

Minutes

**For Presentation to the Council
At the meeting to be held on**

**Wednesday, 18 December
2019**

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COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 16 October 2019 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Horabin, Abbott, Baker, J. Bradshaw, M. Bradshaw, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Carlin, Cassidy, Dennett, Dourley, Fry, Gilligan, Harris, R. Hignett, S. Hill, V. Hill, Howard, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, MacManus, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Morley, Nelson, Nolan, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Ratcliffe, Joe Roberts, June Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Teeling, Wainwright, Wallace, Wharton, Whitley, Woolfall, Wright and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors P. Hignett, McDermott, Thompson and Wall

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: I. Leivesley, M. Reaney, M. Vasic and A. Scott

Also in attendance: One member of the press

Action

COU28 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 10 July 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU29 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader made the following announcements:-

- The proposed merger of Halton and Warrington CCG would not now take place. The Council felt that it would not have been in the interests of either community. Halton would continue to work collectively with the CCG to provide the best health and social care services possible;
- Government had announced a one year settlement on funding arrangements for local government for 2020/21. Specific grant figures would be made known in December 2019, which would have an impact on Halton's preparations for the 2020/21 budget. The Budget Working Group would continue to meet over the coming months to consider budget options.

COU30 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings on 25 July 2019 and the 19 September 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU31 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 10 July 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU32 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

It was noted that no questions had been submitted under Standing Order No. 8.

COU33 2019/20 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME (MINUTE EXB 29 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the 2019/20 revised Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: That the revisions to the Council's 2019/20 Capital Programme set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report, be approved.

Operational
Director - Finance

COU34 LEISURE CENTRE AT MOOR LANE (MINUTE EXB 35 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the development of a leisure centre at Moor Lane, Widnes.

RESOLVED: That Council make a change to the Capital Programme in order to finance the development of a leisure centre at Moor Lane, Widnes.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

(N.B. Councillors Joan Lowe and Alan Lowe declared a Disclosable Other Interest in Minute HEA6 of the Health Policy and Performance Board as their daughter-in-law worked as a care worker for the provider)

COU35 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE

BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

The Council considered the reports of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of Council on 10 July 2019:-

- Children, Young People and Families;
- Health;
- Safer;
- Environment and Urban Renewal:
- Employment, Learning and Skills and Community;
- Corporate Services; and
- Business Efficiency.

COU36 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 10 July 2019:-

- Development Control

COU37 NOTICE OF MOTION - ORGREAVE

ORGREAVE

Council considered a Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 6.

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Lauren Cassidy and seconded by Councillor Geoff Zygadlo:-

'This Council is concerned and disappointed by the previous Home Secretary's rejection on the 31 October 2016 of an Inquiry into the policing of events at Orgreave. This Council notes, since this decision was taken, a new Home Secretary, Priti Patel, is now in office.

Council is pleased to note the decision by the Scottish Parliament on 7 June 2018 to order an independent review to investigate and report on the impact of policing on affected communities in Scotland during the period of the miners' strike from March 1984 - March 1985. This Council further praises the decision of the Welsh Assembly on 12 June 2018 to write to the Home Secretary, to ask for an independent review into policing in England and Wales during the miners' strike, and on 13 June 2018 to also write again asking that the Home Secretary orders an inquiry specifically into the policing at Orgreave on 18 June 1984.

Council asks, in the light of such statements from the Scottish and Welsh government, what the Home Secretary has done since these statements, to take these into account and express her views, on a full public inquiry into the events at the Orgreave coking plant on 18 June 1984. Council notes that 95 miners were arrested and charged with offences, but were all later acquitted amid claims that police at the time had fabricated evidence.

Halton Council observes that the Independent Police Complaints Commission said about Orgreave on 18 June 1984 in their report released in June 2015 “that there was evidence of excessive violence by police officers, and a false narrative from police exaggerating violence by miners, perjury by officers giving evidence to prosecute the arrested men, and an apparent cover-up of that perjury by senior officers”.

This Council is of the view that the Home Secretary needs to acknowledge the action of the Scottish Government and the call from the Welsh Government and confirm her response.

Halton Council resolves to write to the Home Secretary to ask that they acknowledge the response of the Scottish and Welsh Parliaments, explains what action she has taken in response and takes into account the opinion of this Council and accepts that there is widespread public concern about events at Orgreave and calls for her to order an inquiry into them’.

The motion was put and carried.

RESOLVED: That the motion be approved.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

COU38 NOTICE OF MOTION - PERSONAL CARE

PERSONAL CARE

Council considered a Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 6.

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Pamela Wallace and seconded by Councillor June Roberts:-

‘This Council notes that over a million older people in England are struggling with unmet care needs and believes that given there is an ageing population we need changes to

deliver better for social care.

The Government is not giving local authorities enough money to deliver a quality care service and social care funding is not ring-fenced. Since 2010, £2 million has been taken out of the national social care budget every day and as our population ages and social care demand increases, we urgently need a stable, comprehensive solution to the funding crisis.

The Council takes the view that:

1. The Government should address the funding crisis facing social care and should provide local Councils with the financial means to address the needs of all older people with care requirements.
2. The social care system needs major reform to provide a long-term sustainable funding solution and to make care free at the point of use.

The Council calls on Government to take the necessary steps to implement these changes as swiftly as possible to end the care crisis and properly support older people in Halton’.

The motion was put and carried.

RESOLVED: That the motion be approved.

COU39 NOTICE OF MOTION - LEASEHOLD OWNERSHIP

LEASEHOLD OWNERSHIP

Council considered a Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 6.

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Geoff Logan and seconded by Councillor Andrew MacManus:-

‘This Council calls for changes to leasehold home ownership to prevent Halton home owners being exposed to the risk of excessive ground rents, punitive fees and onerous contract conditions, stating what homeowners can and can’t do to their own home.

Council notes that a significant number of houses and apartments in Halton are owned as leasehold and we call for

Chief Executive

Government to introduce wide-ranging proposals, giving new and fairer rights to leaseholders.

Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government urging that government take steps to:

- 1) End the sale of new private leasehold houses with direct effect and the sale of private leasehold flats;
- 2) End ground rents for new leasehold homes, and cap ground rents for existing leaseholders up to a maximum of £250 a year;
- 3) Set a simple fair formula for leaseholders to buy the freehold to their home, or commonhold in the case of an apartment;
- 4) Crack down on unfair fees and contract terms by publishing a reference list of reasonable charges, requiring transparency on service charges and giving leaseholders a right to challenge rip-off fees and conditions or poor performance from service companies; and
- 5) Give residents greater powers over the management of their homes, with new rights for apartment owners to form residents' associations and by simplifying the right to manage'.

The motion was put and carried.

RESOLVED: That the motion be approved.

Chief Executive

COU40 NOTICE OF MOTION - CLIMATE EMERGENCY

CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Council considered a Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 6.

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Norman Plumpton Walsh and seconded by Councillor Bill Woolfall:-

'This Council resolves to declare a Climate Emergency.

Council believes that climate change poses a severe risk to the future of our planet and global warming has serious consequences, affecting our economic, social and environmental well-being, both here in Halton and across the world.

In looking at our business activities Council agrees to:

- Ensure that Council takes responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from our business activities.
- Strive towards ensuring all Council activities become carbon neutral.
- Ensure all strategic decisions, budget priorities and approaches to managing our services give regard to shifting towards being carbon neutral.
- Seek to achieve 100% clean energy across the full range of the Council's functions.

Further, Council requests that each Policy and Performance Board reviews the impact of climate change when reviewing Council policies and strategies.

In looking at protecting our communities Council further agrees:

- To help promote support from our communities for environmental change that will help reduce or eliminate carbon emissions and help raise public awareness.
- To ask all Halton schools to cover climate change within the school curriculum. Council believes all young people should be educated about the ecological and social impact of climate change.
- To work with, influence and inspire Council partners across the Borough, Cheshire and Liverpool City Region to put concern for climate change in all relevant strategies, plans and shared resources.

Council further calls upon the Government to provide added resources and funding to help local authorities be best prepared to help tackle global warming at a local level'.

The motion was put and carried.

RESOLVED: That the motion be approved.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

COU41 NOTICE OF MOTION - FIGHTING FIRE IN OUR BOROUGH

FIGHTING FIRE IN OUR BOROUGH

Council considered a Notice of Motion submitted in accordance with Standing Order No. 6.

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones and seconded by Councillor Lauren Cassidy:-

'This Council pays tribute to the essential work undertaken by every member of staff at Cheshire Fire and Rescue. We recognise that it is their hard work, everyday, that keeps people safe in their homes, in the place that they work, or whilst they are here visiting our County.

This Council believes that government cuts to fire services in the UK have gone too far. We recognise the pressures faced by Cheshire Fire and Rescue and the Fire Authority, which has had to deal with cuts of £12 million over the past nine years.

This Council understands the high levels of public concern about fire cuts and the impact that this could have on the community where they live. We acknowledge the role that the campaign in Crewe played in raising awareness amongst members of the public about fire cover in the area. The level of public interest in both this campaign and campaigns in Chester and Ellesmere Port serves as a reminder to councils and other public services in the sub region about the need to be innovative in finding ways to involve and communicate with residents in the decisions we take.

This Council believes that all residents in Halton and across the County, need to feel confident about response times and fire cover where they live. Therefore this Council resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Policing and Fire Minister to lobby for:

- An urgent Government review of the impact of austerity on fire services and response times;
- Restoration of the cuts to fire service finances over the last nine years;

- A decent pay rise for Cheshire Firefighters and staff;

And to write to the Chief Fire Officer at Cheshire Fire and Rescue to ask that the Fire Authority considers the following recommendations:

- That as part of ongoing fire service reviews, the current 10 minute target time for fire engines to respond to dwelling fires is expanded to include historic buildings, office buildings, industrial sites, schools, hospitals and other public buildings.
- Other Incident types such as flooding, water rescue, rescue from height and incidents involving hazardous materials are all included within the Cheshire 10 minute standard.
- That the Cheshire Fire and Rescue 10 minute standard is inclusive of the call handling time as advised by the Home Office, formerly Department for Communities and Local Government.
- That the Fire Authority considers passing their own 'Climate Change Emergency motion'.

The motion was put and carried.

RESOLVED: That the motion be approved.

Chief Executive

COU42 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Council considered:

- (1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A 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 paragraph 3 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 the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A 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.

(N.B. Councillor Ron Hignett declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as he was on the Sci-Tech Public Joint Venture Board)

COU43 SCI-TECH DARESBURY: PROJECT VIOLET FUNDING UPDATE (MINUTE EXB 39 REFERS)

Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the next phase of the Sci-Tech Daresbury Enterprise Zone Masterplan – Project Violet.

RESOLVED: That the scheme be included in the 2019/20 Capital Programme, to be funded as set out in paragraph 3.2 to 3.4 of the report.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

Meeting ended at 7.51 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 17 October 2019 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), D. Cargill, Harris, R. Hignett, S. Hill, Jones, T. McInerney, Nelson, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, M. Osborne and W. Rourke

Also in attendance: Councillor MacManus (Minute EXB 44 refers), Councillor Wall, one member of the public and one member of the press

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

EXB40 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB41 HALTON HOUSING TRUST - ANNUAL REPORT

The Board received the annual report of Halton Housing Trust, which provided an update on progress in 2019.

A verbal update was provided for the Board by new Chief Executive, Liz Haworth, with Deputy Group Chief Executive, Neil McGrath and new Chair, Clive Deadman from Halton Housing Trust. They reported on progress to date in delivering some key achievements, partnerships and strategic priorities.

It was reported that some of the key organisational achievements, detailed in the report were an additional £6.4m of investment in improvements to homes and neighbourhoods; completion of 32 new homes; achieved

Action

96.3% of collectable income; and embarked on a transformational project – ‘Customeyes’ - which would transform services to a pre-emptive approach. In addition, they had continued to actively support and contribute to a wide range of local strategic partnerships across Halton and the wider City Region.

Also noted were the organisational changes to the management structure at the Trust during 2019.

Having dealt with Members’ questions, all were thanked for attending.

RESOLVED: That the progress report be noted.

EXB42 PRACTICALITIES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL).

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which explained the practicalities of implementing the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

At its meeting on 22 March 2019, the Board requested that a report be brought to Members on the practicalities of the Council introducing a CIL. The Board was advised that CIL was introduced by the Government in 2010. Its purpose was to generate additional funds to pay for infrastructure that was required to support new development, to show communities tangible community benefits from accepting new development.

It was reported that CIL permitted planning authorities to impose a charge on new development in their area to raise funds for local infrastructure. Those items of infrastructure permitted to be funded were set out in a pre-determined list, known since September 2019 as an ‘Infrastructure Funding Statement’. A local authority wishing to introduce a CIL had to set out a Charging Schedule which indicated the types of development where a Levy would apply, which would then be mandatory on qualifying developments. It was reported that, unlike Section 106 Agreements which were considered on a site by site basis, a CIL was non-negotiable.

The report set out details of the operation of the CIL and the potential introduction in Halton. It was noted that a Whole Plan Viability Study and review commissioned by Halton was available to view online. The scope for CIL had been reviewed and found not to be viable when all other

policy requirements or asks had been met, which was a priority under Government guidance.

RESOLVED: That, given the information provided, a Community Infrastructure Levy not be introduced at this time but that the matter be reviewed if changes in the Section 106 arrangements or other economic circumstances change.

EXB43 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION SPATIAL PLANNING STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of two documents relating to the Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground.

The Board was advised that Statements of Common Ground (SoCG) were introduced in the 2018 update to the National Planning Policy Framework. Local Planning Authorities were to set out an agreed record of strategic matters between authorities together with details of how these matters would be addressed. It was reported that these new documents had to be formally endorsed on behalf of the Council, although they were not directly covered by either the Constitution or by schemes of delegation. It was noted that SoCG's did not take away or diminish the planning powers of the local planning authority; they provided the primary evidence of compliance with the duty to co-operate.

The report sought endorsement of the first two such documents prepared with, or presented by, neighbouring authorities, together with approval for subsequent documents and updates to be authorised by the Operational Director in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Physical Environment.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The Liverpool City Region Spatial Planning Statement of Common Ground be approved, and there is an agreement to sign the final document on behalf of Halton Borough Council;

- 2) Delegate the Divisional Manager, Planning and Development, to hold the authoritative powers to agree minor wording changes to the LCR

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

Statement of Common Ground if proposed by the other Liverpool City Region local authorities or the Combined Authority during the approval process; and

- 3) Approve the ongoing delegation of power to the Divisional Manager, Planning and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio holder for Physical Environment to approve further Statements of Common Ground, or revisions to those previously endorsed with appropriate bodies.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB44 SCRUTINY TOPIC GROUP - "BETTER JOBS TO MAKE BETTER LIVES"

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the findings of the Scrutiny Topic Group report on "Better Jobs to Make Better Lives".

The Chair of the Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board, Councillor MacManus, advised Board Members that the Scrutiny Topic Group had considered how and to what extent any jobs created in the Borough were accessible to local people. It was noted that Members had evaluated the services provided by the Council and, identified the opportunities and challenges in delivery.

The report acknowledged the positive work undertaken to support residents into training or employment. It also considered actions already taken and actions that could be implemented to increase the number of residents accessing jobs in the future. The report set out a number of recommendations for Members' consideration.

Councillor MacManus, having dealt with questions from Members, was thanked for his attendance.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report.

**CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE
PORTFOLIO**

EXB45 HALTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) CONSTITUTION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the Halton Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) Constitution.

The Board was advised that the broad role of a SACRE was to support the effective provision of Religious Education and collective worship in schools. Each local education authority should work with its SACRE to review existing provision and consider if any changes were required to the agreed syllabus or in the support offered to schools. It was noted that a SACRE comprised of four groups representing Christian denominations, the Church of England, associations representing teachers and the local education authority. The Halton SACRE required a constitution to ensure it operated efficiently and fulfilled its statutory duties.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the Halton SACRE Constitution.

Strategic Director
- People

EXB46 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL AND NHS HALTON
CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP: JOINT WORKING
AGREEMENT

The Board considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Services, on an extension to a Joint Working Agreement (JWA) between Halton Borough Council and the NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

At its meeting on 14 March 2019, Executive Board approved an extension of the current JWA to allow for a full review to be undertaken. A further report was considered by the Board on 19 September 2019 following the review and options for future working arrangements. Approval was given for the separation of the Continuing Healthcare and Community Care elements of the pooled budget. It was reported that, during a six month extension, work would be undertaken to ensure that the necessary changes were made to operational systems and processes, such as the financial systems, that supported the joint working arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

Director of Adult
Social Services

- 1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- 2) a six month extension of the current Joint Working Agreement be approved.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB47 HEALTHY WEIGHT STRATEGY - A WHOLE SYSTEMS APPROACH 2019 - 2025 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health on the development of Halton's Healthy Weight Strategy (the Strategy).

The Board was advised that the Strategy was Halton's first whole systems approach to addressing healthy weight issues. The approach would enable the identification of the broad and interlinking factors that influenced lifestyle, and to work with new partners to create a health enhancing environment to help find solutions.

It was reported that over the past ten years there had been a huge amount of work to help Halton residents maintain a healthy weight. The Strategy aimed to build on the success of programmes such as the Healthy Child Programme; Healthy Schools Programme; workplace health initiatives; and Sure Start to Late Life. The report set out details of the whole system approach, working in partnership with Leeds Beckett University; the priorities for action; and how success would be measured.

Reason(s) for Decision

To provide the Executive Board with the opportunity to comment on the Healthy Weight Strategy.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

There was no alternative option considered. The option of not having a Healthy Weight Strategy would not be in the interests of the population.

Implementation Date

November 2019.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB48 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on progress against key milestones/objectives for the first quarter of 2019/20.

The Board was advised that the Directorate Performance Overview Report provided a strategic summary of key issues arising from performance in the relevant quarter for each Directorate, being aligned to Council priorities or functional areas. The Board noted that such information was key to the Council's management arrangements, with the Board having a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability. Performance management would continue to be important in the demonstration of value for money and outward accountability.

RESOLVED: That the report and progress and performance information be noted.

MINUTES ISSUED: 22 October 2019

CALL-IN: 29 October 2019 at 5.00 pm.

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 29 October 2019.

Meeting ended at 2.45 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 14 November 2019 in The Boardroom, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), D. Cargill, Harris, R. Hignett, S. Hill, Jones, T. McInerney, Nelson, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, G. Cook, D. Parr, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, D. Nolan and E. Dawson

Also in attendance: One member of the press

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

EXB49 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**CHILDREN EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE
PORTFOLIO**

EXB50 FULL COST CLIENTS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on people placed in residential care as a full cost client.

The Board was advised that the Care Act stipulated that a person with assets above the upper capital limit was deemed as able to afford the full cost of their care; such persons were referred to as self-funders. The report set out details of how local authorities identified those people who were required to self-fund alongside Halton's policy on commissioning services for those that met the criteria.

It was reported that a task and finish group had been established to look at current practice in relation to self-

Action

funders which considered whether any adjustments need to be made in light of a number of issues. Members noted details of a legal challenge to the Council's policy regarding self-funders and recent internal audit findings.

It was reported that the Task and Finish Group required the Board to decide on future provision and support to self-funders. The report provided information on the Council's obligations under the Care Act, a summary of current practice in Halton and information on current practice in other areas with an overview of the local and national context.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Board approves implementation of the suggested practice improvements outlined in option (ii) in paragraph 3.6 of the report.

Strategic Director
- People

EXB51 HALTON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Board received the Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) Annual Report for 2018/19.

It was reported that all Safeguarding Adults Boards were required to produce an annual report, summarising their key achievements and priorities. The report set out the national and local developments on safeguarding adults at risk.

The HSAB continued to contribute to the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Halton's Strategic Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy.

For 2018/19, the focus was on self-neglect and hoarding; this work culminated in the re-launch of the Halton Self-Neglect Panel. For the year ahead, it was reported that the priorities would be:-

- Quality Assurance;
- Learning and Professional Development; and
- Co-production and Engagement.

The previous Chair, Audrey Williamson, had stood down from the HSAB. The Board wished to pass on their

thanks for the work she had carried out in the past. It was noted that Mil Vasic, Strategic Director for People at Halton Borough Council, had taken over the role of Chair.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB52 DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2020/21 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the requirement for the Council to determine the Tax Base for its area and the Tax Base for each of the Parishes.

The Board was advised that the Tax Base was the measure used for calculating Council Tax and was used by both the billing authority (the Council) and the major precepting authorities (Cheshire Fire Authority, Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority), in the calculation of their Council Tax requirements. It was arrived at in accordance with a prescribed formula which represented the estimated full year number of chargeable dwellings in the Borough expressed in terms of the equivalent Band "D" dwellings. Taking account of all the relevant information and applying a 97% collection rate, the calculation for 2020/21 gave a base figure of 35,359 for the Borough as a whole.

It was noted that since 2013/14 the tax base calculation had included an element for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (the replacement for Council Tax Benefit). In addition, the tax base calculation would include an element for Care Leavers Discretionary Discount and Foster Carers Discretionary discount.

Reason(s) for Decision

To seek approval for the 2020/21 Council Tax Base for the Borough.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

There was no alternative option, as unless the Council Tax Base was approved, it would not be possible to set the level of Council Tax to be charged for 2020/21.

Implementation Date

The 2020/21 Council Tax Base would be implemented from 1 April 2020.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve

Operational
Director - Finance

- 1) setting the 2020/21 Tax Base at 35,359 for the Borough, and that the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner, the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and the Environment Agency be so notified; and
- 2) the Council Tax Base for each of the Parishes be set as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	663
Halebank	523
Daresbury	179
Moore	327
Preston Brook	368
Sandymoor	1,265

EXB53 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2020/2023 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2020/23.

The Board was advised that the MTFS set out a three year projection of resources and spending based on information currently available.

The projections in the MTFS showed that there was a continued need to make a significant level of savings over the next three years. It was noted that the projections for 2020/21 took account of the Chancellor's 2019 Spending Review. However, as this was only for one year, it created uncertainty to the following two year's projections.

The MTFS provided initial guidance to the Council on its financial position into the medium term. Revenue savings of approximately £7.9m, £15.1m and £4.40m would be

required over the next three years. It was noted that as a result, a total of £27.4m would need to be removed from the Council's budget, by reducing spending or increasing income. This represented 25% of the Council's net budget and continued to be a significant challenge to find sufficient savings over the medium term in order to balance the budget.

The Board was advised that the MTFS had a number of objectives, as listed in the report. The report set out the Council's budget strategy, with budget savings proposals and areas identified for further savings. The report contained details of the Council's Capital Strategy for the management of assets such as land and buildings in Council ownership.

Reason(s) for Decision

To seek approval of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2020/21 to 2022/23.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The alternative option of not maintaining a Medium Term Financial Strategy had been considered. However, this would not follow good financial management practice, as the Medium Term Financial Strategy was a key element in informing the Council's financial planning and budget setting processes.

Implementation Date

The MTFS 2020/21 would be implemented from 1 April 2020.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved;
- 2) the 2020/21 base budget be prepared on the basis of the underlying assumptions set out in the Strategy;
- 3) the Reserves and Balances Strategy be approved; and
- 4) the award of Council Tax Support for 2020/21 remains at the 2019/20 level of 21.55%.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB54 2019/20 QUARTER 2 SPENDING

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which reported on the 2019/20 Quarter 2 spending as at 30 September 2019.

A summary of spending against the revenue budget up to 30 September 2019 was attached to the report at Appendix 1, along with individual statements for each department. The Board was advised that, in overall terms, revenue expenditure was £2.654m above the budget profile at this stage. It was reported that the trend showed the overspend continuing at a steady pace over the first six months of the year. If current spending patterns continued, projections showed that the Council would have a year-end outturn overspend position of approximately £6.145m, if no corrective action was taken.

In March 2019, Council approved budget savings proposals totalling £9.250m. However, it was noted that a delay in implementing a number of savings proposals impacted detrimentally upon the forecast outturn position in Appendix 1.

Within the overall budget position for the quarter, the key budget variances were in the Children and Families Department; Community and Environment Department; Education, Inclusion and Provision; ICT and Support Services; Complex Care Pool; and Corporate and Democracy.

The Capital Programme had been revised to reflect a number of spending profiles and funding as schemes had developed and these were reported in Appendix 2, attached to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) all spending continues to be limited to only absolutely essential items;
- 2) Departments seek to implement as soon as possible the 2019/20 budget savings proposals which were approved by Council in March 2019;
- 3) Strategic Directors take appropriate action to ensure overall spending is contained as far as possible within their total operational budget by year-end; and

Operational
Director - Finance

- 4) Council be asked to approve the revised Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 2.

EXB55 TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF YEAR REPORT 2019-2020

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which updated Members on the activities undertaken on the money market, as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

The report provided supporting information on the economic outlook, interest rate forecast, short term borrowing rates, longer term borrowing rates, borrowing and investments, budget monitoring, new long term borrowing, policy guidelines and treasury management indicators. It was noted that no debt rescheduling had been undertaken during the quarter.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB56 DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on an application for discretionary non-domestic rate relief.

The Board was advised that, under the amended provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council was able to grant discretionary rate relief to any business rate payer. Since 1 April 2017, the Council had been responsible for meeting the full cost of all mandatory and discretionary rate relief granted, as part of the Liverpool City Region 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot Scheme.

The report set out details of an application from a registered charity for rate relief by Runcorn and District Foodbank, in Russell Road, Runcorn, for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That the application for 15% discretionary rate relief from Runcorn and District Foodbank in respect of their premises at Russell Road, Runcorn, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB57 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES AND INCORPORATING THE WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Board considered a report of the Returning Officer, David Parr, on the results of the formal polling districts, places and stations review.

Following a report to the Board on 18 July 2019, a Polling Station Review Working Party was established and a consultation with electors, Councillors and other interested parties via the Council's web site and Direct Link Offices commenced.

Responses to the consultation were considered by the Working Party at its meeting on 21 August 2019. Details of the recommendations arising were set out in the appendix attached to the report.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to adopt the amendments to the scheme detailed in the appendix attached to the report for the period 2019/2024.

Returning Officer

MINUTES ISSUED: 19 November 2019

CALL-IN: 26 November 2019 at 5.00 pm.

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 26 November 2019.

Meeting ended at 2.19 p.m.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 2 October 2019 at The Halton Suite - Select Security Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), T. McInerney, Woolfall and Wright and S. Bartsch, S. Constable, G. Ferguson, T. Hemming, T. Hill, S. Johnson Griffiths, J. Kemp, N. Kershaw, M. Larking, R. Macdonald, I. Onyia, K. Parker, P. Parle, D. Parr, J. Regan, S. Semoff, A. Shakeshaft, L. Thompson, S. Wallace Bonner, D. Wilson, K. Woodcock and S. Yeoman.

Apologies for Absence: E. O'Meara, M. Pickup, A. Marr, Supt L. Marler, M. Vasic and A. Williamson

Absence declared on Council business: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

HWB10 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2019 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

HWB11 LLOYDS BANKING FOUNDATION PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from Gill Baker, on behalf of Lloyds Bank Foundation, which outlined the background to the Foundation, underlying principles and their approach taken to work with small charities. It was noted that in 2019 the annual donation by the Bank to the Foundation based on profitability was £18.2m. The money was used to provide grants, capacity building support, work on policy and influencing and supporting bank staff with skills based volunteering.

The presentation outlined to the Board details of the 2018/19 Strategy, Reaching Further, which aimed for the Foundation to partner with small and local charities to help people overcome complex social issues and rebuild their lives.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

Action

HWB12 INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING GROUP UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered an update report on the One Halton Integrated Commissioning Group. Since the last meeting the Group had:

- met on 19th August and a Workshop had been held on 15th August;
- a further Integrated Commissioning Group meeting had been scheduled for October;
- Commissioners had supported the development of the One Halton Plan;
- Cheshire and Merseyside Healthcare Partnership had shared a Place Based Matrix. This had now been completed and would be used as a reference tool by Commissioners when agreeing outcomes; and
- the Terms of Reference had been updated to include a section on conflicts of interest.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HWB13 ONE HALTON - UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered a report which provided an update on the work of the One Halton Forum. Since the last meeting of the Board the One Halton Forum had met twice and discussed the One Halton Plan. The final draft of the Plan had now been shared with stakeholders on 13th September for any final amendments. A copy of the Plan had been circulated to Board Members.

Following comments received from stakeholders around the mental health element of the Plan, it was proposed that the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be given delegated authority to approve the final version of the One Halton Plan.

In addition, the Board had been previously advised that £25,000 had been allocated to be used for Communications and Engagement for One Halton. Since the last meeting of the Board it was noted that:

- a Communications and Engagement Manager was now in post; and
- a Communications and Engagement Strategy for One Halton had been produced;
- the process for funding requests had been developed and one request for funding had been received;
- a One Halton Budget Statement had been produced

and circulated to the Board.

RESOLVED: That

1. the contents of the report be noted;
2. in consultation with the Leader, the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to approve the final version of the One Halton Plan;
3. Communications & Engagement Strategy is approved;
4. process for funding requests are noted;
5. funding requests made in this reporting period are noted; and
6. One Halton Budget Statement is noted.

Chief Executive

HWB14 PROVIDER ALLIANCE UPDATE REPORT

The Board received a report which provided an update on the work of One Halton Provider Alliance. Board Members were advised on the key decisions made to date which were around:

- Urgent Treatment Centres;
- Workstreams;
- Place Based Integration;
- Place Based Matrix;
- Halton Integrated Frailty Service; and
- Place five year strategic plan – One Halton Plan.

The Board was also updated on the proposal to merge Halton and Warrington CCG's. Following consultation with its GP stakeholders around a proposal, a merger application would not be submitted to NHS England because of insufficient support from members in Halton. The Council would continue to work with the Halton CCG to help them reduce their running costs.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HWB15 SEASONAL FLU PLAN 2019/20

The Board considered a copy of a report which presented an Annual Flu Plan with an overview of key changes to and requirements of the annual seasonal influenza vaccination campaign for the 2019/20 flu season

and implications of this for the Local Authority and health and social care partner agencies.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Board note the content of the Annual Flu Plan and note the changes to the national flu vaccination programme for 2019/20; and
2. each individual agency note their requirements in relation to the programme and promote flu prevention as widely as possible.

HWB16 HOW INEQUALITIES IMPACT ON HEALTH IN HALTON

The Board received a presentation from Ifeoma Onyia, on behalf of Public Health, which informed the Board of the national and local context on inequalities that were impacting on health outcomes for Halton's population. The Board considered examples of health inequalities within Wards in Halton, the benefits reducing health inequalities brought to health, social wellbeing and the economy and the work taking place within Halton to tackle health inequalities.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the key health inequalities identified within the presentation be incorporated into Halton's Place Based Plan.

Director of Public Health

HWB17 TACKLING CHEAP ALCOHOL AND ALCOHOL HARM IN OUR COMMUNITIES

The Board received a report of the Chief Executive and Director of Public Health, which provided an update on the work to tackle the harm caused by alcohol in communities; and sought Board support to participate with other similarly minded authorities across the North to build support amongst the public and politicians for the introduction of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP).

It was noted that alcohol was one of the biggest public health challenges faced by Halton with rising levels of harm linked to increases in consumption over the past few decades. Halton suffered disproportionate harm when compared to the rest of the country, with estimated costs to the NHS alone of over £10million each year. 27% of the adult population in Halton were estimated to be drinking at increasing and higher risk levels. There were 2,152 hospital admissions caused by alcohol each year, with 32 adults dying as a result of alcohol consumption. Estimates suggested that in Halton 6,839 crimes, including thefts,

criminal damage and violence were caused by alcohol each year.

Members were advised that research from Sheffield University indicated that Halton would see significant benefits from the introduction of a 50p MUP in England:

- The NHS locally would save £256,200 per year;
- Alcohol related hospital admissions would fall by 130 per year;
- 65 deaths would be avoided over the ensuing 20-year period; and
- 196 fewer associated crimes would be committed per year.

Given the disproportionate levels of harm experienced across the North of England, the view expressed at Stakeholder meetings showcasing the research, held in Warrington and Durham late in 2018, was that the North West and North East should work together to influence national MUP discussions. As a working group, the aim was to facilitate and encourage willing participant local authorities to work together to influence the national debate on MUP.

In light of the harms caused in Halton by the widespread availability of cheap alcohol and the improvements in alcohol related health and crime promised by the above research, work was now underway to start the process of building public and political support for MUP and to seek to engage with politicians and Parliament. The Board was asked to support the call to urge the Government in Westminster to introduce MUP in England without delay.

In addition, the Board was asked to support, should the Government be unwilling to introduce MUP, joining a group of North West and North East Councils to take local action on this issue. Such an approach would enable consultation with local people on making a bid to introduce MUP at a regional/sub-regional/local level by making a bid using the Sustainable Communities Act.

Arising from the discussion, Cheshire Fire would provide information on the number of fire alcohol related deaths.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted; and

2. the Board supports the decision for Halton to participate with other similarly minded authorities across the North to build support amongst the public and politicians for the introduction of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP).

HWB18 PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

The Board considered a copy of the Public Health Annual Report (PHAR) 2018/19. Each year a theme was chosen for the PHAR and for 2018-2019 the Report would be a short film that focussed on Workplace Health. This topic had been chosen to highlight key areas pertinent to the Health and Wellbeing of the working population within the borough. The report would emphasise the measures being taken to both prevent poor health and improve the health of workers and their families.

The film would cover the following areas:

- what has been happening with workplace health in Halton;
- what impact the work undertaken has had on local businesses and their employees;
- outcomes associated with this work; and
- recommendations for the future.

The final version of the film would be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in January.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the contents of the report.

HWB19 HEALTHY WEIGHT IN HALTON- A WHOLE SYSTEMS APPROACH 2019- 2025

The Board received an update on the development of Halton's Healthy Weight Strategy. Over the past ten years there had been a huge amount of work to help the people of Halton maintain a healthy weight. A summary of these services were provided within the strategy and included; the Healthy Child Programme, the Healthy Schools programme, workplace health initiatives, Sure Start to Late Life and Health Checks.

The strategy aimed to build on the success of these programmes but would also look at new ways of working to reflect the many influences on obesity and the need to continue to work in partnership across agencies to improve outcomes.

In order to address the challenge locally, Halton entered into a partnership with Leeds Beckett University with a view to designing local whole systems approaches to assist in preventing and tackling obesity. Halton was one of only 6 local authority areas across England chosen as a pioneer site. Working with researchers from Leeds Beckett university two initial workshops were held to utilise the whole-systems approach to identify priorities and form the basis for the strategy and action plan.

Following the workshops, a Whole Systems Obesity network was set up to refine the priorities and develop a range of actions for each one. The strategy itself sets out some key actions, however, a more comprehensive action plan had been developed, to be overseen by the network and would be regularly updated and monitored to ensure it delivered against the priorities for the lifetime of the strategy. The overarching priorities were set out in the report.

Whilst a comprehensive action plan sat behind the strategy with timescales and responsibilities, in order to understand how our actions were impacting on health and wellbeing locally, progress against indicators in the Public Health Outcomes Framework would also be monitored.

Arising from the discussion it was agreed that the comments regarding people with disabilities would be taken back to the Strategic Lead.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

HWB20 TRANSFORMING DOMICILIARY CARE (TDC)
PROGRAMME

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – People, which gave an update on the progress of the Transforming Domiciliary Care (TDC) Programme and information on Premier Care – Lead Provider for commissioned domiciliary care in the Borough.

It was reported that the Council had been working with a range of partners to develop how domiciliary care was delivered in the Borough, known as the Transforming Domiciliary Care Programme. The term *Domiciliary Care* was used to describe the help some adults need to live as well as possible when coping with an illness or disability they may have.

Members were presented with information about the TDC Programme and the aims of the project. The report

also discussed the Programme's capacity and demand, service user assessment and management and workforce development.

Arising from the discussion the representative from Heathwatch advised that they had prepared a report on Domiciliary Care within Halton and they would be willing to meet with Officers to discuss the report outcomes.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HWB21 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY - KEY PRIORITY FOR HEALTH

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which updated members on the work of Halton's Active Me (adult) project. The project was operated by a Sport and Physical Activity Officer and utilised short-term funding to set up new physical activity sessions in the community where need had been identified.

The report outlined the current health picture in Halton, adult physical activity levels in Halton and the challenges for increasing physical activity in Halton.

RESOLVED: That Members note and support physical activity as a priority for health.

Meeting ended at 3.40 p.m.

CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 11 November 2019 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Dennett (Chair), Logan (Vice-Chair), M. Bradshaw, Carlin, Cassidy, P. Hignett, P. Lloyd Jones, Teeling and Whitley

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Leck and J. Stockton

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. McIntyre, A. Jones, T. Coffey and J. Farrell

Also in attendance: None

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

CYP16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 September 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CYP17 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.

CYP18 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The minutes relating to the Children, Education and Social Care Portfolio, that had been considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of this Board, were attached at Appendix 1 for information.

RESOLVED: That the minutes are noted.

CYP19 CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING

The Board received a video presentation from the Operational Director Children's Services, which provided an overview of contextual safeguarding and what it meant for Halton. It was noted that this information was requested following the *Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of Multi-*

Agency Response to Child Exploitation in Halton Report, which was on the September agenda and where contextual safeguarding was referred to.

Members were advised that contextual safeguarding was an approach to safeguarding that responded to peoples experiences of harm outside of the home. It expanded the remit of traditional child and family child protection models to social settings such as peer groups, schools and neighbourhoods; also known as contexts. Over the years a number of people had developed other ways of working to reduce crime and create safety in public and social settings, such as safer by design; situational crime prevention; or community safety. These were all important and contextual safeguarding built on these to ask how our child protection systems, as well as criminal justice and community safety, could address the harm that young people faced beyond their families.

It was commented that contextual safeguarding was not just about working in contexts, it was about how the child protection system recognised and addressed the risks that young people faced beyond the control of their parents and that happened beyond the front door.

The Board was advised that there were four component parts to contextual safeguarding: Target; Legislative Framework; Partnerships and Outcomes Measurements; these were explained in detail in the video presentation. It was explained that in order for something to be considered contextual safeguarding, a local authority or child protection service would need to have, or be working towards having these four parts in place.

An example of all four component parts happening at once was provided to Members as follows:

Take a park where sexual assaults were known to have taken place, the target of the assessment and intervention would be the park itself. A social worker would co-ordinate an assessment and plan involving practitioners who would reach into the park to consider ways of making the park safer, through interventions such as increased lighting, youth work or cutting back bushes. This might mean the social worker has to work with new partners such as the local youth club, the neighbourhood police officer, park wardens or the local newsagent, to conduct their assessment, build and deliver their plan. The outcomes or success would then be monitored contextually, such as monitoring reports of sexual assault or harassment in the

park.

Officers advised that in response to contextual safeguarding Halton was adjusting its approach to safeguarding and now had many additional groups of people involved in the Operational Group. Members discussed the information provided and additional information was provided by Officers in response to Members queries around children who went missing, child sexual and criminal exploitation and the profiles of Runcorn and Widnes in relation to organised crime. It was acknowledged that the work around safeguarding was extremely challenging and that early identification and prevention was crucial.

In addition Board Members queried:

How Ward Councillors could help if they suspected a safeguarding issue?

iCART (the integrated contact and referral team) is the point of contact.

Was this a proactive or reactive approach?

Proactive, if someone suspected a child was in danger they can report this and raise the alarm. Preventative work was also taking place to raise awareness amongst children and young people, such as showing them videos of dangers. These messages could also be delivered in schools.

Will this result in more work for agencies and was it sustainable?

Yes it would but it has to be done. It was hoped that increased partnership working within the contextual safeguarding approach would help to identify and help more children at risk.

Was there liaison with schools and the Police when a child goes missing from school?

Yes, if a child is missing from school this is reported to the Police who would conduct case planning meetings about them. Where a child was excluded from school or placed on a reduced timetable, the Education Welfare Services would be advised by the school using a pro forma.

Members were advised of a workshop that would be taking place in January for the agencies and groups involved in safeguarding and an invitation to this was extended to them. The Chair requested a follow up report is received by the Board at a future meeting. He also requested that the contextual safeguarding information be disseminated to all school governors.

Director of

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received.

CYP20 EARLY OUTCOMES FUND

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, People, which outlined the progress regarding Halton's successful bid in receiving part of a share of the Early Outcomes Fund.

It was reported that the TALK Halton project came into being as a result of a successful bid to the DfE as part of the Early Outcomes Fund in January 2019. Money from the DfE was awarded through the Early Outcomes Fund to:

- Reduce the proportion of children not reaching expected levels in Communication Language and Literacy in reception by 2028;
- Close the 'word gap' in areas of social disadvantage; and
- Ensure children who experience disadvantage were given the support they needed to succeed.

The report provided an update of the progress of the TALK Halton project presented to the Board in June, and summarised the context of the bid, evidenced the progress towards project aims and highlighted some of the challenges.

Members were pleased to receive the update and welcomed the progress made.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) supports the drive of the TALK Halton project to improve children's speech, language and communication skills as a core priority; and
- 2) receives a further update report on the progress of the project at the February 2020 meeting.

CYP21 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS 2019/20 - QUARTER 2

The Board received the Performance Management reports for quarter 2 of 2019-20 (1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019). Members were requested to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of these.

It was noted that the key priorities for development or

improvement in 2019-20 were agreed by Members and included in the Local Authority's Business Plan, for the various functional areas reported to the Board as follows:

- Education, Inclusion and Provision Services; and
- Children and Families Services.

The reports detailed progress made against objectives and milestones and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period.

Following presentation of the report the following comments were made/noted by Members:

- The Reading Strategy should include encouraging reading for pleasure with adults as well as children targeted;
- Attendance at schools was discussed, in particular regular persistent absences and the need to incentivise parents in certain situations;
- A pro forma was used by schools to document behavioural problems, which was sent to the LA so that if any additional support was needed this could be considered;
- It was accepted that some children often had issues in their lives that they struggled with and resulted in them going missing from school;
- An independent review on absence from school was offered by the Council to secondary schools in the Borough; they declined however, preferring to share data with the LA and between themselves;
- Page 28 PED0102 – the missing target figure would be checked and sent to Members;
- The children's safeguarding partnership had now been launched;
- Cost pressures around residential placements for children still existed; and
- Further to the Inclusion Conference – it was confirmed that the Powerpoint slides had been sent to Schools following this. Feedback on the Charter would be included on the Spring Term Chair of Governor's meeting agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Performance Management reports for quarter 2 of 2019/20 be received.

Operational Director
Education, Inclusion and Provision -

AUTUMN 2019-20

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, People, which provided a summary of the revised Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) Review; this was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

It was noted that Sections 6 and 7 of *The Childcare Act (2006)* and the associated statutory guidance: *Early Education and Childcare – Statutory guidance for local authorities (March 2018)*, required all local authorities in England to undertake and provide an annual childcare sufficiency report to elected Council Members on how they were meeting their duty to secure sufficient childcare and to make it available to the public. In accordance with this, Halton's Childcare Sufficiency Assessment had been reviewed and updated; this was attached to the report.

The report detailed achievements since the last review and outlined Halton's current position. It also highlighted any gaps in provision and explained how these were being addressed. The Board welcomed and approved the revised Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the revised Childcare Sufficiency Assessment.

Meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

**EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS, AND COMMUNITY POLICY AND
PERFORMANCE BOARD**

At a meeting of the Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 18 November 2019 in the Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors MacManus (Chair), C. Plumpton Walsh (Vice-Chair), J. Bradshaw, Cassidy, Logan, Rowe, Teeling, Wallace and Whitley

Apologies for Absence: Councillor June Roberts

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: C. Patino, W. Rourke, A. Jones, T. Booth and K. Hayes

Also in attendance: One member of the press

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

ELS20 MINUTES

The Minutes from the meeting held on 23 September 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

The Chair provided the following updates with regards to:

ELS13 – PRESENTATION RIVERSIDE COLLEGE – the Chair and one other Board Member had completed a tour of the College today which had proved to be extremely worthwhile and interesting.

ELS18 – SCRUTINY TOPIC GROUP ITEMS 2019/20 – Further to the decision of the topic group establishment – *Traded Areas of the Borough*, the Operational Director Finance, would prepare some financial information on this for presentation at the group's first meeting.

ELS21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.

Action

ELS22 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Executive Board minutes relating to the Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Portfolio were provided to the Board for information.

RESOLVD: That the minutes be noted.

ELS23 BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAMME

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which informed on the current and future performance of the Business Growth Programme (BGP).

Members were advised that the report reflected on the changes from Phase 1 of the Liverpool City Region Integrated Business Support (LCRIBS) Programme through to Phase 2, now named as the Business Growth Programme, and the nature of support across the Liverpool City Region (LCR).

It was reported that it was proposed to extend the Programme and if this was successful, Phase 3 would commence January 2022. It was noted that the project met a distinct gap in the current City Region business support delivery positioned between pre start / start up / post start up delivered by others within the LCR. Further, supporting Phase 3 of the BGP would align with the Council's priorities in improving the economic growth; by aiding SME's within Halton to grow, develop, become more sustainable and increase jobs.

Further to Members' queries, the following information was added:

- A risk analysis was done once a year using the Local Economic Assessment;
- Some SME's (Small to Medium Sized Enterprise) failed in their first 3 years of trading; accurate statistics relating to Halton would be available later in the year and reported to the Board;
- SME survival rates in the Borough were comparable and slightly exceeded the LCR average; and
- Information on job numbers and types of business were provided in the monthly economic report produced by the Council's Customer Intelligence Unit.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the activities and performance of the BGP, which sought to align with the local delivery and with emerging City Region business support delivery; and
- 2) notes that further engagement with the Combined Authority and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) would be required to consider the implications of an 18 month Programme extension – Phase 3 of the Business Programme.

Operational
Director
Economy,
Enterprise
&
Property

-
&

ELS24 APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE

The Board received a report which provided an update on the new Skills and Apprenticeship Hub and the Apprenticeship Ambassador Programme launched in January 2019.

It was reported that following a recent successful funding application, the Combined Authority was bringing together the expertise of the existing Apprenticeship Hub (managed by Halton Borough Council), the City Region's Skills for Growth Service, and the work the Combined Authority led on around specific sectors and careers, all under the umbrella of a new 'Skills and Apprenticeship Hub'.

The Service would be in place from 1 November 2019 and have 5 main functions, these were outlined in the report with the management and delivery arrangements.

The following comments / queries were made following presentation of the report:

- It was good to see older people (25+) doing apprenticeships as some were not ready to take an apprenticeship straight from school, so it was an option for them later on in life;
- It was also encouraging to see that some people were continuing up to higher levels within their apprenticeships;
- The importance of the College in ensuring that students were 'job ready' was discussed;
- There were also a number of older people retraining to follow different career paths;
- The workforce requirements of companies within the Borough were shared with the Council and the College, so that skills and qualifications shortages could be identified and could be focussed upon;
- Members requested to know how many

apprenticeships were completed and how many apprentices actually secured employment from them; and

- Members requested a breakdown of apprenticeships for Halton and how many of those were school leavers.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the updates provided.

Operational Director
Economy,
Enterprise &
Property

ELS25 POLICY UPDATE

Members received a report informing them of the recent national policy announcements relevant to the Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy and Performance Board.

The announcement headings were as follows:

1. Changes in the Department for Education (DfE);
2. FE and Skills Funding;
3. Ofsted – Education Inspection Framework (EIF);
4. Curriculum Reforms;
5. LCR Apprenticeship Hub;
6. Brexit Council and Brexit Executive Team;
7. Growth Platform – A new company to deliver growth for Liverpool City Region;
8. Local Industrial Strategy; and
9. Alstom – Social Mobility Foundation for Liverpool;

RESOLVED: That the updates be noted.

ELS26 THE BRINDLEY THEATRE

The Board received a presentation from the Brindley Arts and Events Manager which included an update on the Theatre’s successes and future priorities.

Information was provided on external and internal improvements since 2017; the new Website; how income was generated; how customers bought their tickets; and future regeneration opportunities. It was noted that 50% of the Brindley’s customers were from outside the Borough.

The Board discussed the possibility of using the green space outside The Brindley for outdoor events in the future; an area that benefits from being in the Town Centre and with free parking. It was noted that this site was being surveyed at the moment in order to progress this. The possibility of encouraging inward investors to the Town

Centre was discussed and the Operational Directors, Environment and Community, and Economy, Enterprise and Economy were working collaboratively on this.

Members welcomed the positive progress being made to promote The Brindley Theatre as an important visitor destination. The Officer’s presentation would be sent to Members following the meeting.

Operational Director -
Community &
Environment

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received.

ELS27 BOROUGH OF CULTURE CONSULTATION

The Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, invited Members to attend a consultation which will explore the themes identified for Halton’s Borough of Culture Year in 2021.

The Board was advised that the award of Liverpool City Region Borough of Culture was inspired by the UK City of Culture Programme which followed Liverpool’s European Capital of Culture in 2008. This new initiative was launched in 2018 as Liverpool celebrated its 10th Anniversary as the UK’s only European Capital of Culture.

It was noted that the Borough of Culture initiative was a non-competitive process which would rotate round the City Region with the aim of encouraging each Borough to collaboratively develop its local talent and potential, whilst reflecting the ambitions and aims of the Regional Culture and Creativity Strategy, which looked to build sustainable capacity across the City Region.

Further, Members were advised the aim of Halton’s Borough of Culture Year was to increase participation in quality cultural activity across Halton, helping more people to experience the arts and to benefit from the role that culture could play in transforming lives, improving health and wellbeing, reducing social isolation, increasing community cohesion, inspiring creativity, supporting learning and making Halton a great place to live and work. It was reported that this would be delivered under the banner of ‘Celebrate Halton’ and would look to celebrate Halton’s past, present and future, through a programme of activity ranging from small community led activities to large scale events which bring in national / international artists.

Further to discussions, the following further information was noted:

- Funding of £200k was available for Halton’s Borough of Culture Year;
- Halton’s had its own talented artists and these would be identified and invited to join in the celebrations;
- Many community groups had expressed an interest in taking part in the consultation, which could be arranged;
- A previous year’s topic group was focussed on culture; the findings of which would be revisited and hopefully used;
- It was important that local people were aware of the historical heritage and culture of where they lived but many did not, it was hoped that this event would inspire and appeal to all people and communities; and
- It was agreed that this opportunity needed to be maximised for the legacy of the Borough and for the younger generation, so input from everyone was welcomed.

It was confirmed that due to the Election on 12 December, the original date of the consultation event had been cancelled. Once the new date was known, Members would be advised.

RESOLVED: That Members of the Board are welcome to attend the consultation session to give their views on Halton’s Borough of Culture Year themes.

Operational Director -
Economy, Enterprise &
Property

ELS28 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS 2019/20 - QUARTER 2

The Board received the performance management reports for Quarter 2 of 2019-20 (1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019) and were requested to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of these.

It was noted that the key priorities for development of improvement in 2019-20 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans for the various function areas reported to the Board as follows:

- Enterprise, Employment and Skills; and
- Community and Environment.

The report detailed progress against service objectives and milestones and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period. Also, progress concerning the implementation of any high risk

mitigation measures relevant to this Board was included.

Further to Members' queries clarification was provided to some points as follows:

- The use of local businesses for the new leisure centre build on Moor Lane was reflected in the social value clauses contained in the contract with the Wates Group;
- There had been an impact on all gyms in Widnes Town Centre since the opening of the one in the old BHS outlet;
- It was noted that the gym at Kingsway Leisure Centre had an offer '10 months for the price of 12', which was competing with this;
- There had been an improvement in the Community and Environment overspend since the end of Q2 (September); this would be reflected in Q3 figures; and
- The loss of the Halton Suite function room and the gym had impacted on the income for the Stadium.

RESOLVED: That the Quarter 2 performance management reports be received.

Meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

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HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Health Policy and Performance Board held on Tuesday, 26 November 2019 at Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors J. Lowe (Chair), Baker (Vice-Chair), Cassidy, Dennett, Dourley, P. Hignett, C. Loftus, Ratcliffe, Zygadlo and D. Wilson

Apologies for Absence: Councillors June Roberts and Sinnott

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Wallace-Bonner, A. Jones, D. Nolan, L Wilson and H. Moir

Also in attendance: K. Parker – Healthwatch Advisory Board, H. Heatherstone – British Red Cross and one member of the press

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
HEA11 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2019 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
HEA12 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
HEA13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING MINUTES	
<p>The minutes relating to the Health and Wellbeing Board from its meeting of 10 July 2019 were presented to the Board for information.</p>	
<p>One Member queried why the proposals in relation to the Urgent Care Centres' and the merging of Warrington and Halton CCGs' did not appear on the Health and Wellbeing Board's agenda; commenting that items of such importance should be.</p>	
<p>The Chair advised that his comments would be fed back.</p>	
<p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.</p>	
	Director of Adult Social Services

HEA14 BRITISH RED CROSS - HALTON SUPPORT AT HOME SERVICE

The Board welcomed Helen Featherstone, North of England Service Manager for Independent Living Services, British Red Cross (BRC) who provided a presentation to them on the Halton Support at Home Service, which is provided in the Borough by the BRC.

Members were advised that the BRC service supported people for a short period of time (up to 6 weeks) during the difficult transition from hospital to home. The service was an important part of the discharge management process, helping to alleviate the pressure on beds as well as offering practical support to people when they were at their most vulnerable. It was noted that the Service was also available to people in the community to help avoid hospital admission and operated Borough wide, between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday.

The report and presentation provided details of the services, activities and interventions which may be provided to individuals whilst using the service. It was noted that under the current contract, BRC provided information on a number of indicators relating to numbers of referrals and numbers of service users, as well as outcome information.

Further to Members queries the following additional information was provided:

- The Health and Wellbeing Walk was praised and there was a similar walk in Runcorn, carried out by another organisation, the details would be sought and provided to the Board;
- People were able to access the BRC services more than once, in fact this had happened already;
- Referrals could come from family, friends and agencies; people were welcome to call the BRC in the first instance; and
- Some referrals did prove challenging due to some clients having complex needs so these would be signposted to an additional service for help.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the contents of the report and accompanying presentation.

Director of Adult
Social Services

The Chair, Councillor Joan Lowe, declared a disclosable other interest in the following item as her daughter in law worked for the domiciliary care provider. She did not take part in the discussion of the item and handed the Chair to the Vice Chair, Councillor Baker, for the duration of the item.

HEA15 HEALTHWATCH HALTON – DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICES IN HALTON

The Board welcomed Kath Parker, the Chair of Healthwatch Advisory Board who presented the outcomes from Healthwatch Halton's recent survey on Domiciliary Care Services in Halton.

It was reported that in 2016, Healthwatch Halton undertook a project to gather the views of people using Home Care Services (Domiciliary Care) in Halton. Over 140 people took part in the survey, which concluded that the vast majority of service users were satisfied with their care but there were some issues that needed to be addressed and as such, the report made a number of recommendations.

It was noted that at the time the report was published, Halton Borough Council announced a review of provision of Domiciliary Care services across the Borough and following the review recommissioned home care services, with the contract being awarded to one main provider. Subsequently, HBC were interested in how the new provider was performing against issues the previous report had raised and as such, Healthwatch Halton undertook an evaluation of the new service provision as well. This report, published 24 October 2019, was appended to the report: *Domiciliary Care Services in Halton – what people told us about their experiences.*

Members were pleased to receive the report and the consensus was that an 80% satisfaction rate overall was a very good figure. They also recognised that there were consistent problems for the provider such as the continuity of carers; length of visit times; and high staff turnover for example.

The following points were discussed and noted following Members queries:

- Vera's Story and what would happen next in this scenario;
- Some clients were not clear about the care options available to them;

- The importance of independent advice for clients from other agencies and what could be done to improve this part of the service – it was agreed that this needed to be clarified;
- Continuity of care was recognised as a huge issue for the provider and was being monitored on a monthly basis; and
- A response to the survey had since been provided, a copy of which would be included in a future report to the Board.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the Healthwatch Halton report relating to domiciliary Care Services in Halton.

Director of Adult
Social Services

HEA16 PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19

The Board received the Public Health Annual Report (PHAR) 2018-19, which was in the form of a short film which focussed on Workplace Health as its theme.

It was reported that since 1988 Directors of Public Health (DPH) had been tasked with preparing annual reports – an independent assessment of the health of local populations. The annual report was the DPH's professional statement about the health of local communities and was an important vehicle by which a DPH could identify key issues, flag up problems, report progress and thereby serve their local populations.

It was noted that each year a theme was chosen for the PHAR so therefore it did not encompass every issue of relevance, but rather focused on a particular issue or set of linked issues. Also, the PHAR was the DPH's independent, expert assessment of the health of the local population and whilst the views and contributions of local partners had been taken into account, the assessment and recommendations made in the report were those held by the DPH and did not necessarily reflect the position of the employing and partner organisations.

As the Director of Public Health was unable to attend the meeting, the Chair requested that any queries from Members be directed to her for a response.

RESOLVED: That the Public Health Report 2018-19 be received.

Director of Public
Health

HEA17 NAMED SOCIAL WORKER / TRANSITION TEAM

The Strategic Director People, provided Members of the Board an update on the work of the Transition Team, based within the Care Management Division of Adult Services. It focussed on the continued use of the Named Social Worker (NSW) approach, following the provision of funding from One Halton for 2019-20.

As Members were already aware of the Transition Team and Named Social Worker pilot, they were provided with summary of this as a reminder. The report continued, with an update on funding for 2019-20 and gave details of current activity.

It was reported that since April 2019 when One Halton funding was identified, the Transition Team had continued to have an impact on the lives of young people. The intensive and pro-active work of the team, enhanced by the NSW approach, resulted in better outcomes for individuals at the same time as achieving cost savings. A case study demonstrating this was attached at appendix 1.

Members were pleased to receive the report and on behalf of the Board the Chair passed on their thanks to all staff involved in the pilot. Members discussed the sustainability of the project bearing in mind the caseloads were set to increase in the future. The importance of keeping family members and communities together was recognised.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

The Chair, Councillor Joan Lowe, declared a disclosable other interest in the following item as her daughter in law worked for the domiciliary care provider. She did not take part in the discussion of the item and handed the Chair to the Vice Chair, Councillor Baker, for the duration of the item.

HEA18 CARE HOME AND DOMICILIARY CARE UPDATE REPORT

The Board received a report from the Director of Adult Social Services which provided an update on the key issues with respect to quality in local Care Home and Domiciliary Care.

It was reported that in Halton there were 25 registered care homes which provided 760 beds operated by 14 different providers. The capacity within the care homes

ranged from homes with 66 beds to smaller independent homes with 6 beds; four of the homes were now owned by the Local Authority: Madeline McKenna, Millbrow, St Luke's and St Patrick's, which equated to 163 beds.

It was noted that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) was responsible for the registration, inspection and assessment of all registered providers however, the Care Act 2014 placed the duty of securing the quality of care in Halton on the Council itself.

Members were provided with details of the CQC's assessment process and details of the role of the Quality Assurance Team in the Local Authority. The report also provided the quarter 2 ratings given by each of them for care homes and domiciliary care services; it was noted that both ratings were almost the same. With regards to the amber ratings in paragraph 3.13, it was noted that this related to management issues and not the standard of care itself.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HEA19 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS QUARTER 2 OF 2019/20

The Board received the Performance Management Reports for quarter 2 of 2019-20. It was reported however that from page 102 onwards, under *Adult Social Care Department – Revenue Budget as at 30 September 2019*, this information was incorrect as it related to another department. Therefore the correct finance information would be sent to the Board following the meeting.

Members were advised that the report introduced, through the submission of a structured thematic performance report, the progress of key performance indicators, milestones and targets relating to Health in quarter 2 of 2019-20. This included a description of factors which were affecting the services.

The Board was requested to consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification; and highlight any areas of interest or concern for reporting at future meetings of the Board.

It was highlighted that under emerging issues a review of Intermediate Care Services was currently being undertaken for the reasons outlined in the report. A report providing further details would be submitted to the Board at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Performance Management Reports for quarter 2 be received.

Director of Adult
Social Services

Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

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SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 19 November 2019 at the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Thompson (Chair), Baker, E. Cargill, Dourley, V. Hill, P. Lloyd Jones, K. Loftus, Logan, Ratcliffe and Zygadllo

Apologies for Absence: Councillor N. Plumpton Walsh

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Andrews, C. Patino and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: Councillor D. Cargill under Standing Order 33. One Member of the press

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
SAF15 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 th September 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
SAF16 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
It was reported that no questions had been received	
SAF17 SSP MINUTES	
The minutes from the previous Safer Halton Partnership (SHP) meeting held on 1 st May 2019 and 17 th July 2019, were presented to the Board for information. Members asked if draft SHP minutes could be submitted to the Board as soon as they were available. It was agreed that the request would be submitted to the Chair of the SHP.	
SAF18 WIDNES POLICING UNIT	Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources
This report was adjourned to a future meeting.	

SAF19 GANGMASTERS AND LABOUR ABUSE AUTHORITY – PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from Paul Elms, Head of Prevention at the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) to provide a background to their work. The GLAA worked in partnership to protect vulnerable and exploited workers. Through the intelligence they received from their inspections, the public, industry and other government departments they investigated reports of worker exploitation and illegal labour provision as well as offences under the National Minimum Wage and Employment Agencies Acts. They also worked with partner organisations such as the police, the National Crime Agency and other government law enforcement agencies to target, dismantle and disrupt serious and organised crime across the UK.

Arising from the discussion, Members agreed that an appropriate representation be made to Government that there should be an accreditation scheme for businesses where there had been previous incidents of modern day slavery.

RESOLVED: That

1. the presentation be noted; and
2. an appropriate representation be made to Government that there should be an accreditation scheme for businesses where there had been previous incidents of modern day slavery.

Strategic Director
Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

SAF20 THE CHESHIRE & WARRINGTON TRAVELLER TEAM

The Board received a presentation from Dawn Taylor, a representative from the Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team (CWTT) regarding the work they carried out in the Borough. The CWTT was hosted by Cheshire West and Chester Council and was made up of Officers from Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cheshire Police. The presentation provided information on the number of encampments in Cheshire this year, Police powers regarding directing travellers to a transit site, mapping frequent flyers and the communication strategy.

Halton had a full time Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Officer who was responsible for the day to day management of the Gypsy and Traveller Service including sites, unauthorised encampments, general enquiries and complaints.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

SAF21 REMEDI "GOT YOUR BACK" PROJECT UPDATE

The Board received a presentation from Lisa Gill on behalf of Remedi on the work that the organisation was doing in partnership with the Local Authority, Police and other local organisations to make Halton safer, in particular the Got Your Back Project. The Board was advised that Remedi were a charity that provided a restorative justice and mediation service across Cheshire. Ms Gill outlined to the Board an overview of Remedi and shared examples of case studies.

RESOLVED: That the report and presentation be noted.

Meeting ended at 8.28 p.m.

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ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 13 November 2019 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Woolfall (Chair), Fry (Vice-Chair), Gilligan, Howard, A. Lowe, Nolan, Rowe, Sinnott and Teeling

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Howard

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Keith Morley

Officers present: G. Ferguson, T. Gibbs and W. Rourke

Also in attendance: One member of the press.

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

Action

EUR17 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2019 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

EUR18 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

EUR19 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

EUR20 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2019/20

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 2

of 2019/20.

The reports related to the following functional areas which reported to the Board and detailed progress against service objectives and milestones, and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period:

- Development and Investment Services;
- Highways and Transportation, Logistics and Development Services;
- Waste and Environmental Improvement and Open Space Services; and
- Housing Strategy.

Arising from the discussion, a Member asked if consideration could be given to inviting Housing Associations to a future meeting of the Board. It was agreed that this would be looked into.

RESOLVED: That the second quarter performance monitoring reports be received and noted.

EUR21 PRESENTATION: FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES – RUNCORN

The Board received a presentation from the Operational Director, Economy, Enterprise and Property regarding potential funding opportunities for Runcorn Town Centre. During the summer and early autumn, the Government made some announcements on potential funding opportunities which could have positive impact on Runcorn Town Centre. Although work was at an early stage of development, Members were updated on the funding criteria, bidding processes and timetable. The potential funding streams for Runcorn were as follows:

- Town Deals – up to £25m;
- Future High Street Fund - £675m pot – can bid for up to £25m for Runcorn Old Town;
- Transforming Cities Fund - £15m bid in for Runcorn Station Quarter;
- LCR Town Centre Commission Fund – CA fund of £1m allocated for Halton Lea.

It was anticipated that Vision Workshops would be held to develop a business case and delivery plan to support the bids and Ward Councillors would be invited to attend.

Further to a query, it was noted that productive

conversations had taken place with the new franchisee at Runcorn Station.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted and the Board welcomes work being undertaken to bid for funding to support the ongoing regeneration of Runcorn Town Centre.

EUR22 ANNUAL ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION & CASUALTY REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which gave details of road traffic collision and casualty numbers within the Borough in the year 2018.

The Board was advised that Appendix A to the report set out full details of the numbers of traffic collisions and casualties in the year 2018, and compared these figures with those from previous years. Although the total of 30 killed or seriously injured (KSI) was slightly above the figures for 2017 (28) it was historically low compared to 10 years ago. Overall Halton, in comparison with other Authorities within the Cheshire Constabulary area was one of the better performing local authorities in 2018.

In addition, the report highlighted the work the Road Safety Team would continue to undertake during the year with an extensive programme which covered road traffic reduction schemes, road safety education, training and publicity. It was noted that the ongoing Runcorn delinking, Widnes Loops and Silver Jubilee Bridge works temporarily changed traffic flows and made it difficult to determine specific accident black spots and therefore where to effectively undertake accident remedial works.

A Member requested that if available further information on the number of fines issued by the Cheshire Camera be circulated.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the overall progress made on casualty reduction in Halton over the past decade be noted; and
- 2) the programme of road safety collision reduction schemes, road safety education, training and publicity be endorsed.

EUR23 VEHICLE ACCESS CROSSINGS POLICY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided clear guidance on the acceptable criteria for a vehicle crossing and suggested amendments to the current policy. The reason for the additional information was the requirement to protect green highway verges, control crossing width, consider people with reduced mobility, provide sustainable drainage and protect the visual amenity of the street scene. It was proposed that a guidance leaflet for public information setting out the criteria for a vehicle crossing would be produced.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Board reviewed the criteria set out in section 4.2 of the report;
2. the policy position that access crossings should only be permitted and constructed in accordance with these criteria be endorsed; and
3. an amended and updated vehicle access crossings policy be submitted to Executive Board for approval.

Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 12 November 2019 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chair), Philbin (Vice-Chair), Abbott, M. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, A. Lowe, A. McInerney and Joe Roberts

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Howard, N. Plumpton Walsh and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, E. Dawson, G. Ferguson, P. Garnett, C. Patino and L Pennington-Ramsden

Also in attendance: One Member of the press.

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
CS20 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 3rd September 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>Arising from the previous meeting a Member requested clarification on the impact of the General Election on 12 December on the progress of the proposed new Ward Boundaries. It was agreed that further information would be provided to the Board.</p>	
CS21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources
<p>The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CS22 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
<p>The Board was presented with the Minutes relating to the Corporate Services Portfolio which had been considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of this Board.</p>	
<p><u>EXB32</u> – Members discussed the future disposal of</p>	

Council land. It was agreed that the Executive Board be recommended that where possible, when the Council disposes of land for housing purposes, those houses should be freehold and not leasehold properties.

RESOLVED: That

1. the minutes and comments made be noted; and
2. the Executive Board be recommended that where possible, when the Council disposes of land for housing purposes, those houses should be freehold and not leasehold properties.

CS23 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT GROUP NOTES

The Board considered the minutes of the Member Development Group meeting held on 21st March 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CS24 CORPORATE ACCIDENT / INCIDENT REPORT 1.4.19 TO 31.8.19

The Board was provided with a report from the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented details of health and safety management within the Authority from 1 April 2019 to 31st August 2019.

Officers commented that the report highlighted the national and local health and safety information, and together with performance and incident trends, these formed the basis for the recommended actions for 2019/20. In order to be proactive in health and safety management the report also indicated the number of completed risk assessments and training delivered to staff.

The report highlighted:

- that the Health and Safety Executive had increased Fees for Intervention from £129 to £154 per hour;
- the Health and Safety Executive had released the workplace fatal injury statistics for 2018/19 which highlighted that 147 employees were killed in their workplace and approximately a quarter were over 60 years of age;
- reportable and significant accidents for Halton were currently at a total of 15 across both directorates plus 5 near misses. This compared to 44 last year with 5 near misses;

- schools had 11 physical and 1 social media incidents;
- lone working monitoring system – registered users had decreased from the same period last year but actual percentage use had risen slightly;

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CS25 PROGRESS UPDATES REGARDING THE DISCRETIONARY SUPPORT SCHEME, DISCRETIONARY HOUSING PAYMENTS AND UNIVERSAL CREDIT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the delivery of the Discretionary Support Scheme, Discretionary Housing Payments and Universal Credit.

The Discretionary Support Scheme (DSS) was now in its seventh year of operation. Over this period the Scheme had been developed and amended where necessary by the Board. Details of funding and expenditure, including an analysis of applications by type and awards granted during 2018/19, were outlined in the report. It was noted that the DSS made 574 awards during 2018/19 totalling £137,238.

In 2018/19 total grant funding of £536,534 was received for Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP). Actual expenditure totalled £535,414 representing 1,544 DHP awards and gave an under spend of £1,120. This compared with 2017/18 where 1,403 awards were made with total expenditure of £412,767.

The Board was advised that the increase in the number of awards and total expenditure in 2018/19 compared to the previous year was the result of increasing numbers of Halton residents becoming eligible for Universal Credit.

Arising from the discussion, the Board discussed the signposting of the DSS and if any of those awarded were claimants impacted by Universal Credit. It was noted that consideration would be given for future reports to contain information on the number of DSS award to those people impacted by Universal Credit.

RESOLVED: That the latest position regarding the Discretionary Support Scheme, Discretionary Housing Payments and Universal Credit be noted.

CS26 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2019/20

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Report for Quarter 2 of 2019/20.

The reports related to the following functional areas which reported to the Board and detailed progress against service objectives and milestones and performance targets, and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period:

- Finance;
- Human Resources and Organisational Development;
- ICT and Administrative Support;
- Legal and Democracy;
- Policy and Performance;
- Property Services; and
- Catering, Stadium and Registration Services.

Members discussed the following:

- the financial settlement – it was unlikely that this would be known before Christmas; and
- the take up of free school meals and the steps taken to improve this. Members also welcomed an initiative held in the summer holidays to provide children with a free lunch.

RESOLVED: That the Quarter 2 Performance Monitoring reports be received and noted.

CS27 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 item 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 paragraph 3 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.

CS28 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2019/20

The Board requested further information on:

- the contract recently agreed between Council and the Widnes Vikings; and
- the High Court Case.

RESOLVED: That the requests for further information be noted and once information was available it would be shared with Members.

Strategic Director
Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

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BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 20 November 2019 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors M. Lloyd Jones (Chair), Wall (Vice-Chair), E. Cargill, A. Lowe, MacManus, McDermott, N. Plumpton Walsh, Joe Roberts, G. Stockton and J. Stockton

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Dawson, I. Leivesley, M. Murphy, A. Scott and S. Baker

Also in attendance: Helen Stevenson and Mark Heap from Grant Thornton (External Auditors)

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

	<i>Action</i>
BEB9 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
BEB10 DRAFT PROCUREMENT STRATEGY 2020-2023	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of a draft Procurement Strategy 2020/23.</p> <p>The Board was advised that the Council's current Procurement Strategy (the Strategy) covered the period 2016/19 and that the actions contained within it had been fully implemented. Consequently, an updated Strategy, attached to the report at Appendix 1, had been developed, which took into account the Local Government Association's 'National Procurement Strategy for Local Government in England 2018' publication.</p> <p>It was noted that the Strategy was broadly structured around three key themes of Showing Leadership; Behaving Commercially; and Achieving Community Benefits; and consolidated the significant progress made in developing the Council's procurement arrangements following the</p>	

implementation of the previous strategies. It was reported that a further fourth theme which related to Ensuring Governance had also been included, which related to the need to maintain robust systems and procedures to ensure that procurement activity was undertaken with appropriate levels of control, probity and transparency, and was compliant with the Council's own procurement rules and wider legislation.

Members were advised that in developing the Strategy, account had been taken of the environment within which the Council operated. Progress would be reported to the Board throughout the lifecycle of the Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the Draft Procurement Strategy 2020/2023, attached to the report, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

BEB11 2018/19 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which provided an update on the external audit of the Council's 2018/19 Statement of Accounts. The external auditors, Grant Thornton, attended the meeting to present their progress report.

It was reported that the Statement of Accounts set out the Council's financial performance for the year in terms of revenue and capital spending and also presented the year-end financial position as reflected in the balance sheet.

It was reported that due to a number of technical accounting issues, the External Auditor was still not in a position to publish the audit certificate or opinion on the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts. The Board was reminded that on 31 July 2019, the Council published a notice which outlined the reasons why it had not been able to publish the final Statement of Accounts. The External Auditor had provided a report on the technical accounting issues which were still subject to audit; this was attached as an Appendix to the report.

Helen Stevenson and Mark Heap, external auditors from Grant Thornton, dealt with questions from Members.

RESOLVED: That the External Auditor's progress report presented in the Appendix attached to the report, be noted.

BEB12 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update from the external auditors regarding:

- Progress made in delivering their responsibilities as the Council's external auditors; and
- A summary of emerging national issues and developments that could be relevant to the work of the Board.

Helen Stevenson and Mark Heap, from external auditors Grant Thornton, attended the meeting to present the report and then dealt with Members' questions. It was confirmed that audit work on the completion of the 2018/19 accounts would run alongside the commencement of work on the 2019/20 audit of accounts.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

BEB13 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 item 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 paragraph 3 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 item 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.

(N.B. Councillor Martha Lloyd Jones declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as she was a Governor at St Edwards Primary School)

BEB14 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Divisional Manager, Audit, Procurement and Operational Finance, which provided Members with a summary of the internal audit work completed since the last progress report in July 2019. The report also highlighted matters relevant to the Board's responsibilities as the Council's Audit Committee.

It was noted that a total of 14 Internal Audit reports had been finalised since the last progress report. An overall assurance opinion was provided for each audit engagement. It was reported that one follow-up audit had been completed since the last report. Details were provided in the report.

It was reported that the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards required that the Chief Audit Executive deliver an annual internal audit opinion and report to inform the Council's governance statement. It was noted that Management had responded positively to all of the issues identified in the audits and that there were no outstanding matters from those audits that would have implications for the internal audit opinion.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

DATE FOR NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD

At the conclusion of the meeting, Members were reminded of the arrangements for the next meeting of the Business Efficiency Board.

The next meeting would take place on Monday 24 February at 6.30pm in the Civic Suite, Runcorn Town Hall. A training session would be delivered at 5.30pm in the same venue. It was therefore noted that the additional meeting booked for 8 January 2020 and the scheduled meeting on 25 March 2020 were both cancelled.

Meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 7 October 2019 at Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Morley (Vice-Chair), Carlin, R. Hignett, V. Hill, J. Lowe, June Roberts, Thompson, Woolfall and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Nolan and C. Plumpton Walsh

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, J. Tully, A. Plant, G. Henry, M. Pagan, L. Wilson-Lagan and P. Peak

Also in attendance: 3 Members of the public and one member of the press

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

	<i>Action</i>
DEV7 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2019, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
DEV8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE	
DEV9 - 19/00020/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL DISTRICT CENTRE COMPRISING CONVENIENCE STORE (USE CLASS A1), 5 NO. RETAIL UNITS (USE CLASSES A1, A3, D1 WITH A MAXIMUM OF 1 UNIT TO BE D1), CHILDREN'S NURSERY (USE CLASS D1), 43 NO. RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS AND 5 NO. DWELLINGS (USE CLASS C3) TO PROVIDE LIVING FACILITIES FOR THE OVER 55'S TOGETHER WITH ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT ON LAND BOUNDED BY PITTS HEATH LANE AND OTTERBURN STREET, SANDYMOOR, RUNCORN	
<p>It was explained to the Committee that material considerations had come to light at a late stage (since the summons to the meeting was issued). There had been no time for these matters to be analysed. Consequently, it would not be proper for this application to be considered at the meeting.</p>	

RESOLVED: That this application not be considered at the meeting and that it be submitted to a future meeting for determination.

DEV10 - 19/00325/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF 236 DWELLINGS AND 100 EXTRA CARE APARTMENTS, TOGETHER WITH CAR PARKING, LANDSCAPING, ROADS, BRIDGES, FOOTWAYS, DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED WORKS ON OPEN LAND TO NORTH EAST OF VILLAGE STREET, TO THE EAST AND WEST OF KECKWICK BROOK AND TO THE WEST OF THE WEST COAST RAIL LINE, SANDYMOOR

It was explained to the Committee that material considerations had come to light at a late stage (since the summons to the meeting was issued). There had been no time for these matters to be analysed. Consequently, it would not be proper for this application to be considered at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That this application not be considered at the meeting and that it be submitted to a future meeting for determination.

Meeting ended at 6.37 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 4 November 2019 at Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chair), Carlin, R. Hignett, V. Hill, J. Lowe, C. Plumpton Walsh, Thompson, Woolfall and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Morley and June Roberts

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, J. Tully, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, G. Henry, P. Peak and L. Wilson-Lagan

Also in attendance: 18 members of the public and one member of the press.

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

	<i>Action</i>
DEV11 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2019, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
DEV12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE	
<p>The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.</p>	
DEV13 - 19/00235/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 243 DWELLING HOUSES, INCLUDING ACCESS, OPEN SPACE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON LAND NORTH OF RAILWAY AND WEST OF TANHOUSE LANE, WIDNES	
<p>The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.</p>	
<p>Officers advised the Committee that a letter of objection relating to noise had been received today which</p>	

required investigation by the Environmental Health Department at the Council, so the application could not be determined today. It was agreed that the application be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred to allow consultation with the Environmental Health Department, following receipt of an objection.

DEV14 - 19/00325/FUL PROPOSED ERECTION OF 236 DWELLINGS AND 100 EXTRA CARE APARTMENTS, TOGETHER WITH CAR PARKING, LANDSCAPING, ROADS, BRIDGES, FOOTWAYS, DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSOCIATED WORKS ON OPEN LAND TO NORTH EAST OF VILLAGE STREET, TO THE EAST AND WEST OF THE WEST COAST RAIL LINE, SANDYMOOR

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

Since the publication of the Committee agenda, Officers advised that a further 24 letters of objection had been received plus a further 10 letters from an individual objector. It was noted that many of these sought to raise the same issues already raised in the report or just to reaffirm them. A number of further issues had been raised and these were outlined in the Officer's update together with 11 main issues which were outlined together with a summary response to each. Details of one letter of support were also summarised.

Members were advised that Councillor John Bradshaw, Ward Councillor for Daresbury, had contacted Officers via email, as he was unable to attend today, with his concerns regarding the proposal. These included traffic generation and routing, and the size, location and look of the sheltered housing block. Officers also provided updates with regards to the queries made by the Council's Open Spaces Officer on page 51 of the report.

The Committee was addressed by Nick Fillingham on behalf of the applicant. He commented that (*inter alia*):

- the objections made had been noted, however the scheme for extra care homes was much needed in Halton and was on the Government's agenda;
- the homes would be situated so that they were

part of the community with a bistro that would be open to the public;

- following an amended plan, there was now a generous separation distance from the site to neighbouring houses of 55 metres;
- the houses on the development would all have off road parking and the extra care homes would have visitor parking as well as their own parking; and
- so far engagement had been positive with all parties.

Mr Mackintosh, a resident of Sandymoor for 26 years, then addressed the Committee objecting to the 100 extra care homes scheme. He stated (*inter alia*) that these were not part of the masterplan and that due to the height and scale of them they were inappropriate and out of character for the area. He stated that Homes England had assured that any further house building would mirror existing houses on Sandymoor. Further, he questioned the need for this type of housing; the lack of affordable housing on Sandymoor; the impact on wildlife; noise disturbance; increased traffic and road safety.

The Committee was then addressed by Bernadette Tarry, Clerk to Sandymoor Parish Council, who raised her objections to the scheme on behalf of local residents. Following a meeting held with residents, she outlined three main areas of concern discussed by them:

- the 100 bed extra care housing block; they claimed that the housing block was so large it would dominate the area and was out of character with the surrounding properties:
- the lack of bungalows in the area; and
- the entry and exit routes for construction traffic; she suggested an alternative route was used for construction traffic.

In response to a comment made by a speaker regarding the 'extra care' housing block being 50% taller than the School, Officers referred Members to the comparison massing drawing and provided the heights of each building, which showed that the sheltered housing block was approximately 2 metres higher than the school when comparing the principle flat roof elements of each scheme. Officers acknowledged that central pitched roof features did add to the overall height but reaffirmed their position outlined in the report.

Following Members' queries, the following was clarified/noted:

- Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) was the Council's retained advisor for environmental matters;
- That the potential status of Bog Wood as an area of 'ancient woodland' was outlined in the report;
- Affordable housing provision did not form part of the policy for house building on Sandymoor;
- The consultations and missed properties referred to on page 39 – some properties had been missed initially, however this was resolved and a further process of re-consultation had been undertaken and that Officers' were satisfied that all relevant properties had been consulted on the proposal;
- The need for housing for the over 55's welcomed as Halton had an aging population which was increasing year on year as per the Core Strategy Policy; and
- The applicant had submitted a revised application to take account of the unduly close proximity of elements of the development to Bog Wood. In so doing the revised development proposal adversely affected a single mature oak tree outside of Bog Wood. This was not acceptable and further discussions with the applicant would be required to secure relatively minor amendments to resolve this issue.

After consideration of the application and hearing the speakers' comments and officers' responses and updates to the proposal, the Committee agreed that determination of the application be delegated to the Operational Director, as recommended in the Officer's report.

RESOLVED: That authority is delegated to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee, to determine the application and if the determination was to approve the application, that it be subject to appropriate conditions and modification to the existing legal obligation.

DEV15 - 19/00382/FUL - PROPOSED EXTENSION TO LIGHT INDUSTRIAL UNIT TOGETHER WITH ANCILLARY WORKS AT VENTRCROFT LTD, FARADY ROAD, RUNCORN, WA7 1PE

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect

of the site.

After consideration of the application the Committee agreed that the application be approved, subject to the conditions listed below.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to conditions relating to the following:

1. Standard 3 year timescale for commencement of development;
2. Specifying approved and amended plans;
3. Matching materials conditions(s) (BE2);
4. Condition requiring submission of a method statement for the control of Japanese Knotweed (GE21);
5. Condition requiring submission of a verification report on completion of treatment of Japanese Knotweed (GE21);
6. Condition requiring submission and agreement of cycle parking details (TP6);
7. Condition restricting surface water run-off onto the adopted highway (TP17);
8. Condition requiring submission; agreement; implementation; of a sustainable drainage scheme (BE1 and PR5);
9. Submission and agreement of Site Waste Management Plan (WM8);
10. Submission and agreement of a lighting scheme (BE1);
11. Submission and agreement of site and finished floor levels (BE1); and
12. There shall be no external storage (BE1).

Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

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REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Tuesday, 29 October 2019 in the Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott (Vice-Chair), Dourley, Fry, P. Hignett, K. Loftus, A. McInerney, Nelson and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Tony McDermott

Officers present: K. Cleary, J. Tully, N. Wheeler and L. Wilson-Lagan

Also in attendance: One member of the public

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

	<i>Action</i>
REG1 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2019 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
REG2 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985	
<p>The Committee considered:</p>	
<p>(1) Whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A 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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and</p>	
<p>(2) Whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the</p>	

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.

REG3 TAXI MATTER

Case No: 723

RESOLVED: That the Committee had found strong grounds for refusing the application but had decided not to refuse the application. Instead, the Committee resolved as follows:

1. Subject to satisfactorily completing the outstanding matters relating to the renewal application (which had been detailed during the hearing) the renewal application be granted but limited to a period of one year;
2. The applicant's Single Status Driver's licence be suspended for a period of one month;
3. The applicant be required to undertake and complete an advanced driving course or driving awareness course.

The details of the above decision were delegated to the Licensing Manager to determine.

The Committee strongly advised the applicant, in his own interests, to seek help for overcoming the effects of his recent bereavements.

The Committee also directed that when the notice of determination had been prepared that it be explained to the applicant in person to ensure that he fully understood what had been decided.

Meeting ended at 6.20 p.m.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Wednesday, 27 November 2019 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott (Vice-Chair), K. Loftus, McDermott, Nelson and G. Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Fry, P. Hignett, A. McInerney and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Cleary, J. Tully and N. Wheeler

Also in attendance: 1 Member of the press.

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE**

		<i>Action</i>
REG4	MINUTES	
	<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2019 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
REG5	HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE UNMET DEMAND SURVEY	
	<p>The Committee received an update on the Crown Court decision on 4th July 2019 and the progress of the Unmet Demand Survey. Immediately following the court case, a company called Jacobs were approached and shortly thereafter appointed to carry out the survey. Progress to date was explained to the Committee together with the next stages of the survey which were about to be undertaken. It was hoped that the Committee would receive a report at its March meeting on the outcome of the survey.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>	
REG6	TAXI LICENSING MATTER	
	<p>The Committee considered the report together with representations made by the UNITE trade union which had</p>	

been received after the agenda had been printed. The Committee expressed their thanks for the trouble taken by UNITE in providing detailed comments on the matters before the Committee. The proposals had also been considered by the Taxi Consultative Group.

The Committee recognised that there were negative as well as positive aspects of introducing this policy change as well as arguments for and against applying the policy only to private hire vehicles. However, the interests of the wheelchair travelling public and the need to increase, if possible, the number of fully wheelchair accessible vehicles were the prime objectives. Consequently it was unanimously recommended that the policy change should apply to both hackney carriage vehicles and private hire vehicles. The benefits applying to existing categories of fully wheelchair accessible vehicles would apply to rear loading fully wheelchair accessible vehicles where the wheelchair user is secured in a forward facing position only. For the avoidance of doubt rear loading vehicles where the wheelchair user is secured in a rear facing position would continue to be banned.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board be recommended to:

1. adopt the policy changes detailed in this report relating to rear loading fully wheelchair accessible vehicles where the wheelchair user is secure in a forward facing position in respect of hackney carriage vehicles and private hire vehicles;
2. give the Licensing Manager delegated authority to relax where appropriate for a period of 18 months from the date of grant of the first licence under this amended policy the Minimum Usable Luggage Space Requirement in respect of rear loading fully wheelchair accessible vehicles;
3. direct that the Licensing Manager report back to the Regulatory Committee on the impact of the amended policy as near as possible to the expiry 18 months from the date of grant of the first licence under this amended policy; and
4. give the Licensing Manager delegated authority to set out and publish the Council's various policies, terms, conditions and guidance on taxi and private hire matters as the Licensing Manager considers appropriate from time to time.

REG7 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

The Committee considered six changes to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy. These had all been discussed at the Taxi Consultative Group and had been the subject of positive comments from the UNITE trade union (apart from the matter described at 4.3 of the agenda). The only completely new proposal was the proposed introduction of a 10 year maximum age for tyres which was part of an initiative being promoted by the licensing authorities throughout the Liverpool City Region area. The Committee was advised that the 10 year maximum age for tyres applied to the Council's own vehicles as a matter of practice but considered that a policy should apply generally rather than just for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board be recommended to:

1. adopt as Council policy the six items set out in the agenda;
2. consider adopting a policy imposing a 10 year maximum age for tyres on all Council vehicles; and
3. consider adopting a policy requiring the Council to impose a 10 year maximum age policy as an additional condition in its transportation contracts.

Meeting ended at 7.12 p.m.

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APPEALS PANEL

At a meeting of the Appeals Panel held on 27 November 2019 at Halton Stadium Widnes.

Present: Councillors Wainwright (Chair), Wallace and Woolfall

Apologies for absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A Scott, K Mylchreest and C Patino

Others in attendance: Appellant and Trade Union representative

**ITEMS DEALT WITH
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE PANEL**

Action

AP3 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Panel considered:

- 1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Panel during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A 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 1, 2 and 3 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 the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of

the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A 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 paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

AP4 EMPLOYMENT APPEAL HEARING

The Panel considered information submitted in respect of the above appeal and heard representations from the appellant, the Trade Union representative and the presenting officer.

RESOLVED: That the decision of the Local Authority dated 10 September 2019, be dismissed and the appeal be upheld.

Meeting ended at 11.11am