purpose of securing a professional services term contract for a

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complete design service for building works across the Borough.

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### EXB13 2018/19 TO 2020/21 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which presented the Council's total forecast Capital Programme expenditure and associated funding for 2018/19 to 2020/21.

The report updated Members on the latest position on the Council's Capital Programme, including planned Capital Programme expenditure 2018/19 to 2020/21, a summary of how this would be financed and details of Capital Receipts. The report also outlined the proposed use of the ICT Capital Allocation, and the proposed programme of activities, attached at Appendix A to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be recommended to approve the updated Capital Programme for 2018/21, including forecast spend and funding, as set out in Table 1 and Table 2 attached to the report;
- 2) The Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, in consultation with the portfolio holder for Transportation, be delegated to agree an implementation programme of Highways and Transportation schemes to be delivered in 2018/19; and
- 3) The proposed use of the ICT rolling Capital programme for 2018/19, as set out in Appendix A attached to the report, be noted and approved.

Operational  
Director - Finance

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY

### RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

### EXB20 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18

The Board considered a report of the Operational

Director, Finance, which presented the Treasury Management Annual Report 2017/18.

The report updated the Board on activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Policy. It provided supporting information on the economic outlook, interest rate forecast, short term borrowing rates, long term borrowing rates, borrowing and investments, budget monitoring, new long term borrowing and treasury management indicators. It was noted that no debt rescheduling had been undertaken during 2017/18.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### EXB21 COUNCIL TAX SECTION 13A DISCOUNT POLICY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, proposing amendments to the Council Tax Section 13A Discount Policy (the Policy).

The Board was advised that, at a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on 5 June 2018, the Board had considered a report regarding two proposed changes to the Policy in respect of Care Leavers.

It was reported that since April 2018, Halton's Care Leavers received 100% council tax discount, which was introduced to support Care Leavers with their transition into adulthood and to help them avoid falling into financial hardship. However, following discussions with neighbouring authorities, two potential anomalies within Halton's Policy had been identified, and the report sought to rectify them.

The amendments to the Policy as proposed, would help to ensure that the Policy remained equitable and provided a consistent approach to that adopted by other North West Councils. The amended Policy was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the two amendments to the Council Tax Section 13A Discount Policy, outlined in paragraphs 3.4 and 3.6 of the report, be approved; and
- 2) the updated Council Tax Section 13A Discount

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Policy presented with Appendix 1 attached to the report, be approved.

## EXB22 BUSINESS RATES ACTION AREAS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on proposed Business Rates Action Areas.

The report set out details of the proposed scheme, which would apply in specific areas, and would encourage private sector investment in high quality commercial buildings and create jobs for local people. It was reported that the proposed geographically focused initiative would not alter or affect the previously agreed Borough-wide discretionary scheme, approved by Executive Board in 2015.

Businesses would be considered for eligibility against a set of criteria, as detailed in the report. A percentage of the business rates from those businesses assisted, would be ring-fenced after three years to aid regeneration in the Key Impact Area. An annual review of the scheme would determine its effectiveness and impact on the sale of land, the quality of buildings constructed and the number of jobs created.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) approve the scheme; and
- 2) receives a progress report once the scheme has been in operation for twelve months.

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## EXB25 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) Whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that,

in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and

- 2) Whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

## RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

*(N.B. Councillor Ron Hignett declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as he was a member of the Daresbury Joint Venture Board)*

### EXB26 SCI-TECH DARESURY - PROJECT VIOLET FUNDING - KEY DECISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the next phase of developments at Sci-Tech Daresbury.

The report provided Members with details of the Project Violet and Skills Capital SIF Bid; the Project Violet funding package; the Enterprise Zone Tax Incremental Financing Mechanism; the borrowing potential and affordability; management of the TIF Borrowing Mechanism; a summary of all borrowing; and the procurement process.

#### Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was required to enable the Council to enter

into the necessary legal and funding agreements for Project Violet, which included the use of the Enterprise Zone TIF Borrowing Mechanism.

A decision was also required to enable the procurement exercise to commence. As the value of the proposed contract would exceed the EU threshold for services of this type, Board approval was sought.

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

A number of alternative funding arrangements had been explored; however, there was currently no commercial market to fund a speculative development at Sci-Tech Daresbury at this stage.

Grant funding, including European Funding and SIF had been explored but were not appropriate funding mechanisms at this point for a variety of reasons, including timescales and eligibility.

Reflecting its status as a designated Enterprise Zone, it was envisaged that a TIF mechanism, based on Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) borrowing against future business rates growth, would play a critical role in addressing barriers to the delivery of the masterplan.

#### Implementation Date

Following approval, the funding arrangements and procurement process would commence immediately. The project was anticipated to be delivered during 2019.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Members note the progress on the Skills Capital SIF bid and note that the agreed allocation of £1.1m from the TIF mechanism for Skills Capital match funding is targeted at both capital and revenue skills interventions at Sci-Tech Daresbury;
- 2) authority be given to the Operational Director, Finance, and the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the

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Portfolio holder for Resources, to conclude the legal and funding arrangements to deliver Project Violet; and

- 3) authority be given to the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property, to enter into a procurement process via The Chest, in support of the Joint Venture's procurement of the Project Violet contract.