

# **Minutes**

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

**Wednesday, 4 March 2020**

# **Minutes**

For Presentation to the Council  
At the meeting to be held on  
**Wednesday, 4 March 2020**

<b>COMMITTEE/BOARD</b>	<b>Page Ref</b>
<b>COUNCIL MINUTES</b>	
18 December 2019	310 - 315
22 January 2020	316 – 319
<b>MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>	
12 December 2019	320 - 325
16 January 2020	326 – 337
<b>MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD</b>	338 - 343
<b>MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS</b>	
Children, Young People and Families	344 - 351
Employment, Learning and Skills and Community	352 - 357
Safer	358 - 361
Corporate Services	362 – 365
<b>COMMITTEE MINUTES</b>	
Development Control	366 - 371
Standards	372 - 373

**COUNCIL**

*At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 18 December 2019 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall*

Present: Councillors Horabin, Abbott, Baker, J. Bradshaw, M. Bradshaw, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Carlin, 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, MacManus, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Polhill, N. Plumpton Walsh, Ratcliffe, Joe Roberts, June Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Teeling, Thompson, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Whitley, Woolfall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Cassidy, P. Hignett, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, McDermott, Philbin and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: One member of the press and four members of the public

*Action*

## COU44 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 16 October 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

## COU45 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:-

- Following a recent delegation by Chinese teachers from the school in Tongling, the Mayor had been presented with a small replica statue of the large statue situated in the Chinese style Friendship Garden at the entrance of Runcorn Town Hall. The replica statue would be displayed at the Town Hall.

## COU46 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader made the following announcements:-

- He congratulated the two returning MP's for the Borough following the results of the General Election on 12 December 2019;

- Confirmed that the X1 Bus Service was to continue and thanked those Members that had actively supported the campaign;
- The Council was awaiting the announcement of the grant settlement from Government, but given the delays to business caused by the General Election, it was unlikely to be announced until the New Year; and
- Reported that currently, there was approximately a £6.5m gap in the Council's budget for 2020/21.

COU47 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings on 17 October 2019 and 14 November 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU48 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 2 October 2019.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU49 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

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

COU50 HALTON STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) CONSTITUTION (MINUTE EXB 45 REFERS)

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

RESOLVED: That Council approve the Halton SACRE Constitution.

Strategic Director  
- People

COU51 DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2020/21 - KEY DECISION (MINUTE EXB 52 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the determination of the Council Tax Base for 2020/21.

In accordance with Standing Order 16 (3), a recorded vote was taken.

The following Members voted FOR the motion:

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

There were no votes against the motion.

There were no abstentions.

RESOLVED: That

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

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

Operational Director Finance -

COU52 2019/20 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME (MINUTE EXB 54 REFERS)

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

RESOLVED: That Council approve the revised Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report.

Operational Director - Finance

COU53 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES AND INCORPORATING THE WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW (MINUTE EXB 57 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Returning Officer, on the results of the formal Polling District, Places and Stations Review, which highlighted recommended changes to the polling scheme and put forward a revised polling scheme for approval.

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

Returning Officer

COU54 HALTON DELIVERY AND ALLOCATIONS LOCAL PLAN (DALP) - SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE - KEY DECISION

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the Halton Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP) – Submission to the Secretary of State.

Reason(s) For Decision

The next stage in the production of the Halton DALP was for the document to be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. Full Council approval was sought to proceed to the examination stage for the draft of the DALP.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

No alternative options had been considered at this stage. Submitting the DALP for examination was the next step in the process of the Local Plan production and was in accordance with the associated legal regulations covering the production of Development Plan Documents.

Implementation Date

The DALP would be submitted to the Secretary of State as soon as practicably possible following approval by Council, with the examination phase commencing in Spring 2020, to be followed by adoption in Winter 2020/21. After its adoption, the DALP and saved policies from the Core Strategy 2013 would then be used for development management purposes in the determination of planning applications and to direct development to the most appropriate locations in accordance with the adopted Spatial Strategy for the Borough.

RESOLVED: That Council approve

- 1) the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan Proposed Submission Document (August 2019) is submitted to the Secretary of State under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 (see section 3.8 – 3.11);
- 2) delegated authority to make minor editorial amendments to the DALP be granted to the Operational Director for Policy, Planning and Transport in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Physical Environment (see section 3.12);
- 3) delegated authority is granted to officers (in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Physical Environment) representing the Local Planning Authority at examination to enter into discussions with relevant parties, and to suggest appropriate wording and policy map changes, as may be required to satisfy the examining Inspector on matters concerning the soundness of the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (see section 3.17); and
- 4) from the point of submission to Government, material weight is given to the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan Proposed Submission Document (August 2019) as a material consideration in decisions made under the planning Acts. As the DALP represents an appropriate development strategy for the Borough and has undergone public consultation, the DALP is capable of being a material consideration in planning decisions.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

COU55 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 16  
October 2019:-

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

COU56 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following  
Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 16  
October 2019:-

- Development Control;
- Regulatory; and
- Appeals Panel

*Meeting ended at 6.52 p.m.*



**COUNCIL**

*At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 22 January 2020 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, P. Hignett, R. Hignett, Howard, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, MacManus, McDermott, Morley, Philbin, Polhill, Ratcliffe, Joe Roberts, June Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Teeling, Thompson, Wainwright, Wallace, Wharton, Whitley, Woolfall, Wright and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors S. Hill, V. Hill, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh and Wall

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: D. Parr, I. Leivesley, M. Reaney and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: None

*Action*

COU57 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. The following Councillors declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in the following item of business as they were Directors of Halton Borough Transport Limited; Councillors MacManus, Morley, Wharton and Zygadlo. They all left the room before the vote on the resolution(s) were taken.)*

#### COU58 TRANSPORT PROVISION WITHIN THE BOROUGH

Council considered a Part II report on transport provision within the Borough.

Chief Executive

In accordance with Standing Order 16 (3), a recorded vote was taken.

The following Members voted FOR the motion:

Councillors J. Abbott, S. Baker, J. Bradshaw, M. Bradshaw, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Carlin, Cassidy, Dennett, Dourley, Fry, Gilligan, Harris, P. Hignett, R. Hignett, Horabin, Howard, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P.Lloyd Jones, C.Loftus, K.Loftus, Logan, A.Lowe, J.Lowe, McDermott, Philbin, Polhill, Ratcliffe, Joe Roberts, June Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Teeling, Thompson, Wainwright, Wallace, Whitley, Woolfall and Wright.

There were no votes against the motion.

There were no abstentions.

RESOLVED: That

- I. The actions taken by the Council to provide financial

and operational support to Halton Borough Transport Limited, as set out in the report, be noted;

- II. The continuing severe financial and operational difficulties being experienced by Halton Borough Transport Limited, as set out in the report, be noted;
- III. The Company's liabilities are greater than its assets and it is likely that the Company will become unable to pay its debts as they fall due and given the ongoing trading losses and exceptional costs the position cannot continue beyond the immediate short term without a significant injection of funds, be noted;
- IV. It would be an inappropriate use of limited public resources for the Council to provide any further financial support to Halton Borough Transport Limited;
- V. As the Company's major shareholder
  - a. to support the decision taken by the Board of Halton Borough Transport Limited on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to place the company into a formal insolvency procedure by means of a Liquidation
  - b. that, the Operational Director (Legal & Democratic Services) be authorised to act as set out in Appendix 1,
- VI. to take all reasonably practicable steps, within the financial limitations of the Council, to support public transport in Halton.

#### APPENDIX 1

(1) For good governance and practicality, and subject to any subsequent express revocation, change or supplemental resolution, direction, instruction or approval from the Council, the Operational Director (Legal & Democratic Services) from time to time of the Council be and is authorised to act and be treated as a representative of the Council in respect of the Council's statutory, contractual or other rights and/or powers to:

- a) receive notice of (alongside full legible copies of the applicable meeting agenda and related documentation), attend, participate, make submissions/representations, vote and pass resolutions at any general meeting of any kind of

Halton Borough Transport Limited (to include, but not limited to, any general meeting to consider a resolution to: (i) sell or otherwise transfer/dispose of the shares in the share capital of Halton Borough Transport Limited, (ii) sell or otherwise transfer/dispose of the business and assets of Halton Borough Transport Limited, or (iii) put Halton Borough Transport Limited into any formal insolvency, winding up, strike off or dissolution process);

- b) receive a copy of, sign and date any written resolution containing any special resolution(s) and/or ordinary resolution(s) of any kind (to include, but not limited to, any resolution mentioned in paragraph a) above;
- c) have prepared, settled, signed, dated, registered, filed and implemented (and, if required or desired, certified and/or notarised), by himself or any other senior employee or officer of the Council, any affidavit, statement, petition, declaration, application, form, agreement, letter, email or other document or missive whatsoever concerning Halton Borough Transport Limited; or do any combination of the above.

(2) For good governance and practicality, without prejudice to resolution V, and subject to any subsequent express revocation, change or supplemental resolution, direction, instruction or approval from the Council, the Operational Director (Legal & Democratic Services) from time to time of the Council be and is authorised to have prepared, settled, signed, dated, registered, filed and implemented (and, if required or desired, certified and/or notarised), by himself or any other senior employee or officer of the Council, any affidavit, statement, petition, declaration, application, form, agreement, letter, email or other document or missive whatsoever necessary and/or reasonably desirable to effectively transfer the share(s) held by Colin Stafford in the share capital of Halton Borough Transport Limited to any person nominated by the Operational Director (Legal & Democratic Services) PROVIDED such person enters into a trust declaration in favour of the Council on effectively the same terms as under Colin Stafford's declaration from 2012 (or under terms that are more favourable to the Council).

*Meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 12 December 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, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney , E. O'Meara and E. Dawson

Also in attendance: None

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

EXB58 MINUTES

*Action*

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO**

EXB59 2018/19 PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT-  
WORKPLACE HEALTH

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health, on the Public Health Annual Report (PHAR) 2019 for Halton.

The Board was advised that the PHAR was the Director of Public Health's independent assessment on the health of the local population. It was reported that for 2018/19 the PHAR focussed on Workplace Health, which highlighted key areas pertinent to the health and wellbeing of the working population in the Borough. The report included a short video film which examined the measures taken to both prevent poor health and improve the health of workers and their families.

The Board wished to place on record their thanks to the Health Improvement Team.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB60 DOMESTIC ABUSE, REFUGE AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the domestic abuse refuge and community support services.

The Board was reminded that, in March 2019, it had approved the commencement of a joint procurement process with Children's Services to commission an integrated domestic abuse system, based in Grangeway. This would require the refurbishment of a Council owned property.

It was reported that the refurbishment costs were now considered to be prohibitive. Therefore, it would be necessary to commence a new procurement process. The report sought approval for the waiver of the relevant Procurement Standing Orders to allow for the award of a new contract from July 2020.

RESOLVED: That pursuant to Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.4 and 1.14.5, Executive Board approve a further extension to the existing Adult Domestic Abuse Services.

Strategic Director  
- People

*(N.B. Councillors Polhill and Wharton declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as they were both Non-Executive Directors of the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board)*

### **TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB61 MERSEY GATEWAY PROJECT UPDATE**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the Mersey Gateway Project.

The Board was advised that the Mersey Gateway Crossings Board managed the day to day operation of the Mersey Gateway Bridge on behalf of the Council. The Board had received a progress report at its meeting on 11 April 2019 and this report now provided an update for the first six months of 2019/20.

The report provided Members with the up to date position in respect of the Construction and Finishing Works; the Operation and Maintenance update; the Economic Impact and Handback Land; Finances including Project Funding, Financial Performance and the Local User Discount and Extended Discount Schemes.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

## **RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB62 DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on two applications 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 applications from two registered charities for discretionary rate relief by Halton Haven Hospice and the Cathie Stankevitch Foundation, both in Widnes, for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the application for 15% discretionary rate relief from Halton Haven Hospice in respect of premises at 23 Queen's Avenue, Widnes, from 14 October 2019, be approved; and
- 2) the application for 15% discretionary rate relief from the Cathie Stankevitch Foundation in respect of premises at 25 Albert Square, Widnes, from 14 June 2019 be approved.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

EXB63 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.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

EXB64 3MG HBC FIELD

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the disposal of land at HBC Field.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) approves the disposal to the company named in the recommendation on the terms set out in the report;
- 2) gives delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources



the Portfolio Holders (Physical Environment and Resources) to take all reasonable steps to complete the disposal; and

- 3) authorises the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property to arrange all required documentation to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

**MINUTES ISSUED: 16 December 2019**

**CALL-IN: 23 December 2019 at 5.00 pm.**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 23 December 2019.**

*Meeting ended at 2.20 p.m.*

This page is intentionally left blank

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 16 January 2020 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, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney and E. Dawson

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EXB65 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> <p><b>CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO</b></p>	
<p>EXB66 HALTON SUPPORT AT HOME SERVICE</p> <p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which sought a waiver of Procurement Standing Orders for the continued provision of the Halton Support at Home Service.</p> <p>The Board was advised that the British Red Cross (BRC), had been commissioned to provide a Support at Home Service until 31 March 2020. The service provided short term support to people in the transition from hospital to home and was seen as an important part of the discharge management process. It was noted that the Service was also available to people in the community to help avoid hospital admission.</p> <p>It was reported that the BRC was a specialist provider in delivery of this type of service. In order to support the</p>	

Council in its development of out of hospital services with NHS Halton CCG, support the One Halton place based approach and provide continuity of service, a waiver of Procurement Standing Orders was sought to extend the existing contract to 31 March 2022.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- 2) a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (iv) of Part 2 or Part 3 as appropriate, be approved.

Strategic Director  
- People

EXB67 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on School Admission Arrangements for 2021.

The Board was advised that in October 2019, Halton Local Authority issued a statutorily required consultation on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2021 intake. It was noted that the consultation ran until 8 November 2019, with no changes proposed to the current oversubscription criteria for admission to Local Authority maintained community and voluntary controlled primary schools. No responses to the consultation were received.

It was further noted that all Halton secondary schools were either academies, free schools or voluntary aided and were therefore their own admission authorities, with responsibility for consulting and determining their own admissions criteria and their own Published Admission Number (PAN).

The Board expressed its concerns that Government Policy in relation to school admission arrangements and Academy Schools, seriously limited the ability of the Council to respond to concerns expressed by parents about where their children went to school.

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was statutorily required.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Other options considered and rejected included the allocation of places to community and voluntary controlled schools through random allocation (lottery), as this method could be seen as arbitrary and random.

Implementation Date

The Policy and co-ordinated schemes would apply for the September 2021 academic intake.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board approves the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Schemes for admission to primary and secondary schools for the 2021/22 academic year;
- 2) where appropriate, schools be invited to increase their numbers to help support the Council to help meet the preference of parents about where their children attend school;
- 3) schools be invited to take advantage of funding available to them from Government to increase their buildings to accommodate increased pupil numbers where necessary; and
- 4) the Leader, on behalf of the Executive Board, write to Mr Twigg M.P. and Mr Amesbury M.P. to seek their support in respect of school admissions arrangements in Halton.

Strategic Director  
- People

EXB68 SCHOOLS CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 2020/21 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided a summary of the Schools Capital Programmes for 2020/21.

The Board was advised that the Department for Education (DfE) had not yet announced the Capital Grant Allocation for 2020/21 at the time of writing the report. However, given the timescales for some of the capital projects, the report used the 2019/20 allocation as the basis for presenting the report to the Board.

The report set out details of the indicative funding available to support capital projects across the school estate

as well as how the School Condition Allocation would be utilised.

Reason(s) for Decision

To deliver and implement the Capital Programmes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Not applicable.

Implementation Date

Capital Programmes for 2020/21 would be implemented with effect from 1 April 2020.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the position regarding capital funding from the Department for Education for 2020/21, be noted;
- 2) the proposals to be funded from the School Condition Capital Allocation, be approved; and
- 3) Council be recommended to approve the Capital Allocations for inclusion in the Budget report.

Strategic Director  
- People

EXB69 INTEGRATED, UNIVERSAL, TARGETED AND SPECIALIST YOUTH PROVISION POST JULY 2020

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on a proposed integrated universal and targeted youth provision contract.

The Board was advised that the Education Act 1986 (updated in 2008), set out the statutory requirements for local authorities to provide youth work in three areas – positive activities; decision making by young people; and 14-19 learning.

It was reported that the continued reduction in youth services had come at a time when those services were most needed, with the risk of child poverty and material deprivation in the UK on the rise in recent years. Members were advised that Halton had a long history of providing young people with opportunities to develop their own unique talents and to access early help.

It was noted that Halton Youth Provision worked

together with a range of agencies to help young people through early intervention and offering a range of support to prevent problems from getting worse. It was proposed that the Integrated Youth Service would have an indicative budget of £633,527 per annum, split across three core functions as detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) approve the procurement of the new integrated, universal, targeted specialist youth provision for a three year contract with the option to extend for a further 1 plus 1 year.

Strategic Director  
- People

EXB70 THE FUNDING FORMULA FOR MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS AND HIGH NEEDS FOR 2020/21

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which outlined the proposal for the Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block Funding Formula for Halton, for mainstream schools and academies for 2020/21.

The Board was advised that the Dedicated Schools Grant was split into four blocks. In July 2017, the Secretary of State confirmed the introduction of the National Funding Formula from April 2018, which calculated the Schools Block element for Halton.

It was reported that after consultation with schools and the Schools Forum, it was decided that Halton mainstream schools and academies would move to the National Funding Formula with transitional protection for 2018/19, as detailed in the report.

On 11 December 2019, a report which highlighted the key changes to the funding of mainstream schools and academies was presented to the meeting of the Schools Forum. Following consultation in November 2019, it was reported that the majority of schools supported the proposal that Schools Forum make a decision on the appropriate level for the Minimum Funding Guarantee at their meeting in January 2020.

Members noted that the grant allocations announced on 19 December 2019, showed an increase of £2.29m to the High Needs Block for 2020/21 compared to the 2019/20

allocation.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the continuation of the National Funding Formula for 2020/21.

Strategic Director  
- People

**TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

EXB71 MAJOR SCHEMES AND FUNDING UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the major projects underway in the Borough and new relevant funding opportunities.

The report set out details of the major maintenance programme on the Grade II Listed Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB); the enhanced access into Runcorn's west coast mainline station; and a permanent junction into West Bank and Widnes from the Mersey Gateway Bridge under formation. Members noted that the significant investment described in the report, flowed from the Council's strategic policies contained in the Local Plan, the Mersey Gateway Plus Regeneration Strategy and the Local Transport Plan.

It was reported that newly announced funds could provide Runcorn with access to up to £71m; those funds which could bring significant additional investment were detailed in the report and noted as being:-

- Town Deals;
- Future High Street Funds;
- Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority Mayoral Fund; and
- LCR Town Centre Commission Fund.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) project progress is noted;
- 2) funding bids are submitted with a view to securing funding for the full programme of works, enhancements and additional phases of the Runcorn Station Quarter Masterplan and wider Runcorn Vision; and
- 3) in association with Resolution 2, the Council be recommended to approve the amendment of the

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources



Capital Programme to £50m in respect of the SJB Delinking and Runcorn Station Quarter, to reflect the updated position with respect to opportunities for grant funding.

## RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

### EXB72 POLICY CHANGES RELATING TO REAR LOADING FULLY ACCESSIBLE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES WHERE THE WHEELCHAIR USER IS SECURED IN A FORWARD FACING POSITION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, relating to policy changes to the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle policy. This was in respect of rear loading fully accessible vehicles, where the wheelchair user was fully secured in a forward facing position.

The Board was advised that the Regulatory Committee at its meeting on 27 November 2019, had considered the proposals and recommended adoption. It was noted that the policy changes were the culmination of a consultation exercise via the Taxi Consultative Group.

Appendix 1, attached to the report, contained a copy of the Regulatory Committee Resolution (Minute REG 6 referred); Appendices 2 and 3 contained the report considered by the Committee and responses to the proposals from the UNITE Union, respectively.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the policy changes as recommended by Regulatory Committee at item 1 of Minute Number REG 6 and as detailed in the Regulatory Committee Agenda dated 27 November 2019, be adopted as Council Policy; and
- 2) the consequential matters set out in items 2, 3 and 4 of Minute Number REG 6 and as detailed in the Regulatory Committee Agenda dated 27 November 2019, be endorsed.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

EXB73 POLICY CHANGES RELATING TO TAXI LICENSING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, relating to the adoption of policy changes to taxi licensing.

The Board was advised that the Regulatory Committee at its meeting on 27 November 2019, had considered six changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy. Appendix 1, attached to the report, contained a copy of the Regulatory Committee Resolution (Minute REG 7 referred); Appendix 2 and 3 contained the report considered by the Committee and responses to the proposals from the UNITE Union, respectively.

The Board noted that the only completely new proposal was the introduction of a ten year maximum age for tyres which was part of an initiative being promoted by the licensing authorities throughout the Liverpool City Region area.

RESOLVED: That the Policy changes, as recommended by Regulatory Committee Minute Number REG 7 and as detailed in the Regulatory Committee Agenda dated 27 November 2019, be adopted as Council Policy.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

EXB74 REQUEST FOR WAIVER FOR THE ALLOCATION OF A CONTRACT TO HALTON HOUSING TRUST

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which sought approval for the continuation of a contract with Halton Housing Trust. This referred to the management of the housing register and the housing allocations process, on behalf of Halton Borough Council.

Members were advised that, as part of the voluntary stock transfer process in 2007, Halton Borough Council opted to transfer its entire housing stock to Halton Housing Trust (HHT). In 2012, a new Choice Based Lettings Scheme – Property Pool Plus (PPP) - went live in Halton which was a sub-regional IT management scheme, operating across the other five local authorities in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) area.

It was reported that since then, the LCR had commissioned an independent review of the way in which the PPP process operated. Members noted that the aim of the review was to consider whether there was a more cost -

effective approach which could deliver the same or improved outcomes for those using the service. A report on the outcome of the review was due in Spring 2020.

In requesting an extension to the current contract with HHT under Procurement Standing Orders, it was reported that as the contract with HHT would have expired before the Board meeting, the Chief Executive had used his emergency powers to authorise an extension to the existing contract for seventeen days from 31 December 2019 to 16 January 2020.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- 2) a waiver by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 of Part 2 or Part 3 as appropriate, be approved for the extension of the contract with Halton Housing Trust for a further twelve months.

Strategic Director  
- People

*(N.B. Councillor Wright declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as she was a Trustee of Nightstop Communities Northwest)*

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB75 EXTERNAL FUNDING TEAM UPDATE**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the work of the External Funding Team.

The Board was advised that the role of the External Funding Team was to help maximise external funding into the Borough. The Team was responsible for preparing medium to large-scale funding bids on behalf of Council colleagues, public sector partners, the voluntary sector and the private sector.

The report set out details of the structure of the Team, its key functions, and the common values and motivations that underpinned the work of the Team. It was noted that in the year to date, specific support had been given to four large-scale Liverpool City Region ESF bids; and continued to support colleagues in bidding to the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF), the Town Centre Commission Fund and the Future High Street Fund, amongst others. In addition, each member of the Team was

assigned to support one or more of the Mersey Gateway Regeneration Plan Plus Impact Areas and the Team was supporting the Borough of Culture Programme for Halton in 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the contents of the report; and
- 2) approves the current pipeline project list at Appendix 2, attached to the report.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

EXB76 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.

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

**EXB77 FOUNDRY LANE RESIDENTIAL**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which updated Members on the proposals for residential development at Foundry Lane, Widnes.

The report provided Members with details of the proposals, policy and financial implications for their consideration.

**RESOLVED:** That Executive Board

- 1) supports the principle, subject to planning and other statutory approvals, of bringing forward residential development in the Foundry Lane area, bringing back into use under-utilised brownfield sites and making better use of poor quality industrial sites;
- 2) endorses the decision taken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holders for Physical Environment and Resources to acquire the Stobart Foundry Lane site;
- 3) authorises the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property to arrange all required documentation to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services;
- 4) agrees to accept the offer of grant from Homes England for the purpose of preparing the sites known as Tarmac and Stobart for residential development; and
- 5) agrees to fund any shortfall in the preparatory works for the above two sites, if this exceeds the Homes England grant.

Strategic Director  
– Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

**MINUTES ISSUED: 21 January 2020**

**CALL-IN: 28 January 2020 at 5.00 pm.**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 28 January 2020.**

*Meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.*

This page is intentionally left blank

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 15 January 2020 at The Halton Stadium, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Polhill, Woolfall and Wright and S. Bartsch, G Clark, G. Ferguson, T. Hemming, T. Hill, M. Larking, R. Macdonald, E. O'Meara, K. Parker, D. Parr, C Pritchard, S. Semoff, L. Thompson, S. Wallace Bonner and S. Yeoman.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor T. McInerney and Superintendent L. Marler, L. Haworth and L. Carter

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>HWB22 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>HWB23 2018-19 PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT - WORKPLACE HEALTH</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The report was deferred until the next meeting.</p>	
<p>HWB24 TRANSFORMING CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND/OR AUTISM AND/OR BEHAVIOURS THAT CHALLENGE</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Board considered a report and received a presentation which provided an update on the implementation of national recommendations to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities and/or autism and/or behaviours that challenge services within the Borough.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">As a result of Sir Stephen Bubb's report Winterbourne View – Time for Change (2014), NHS England, the Department of Health, the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care, the Care Quality Commission and Health Education England united</p>	

and confirmed their commitment to strengthen the Transforming Care delivery programme by creating a new delivery board, bringing together the senior responsible owners from all our organisations. Nationally the programme would focus action on:

- ensuring joint health and care planning and commissioning of services to meet the needs of children and adults with behaviours described as challenging; incentivise the right model of local responsive personalised care;
- thereby prevent the placing of people inappropriately in in-patient settings;
- driving up quality in specialist health and care settings; and
- establishing robust monitoring of progress.

Members were advised on the progress that had been made to date in Halton to implement the Transforming Care national programme of work in conjunction with service users, their families, key stakeholders, clinicians and commissioners.

As part of the national service model, 48 Transforming Care Partnerships had been established and Halton was a member of the Cheshire and Merseyside Transforming Care Partnership Board. It was noted that there was still further work to be undertaken to achieve all the service model requirements. It was therefore proposed that an annual report would be presented to Halton Health and Wellbeing Board by way of assurance that the needs of people with learning disabilities and/or autism and/or behaviours that challenge were being met.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted;
2. the current Halton position and progress outlined in Appendix 4 be acknowledged;
3. the Board receive an annual update report on progress made against the implementation of the national recommendations in Halton.



HWB25 CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE WORKING TOGETHER AS A MARMOT COMMUNITY: STRENGTHENING SYSTEM LEADERSHIP FOR POPULATION HEALTH AND REDUCING HEALTH AND WELLBEING INEQUALITIES.

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which set out the benefits to Halton, Cheshire and Merseyside of becoming a Marmot sub region. In common with Halton's Health and Wellbeing Board, the Cheshire and Merseyside (C&M) Health and Care Partnership had identified tackling the difference between England and C&M in life expectancy and healthy life as its core purpose. Aligned to this there was an ambition to reduce inequalities in health outcomes within C&M. In order to achieve this ambition, it was proposed that the C&M Health and Care Partnership should become a Marmot Community.

Members considered a report which highlighted the benefits of a Marmot Community which included:

- Access to international expertise;
- Developing excellence in systems leadership for Population Health;
- Strengthening joint working with the NHS and local authorities;
- Maximising our impact on health inequalities together; and
- Promoting excellence in practice in C&M.

In addition the report detailed the role of the C&M Health and Care Partnership throughout the process and how they would build on current work and collaborate with the Marmot Team.

Arising from the discussion, Members had previously received a copy of the Expression of Interest for the Shaping Places bid and approval was requested to submit Board Member signatures to the document before the bid was submitted.

RESOLVED: That

1. the proposal of Cheshire and Merseyside becoming a Marmot Community be supported;
2. the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership will finance, oversee and assure this initiative with the support of partners; and

3. the Board agree to submit their signatures in support of the Expression of Interest for the Shaping Places bid.

#### HWB26 ONE HALTON - UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered an update report on the development of One Halton which included the work of the One Halton Forum, the Integrated Commissioning Group and the Provider Alliance. Since the last meeting the following progress had been made:

- The One Halton Plan was submitted to Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and positive feedback had been received;
- Organisations within the One Halton had been asked to share the One Halton Plan through their relevant Boards for endorsement;
- A One Halton summary document had been produced and a copy circulated to the Board;
- Development of a One Halton Delivery Plan;
- Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease had been chosen as the first two programmes of disease specific work to be reviewed collaboratively across Provider and Commissioner; and
- A request for funding had been received and approved. Full details of the request were detailed in the report together with a One Halton Budget Statement.

RESOLVED: That

1. the contents of the report be noted;
2. the final version of the One Halton Plan 2019-2024 be endorsed;
3. the One Halton Plan on a page be approved;
4. the initial priorities for a One Halton Delivery Plan were agreed as Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease;
5. One Halton Funding requests have been noted; and
6. the budget statement be noted.

HWB27 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL/NHS HALTON CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP - PARTNERSHIP WORKING

The Board considered a report which provided an overview of the current partnership working arrangements between the Council, Adult Social Care and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

In April 2013, NHS Halton CCG and Halton Borough Council (HBC) had established joint working arrangements which culminated in the organisations entering into an initial 3 year Joint Working Agreement (hosted by HBC) from April 2013 (Pursuant to Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006) for the commissioning of services for people with Complex Care needs.

Subsequently, in April 2015 with the introduction of the Better Care Fund (BCF), a revised Joint Work Agreement was agreed which included BCF allocation for 2015/16, along with Disabled Facility Grant for capital projects.

Members considered the current Joint Working Agreement and Governance Arrangements, including examples of joint working arrangements and future opportunities.

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

HWB28 PROVIDER ALLIANCE UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered an update report on the work of the One Halton Provider Alliance. Since the last meeting the Provider Alliance had met on three occasions on 9<sup>th</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019. The Alliance had identified key workstreams and dedicated projects which were included in the One Halton Plan 2019-2024. Specific updates in respect of those areas were provided to the Board, together with a draft ten year vision document for Halton Place Based Integration.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HWB29 INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING GROUP UPDATE

The Board received an update report on the two formal meetings of the Integrated Commissioning Group which had taken place on 15<sup>th</sup> October and 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019. In addition, the Board was provided with an update on

the Integrated Commissioning Workshop which had taken place on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

*Meeting ended at 3.10 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, 27 January 2020 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. McIntyre, A. Jones, T. Coffey, D. Roberts, S. Williams, H. Bell and L. Davenport

Also in attendance: None

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

*Action*

**CYP23 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**CYP24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

**CYP25 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 be noted.

**CYP26 SSP MINUTES**

The minutes relating to the Halton Children's Trust meetings held on 31 October 2019 and 3 December 2019 were presented to the Board for information.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CYP27 ANNUAL REPORT - COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS RELATING TO CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES 1ST APRIL 2018 - 31ST MARCH 2019

The Board was presented with the Annual Reports for Comments, Complaints and Compliments relating to Children's Social Care Services from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. The report provided analysis on complaints processed under the *Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure*, and evidenced how feedback from service users had been used to improve service delivery.

It was reported that the aim of the Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure was for children and young people to have their concerns resolved swiftly and wherever possible, by the people who provided the service locally. It was noted that a complaint may generally be defined as an expression of dissatisfaction or disquiet in relation to an individual child or young person, which required a response.

Members were advised that there were four categories to the representation process: Statutory Complaints; Representations; Customer Care Issues; and Compliments. Commentary on these were provided in the report which also presented detailed information and data relating to the numbers of complaints received between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019.

Members queried:

- The meaning of partially upheld – when a complaint consisted of more than one part, for example if a complaint had 5 parts to it, 3 could be upheld and 2 could be not upheld;
- How does a young person actually make a complaint – there were the usual routes via telephone and email and more recently via text. Sometimes a relative or friend would do it for them. When a complaint was made the complainant was visited by a caseworker and every effort would be made to resolve the matter without engaging the formal process; and
- In 2016/17 the number of complaints was relatively low in comparison with 2018/19 – this could be due to having a more stable workforce in place at that time.

On behalf of the Board the Chair welcomed the

positive comments and compliments they had read in the annual report and passed on their thanks to all the staff involved in Children's Social Services for their hard work and dedication to their roles.

RESOLVED: That the reports be accepted as the mechanism by which Senior Management and Elected Members could monitor and scrutinise Children's Social Care complaints and compliments.

CYP28 ANNUAL HEADTEACHER'S REPORT OF THE ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESS OF HALTON'S CHILDREN IN CARE

The Board received the annual update of the education outcomes for Halton's Children in Care 2018-19. Appended to the report was the paper *End of Key Stage Attainment and Progress Report for Halton's Children in Care 2018-19*, which provided detailed data, analysis and impacts for the following groups; officers provided supporting commentary to explain the attainment results for each one:

- Reception;
- Phonics;
- Key Stage 1;
- Key Stage 2;
- Key Stage 4;
- Attendance and Exclusions; and
- Education, Employment and Training

Additionally, the Activity and Support Programme 2019-20 was attached for Members' information.

Members queried the status of the action plan referred to in paragraph 3.5 – this was being developed to improve overall outcomes for children in care and care leavers, with a particular focus on education, ensuring that there was full corporate ownership through this. It was reported that the action plan was in progress and the draft would be presented to Members of this Board as soon as it was ready.

The Board also discussed the importance of the PEP (Personal Education Plans) and frequency of them; the disparity between boys and girls attainment; the need for more mentors for children in care; the involvement of the educational psychologist service; training for foster carers; raising awareness via school governors and exclusions.

With regards to future reporting, the Chair requested more information on the cohort of Halton's children in care and information on any 'trends' at the time.

Director of  
Children's  
Services

RESOLVED: That the information is noted.

#### CYP29 HIGH NEEDS REVIEW

The Board received a presentation on the progress to date in reviewing, revising and redesigning High Needs processes and provision in Halton.

Officers presented the five recommendations made as a result of Phase 1 of the review. Members were advised that further to approval at Executive Board, Phase 2 of the project was commissioned and had begun and that this would concentrate on revising/redesigning the following:

- Inclusion within schools;
- Education Health Care Plans (EHCP);
- The Pupil Referral Unit (PRU); and
- Special schools and resource provision.

Members discussed the review's recommendations and welcomed the revisions going forward. They noted the next steps as follows:

- 29 January 2020 – parent and carer consultation on EHCP process;
- 13 February 2020 – PRU model to be considered at Halton Secondary Partnership meeting;
- 26 February 2020 – PRU model to be considered at the Education Strategic Board and Schools Forum;
- The development and finalisation of the plan for specialist provision for Executive Board approval; and
- Consultation with stakeholders.

Operational  
Director -  
Education,  
Inclusion and  
Provision

RESOLVED: That the presentation and information be noted and a further update be provided to the Board at the next meeting.

#### CYP30 UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2017/18 SCRUTINY TOPIC 'FURTHER DEVELOPING LINKS BETWEEN HALTON'S BUSINESSES AND SCHOOLS'

A report was presented to the Board from the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update on recommendations that were made in June 2018, as a



conclusion to the 2017-18 scrutiny topic '*Further developing links between Halton's Businesses and Schools*'.

The report outlined those recommendations and provided an update on the status of each, since they were made. Appended to the report were the online careers programmes (updated Autumn 2019) for each of the Borough's secondary schools; as discussed in paragraph 3.6.

In response to Members' queries on the update, the following additional information was provided:

- The *Gatesby Benchmarks* had been adopted by secondary schools and were now being used;
- There was no statutory duty on the Local Authority to enforce careers guidance in schools; Ofsted would be the body to provide recommendations if it was lacking;
- Ofsted would also inspect how inclusive careers guidance was within schools; and
- Pupils at The Bridge School (Pupil Referral Unit) each worked with their own case worker with regards to career guidance. The PRU also has good quality outcomes in relation to young people progressing into Post 16 Education or Training.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the information provided.

#### CYP31 CHILDREN IN CARE PLEDGE

The Board received an update on the implementation of the *Pledge to Children in Care* and were asked to approve this. Appended to the report was a leaflet '*The Pledge*' containing The Pledge statements and a leaflet titled '*Coffee Drop*' which introduces drop in sessions at Macy's Café in Grangeway.

It was reported that corporate parents were the officers and Members of the Council, members of the Children's Trust and other partner agencies and that a good corporate parent must offer everything that a good parent would, including stability. It must address both the difficulties which children in care experienced and the challenges of parenting within a complex system of different services. This meant that children in care and care leavers should be cared about, not just cared for, and that all aspects of their development should be nurtured, requiring a corporate approach across all of the agencies involved in

the Children's Trust.

The report discussed the statutory roles of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services and the expectations of the improvements to be made to the role of corporate parents, as announced recently by the Government (described in paragraph 3.5).

The Board continued to recognise the importance of the Children in Care Pledge and Members' responsibilities as Corporate Parents. They agreed that the actions to support the Pledge be referred to Executive Board and then to Council for endorsement.

The Chair suggested that all Members of the Council be reminded of these commitments by way of a refreshed presentation at a full Council meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) endorse the Pledge;
- 2) endorse action to promote the Pledge so it is known to the Council, Children's Trust and other partners;
- 3) identify further actions to support the commitments to Children in Care; and
- 4) agree that the Pledge and actions to support the Pledge are referred to Executive Board and then to Council for endorsement.

Director of  
Children's  
Services

#### **WAIVER OF STANDING ORDER NUMBER 50**

*The Chair requested the waiver of Standing Order number 50 so all agenda items could be presented. This was agreed by the Board and the meeting continued.*

#### **CYP32 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE PERFORMANCE**

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – People, informing them of the key areas of Children's Social Care performance; how this was monitored and how Halton compared regionally and nationally.

The report provided details in the following key areas:

- The demand for contacts and referrals;
- Numbers of assessments and re-referrals;

- Children in Need (CIN);
- Child Protection;
- Children in Care; and
- Care Leavers.

Officers advised that overall the service was still under pressure as the level of work had continued to increase.

It was noted that the report provided Members with a basic summary of some of the key performance areas, as there were others not covered in the report. Members agreed that they would like to see those areas as well, so requested that for future reporting all the performance areas be included.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

Director of  
Children's  
Services

*Meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.*

This page is intentionally left blank

**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, 10 February 2020 in the Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: W. Rourke, A. Jones, C. Patino, S. Saunders, S. Lowrie and F. Edwards

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>ELS29 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 18 November 2019, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>ELS30 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.</p>	
<p>ELS31 POLICY UPDATE - EMPLOYMENT LEARNING AND SKILLS</p> <p>The Board received a report informing them of recent national policy announcements made between 1 November 2019 and 31 January 2020, relevant to the Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board.</p> <p>It was noted that the information provided was not intended to be in-depth but provided a brief summary of key announcements along with observations of local relevance, where appropriate.</p>	

The announcements headlines were as follows:

1. Nursing students to received £5,000 payment;
2. 'T' Levels;
3. Town of the Year Competition;
4. Funding for innovative business ideas for new products;
5. Update on Liverpool City Region Activities;
6. National Apprenticeship Week 2020 – 3-7 February 2020;
7. Employer Brokerage by Be-More;
8. Strategic Investment Fund – Skills Capital Update; and
9. Visitor Economy Week 2020 Launch – 3 February 2020.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

#### ELS32 FAMILY LEARNING PROVISION IN HALTON

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an overview of the provision of family learning within Children's Centres and Primary Schools across Halton. They welcomed the Divisional Manager – Employment, Learning and Skills who delivered an accompanying presentation to Members.

Members were advised that Halton's Employment, Learning and Skills Division delivered a range of adult learning programmes within Primary Schools and Children's Centres across the Borough linked to supporting the aims and objectives of the TALK Halton project and the Halton Reading Strategy.

In response to Member's queries/comments, the following additional information was provided:

- There were children from the troubled families programme accessing the family learning services mainly from the children's centres;
- Some parents were unaware of the service and some perhaps felt intimidated to ask for help. Marketing of the Family Learning Programme was carried out via leaflets and emails in children's centres and schools, staff also identified need where possible and often spoke to parents in the playground;
- Staff would carry out a data capture exercise in relation to numbers of troubled families taking part in Family Learning;

- Adult learning provision was free to anyone where the household income was below £17,400;
- The number of schools offering the service had increased over the last couple of years with nearly all primary schools now accessing the service; and
- The staff who delivered the service were qualified primary school teachers.

It was noted that the funding for the Family Learning provision in schools and notice of further funding would be available soon. Family Learning in children’s centres was grant funded by the Department for Education and was due to end in June 2020 with no alternative funding yet made available.

Operational  
Director -  
Economy,  
Enterprise &  
Property

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received.

ELS33 BUSINESS PLANNING 2020-2023

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which set out the proposed Business Plan for the Economy, Enterprise and Property Department (EEP) for the period April 2020 to March 2023.

It was reported that the Council developed a medium term business plan in parallel with the budget that was subject to annual review and refresh. The input of each Policy and Performance Board into the business planning process and the setting of priorities for the Directorate was an important part of this process.

Members were presented with the key priorities for development or improvement for the EEP Department which related to this Committee. A draft Corporate Business Plan would be developed and the information provided in the EEP Department’s business plan would feed into this process.

It was noted that plans could only be finalised once budget decisions had been confirmed in March and that some target information may need to be reviewed as a result of final outturn data becoming available post March 2020.

Officers provided information in response to Members queries on upskilling of staff and creating good jobs for Halton’s residents, examples were given of successes with jobs for locals within Daresbury Sci-Tech and where staff have upskilled and secured promotions within the Community and Environment Directorate of the Council. Members were advised that questions relating to the

regeneration of the Borough, buying and selling of land and Widnes market came within the remit of the Environment and Urban Renewal PPB.

The presentation and Business Plan would be sent to Members following the meeting for their attention. It was noted that the new plan would be effective 1 April 2020.

Operational  
Director -  
Economy,  
Enterprise &  
Property

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received.

ELS34 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL INDUSTRIAL UPDATE

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update in respect of the emerging Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) for the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and highlighted its emerging importance in being used to determine how future resources from Government might be allocated.

It was reported that following on from the Government’s Industrial Strategy White Paper, *Building a Britain fit for the future*, published on 27 November 2017, devolved areas such as the LCR were invited to develop their own LIS.

The Board was advised that a working draft of the LCR LIS was produced before Christmas 2019 and was currently being updated. Further comments and input from partners, including local authorities, was being sought. The vision for the LCR as outlined in the LIS was provided in the report together with its aims by 2040.

The Board agreed that the Local Industrial Strategy be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the emerging document and consider its implications for Halton; and
- 2) agrees that in light of the potential role of the LIS in developing investment priorities; that the report be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration.

Operational  
Director -  
Economy,  
Enterprise &  
Property

ELS35 SPORT AND RECREATION TEAM

The Board received the Council’s Sport and Recreation Service’s Annual Report for the period 2018-19 and accompanying presentation from the Leisure Centres



Manager, Community and Environment.

It was reported that the team had two distinct areas:

- The Sports Development Team; and
- Management of the Council's 3 leisure centres – Kingsway Leisure Centre, Brookvale Recreation Centre and Runcorn Swimming Pool.

The report outlined the responsibilities for the Team and their day to day duties and presented information on local projects being delivered under six Themes: Increasing Participation and Widening Access; Club Development; Coach Education and Volunteering; Sporting Excellence; Finance and Funding for Sport and Sports Facilities.

Members welcomed the presentation and the following comments were made in response to questions:

- The Sports Development Team went into schools to promote the service and facilities available to students in the Borough;
- The 'teen-gym' (11-15 year olds) was explained;
- Despite ongoing maintenance issues, Runcorn Swimming Pool would remain open;
- The plans for a new leisure centre in Widnes were welcomed but the need for a new one in Runcorn was also recognised;
- Brookvale Leisure Centre would be upgraded in the future;
- The need to retain and develop staff was a priority and retention plans were being looked at;
- Feedback was requested from customers who did not renew or cancelled their Memberships; and
- The leisure market was becoming more competitive year after year and ongoing challenges that were faced with the recruitment of skilled staff and attracting custom because of this were recognised.

RESOLVED: That the Board welcomes the progress being made in encouraging and supporting residents to be active.

*Meeting ended at 8.40 p.m.*

This page is intentionally left blank

**SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 11 February 2020 at the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall*

Present: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh (Vice-Chair in the Chair), Baker, E. Cargill, Dourley, P. Lloyd Jones, K. Loftus, Logan, Ratcliffe and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Thompson and V. Hill

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Andrews, S. Ashcroft, C. Patino, M. Cotgreave, D. Perchard and G. Ferguson, M. Ankers (NWROCU), C. Pritchard and R. Stokes (Cheshire Police).

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

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

SAF22 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vice Chair thanked Councillor Zygadlo for attending a recent Police and Crime Commissioner Panel meeting on his behalf.

SAF23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were taken as read as a correct record.

SAF24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that no questions had been received.

SAF25 INTRODUCTION OF NEW LOCAL POLICE UNIT INSPECTOR

The new Local Police Unit Inspector Stokes addressed the Board on the work carried out in the Widnes Policing Unit and outlined her role and priorities for the local area. Catherine Pritchard was also in attendance and outlined her role.

*Action*

Inspector Stokes advised the Board that the Police were adopting a proactive and innovative approach which aimed to keep people safe by:

- working with young people;
- engaging with the community including those hard to reach groups; and
- encouraging active citizenships including schemes such as Homewatch and Speed watch.

The Board were advised on the work of the Problem Solving Team which was a dedicated strategic team who were involved in addressing issues such as County Lines and the recent work with Pubwatch in Widnes.

Arising from the discussion, a Member advised on the work of Magistrates in Halton who were working in the community visiting schools to help to educate children on the consequences of their actions which could lead to sentences in the Magistrate Court. Inspector Stokes acknowledged that this was an initiative that the Widnes Police Unit would like to explore further.

On behalf of the Board, the Vice Chair thanked Inspector Stokes for her presentation.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

## SAF26 EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the work undertaken by the Emergency Planning team during the last year.

Members received a presentation which highlighted the teams statutory duties to comply with the following legislation:

- the Civil Contingencies Act 2004;
- Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (COMAH) 2015; and
- Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) Regulations 1996.

Members noted that key plans were in place to ensure resilience within Halton which were regularly tested, public reassurances, examples of risks to Halton, details of the exercises that take place at COMAH sites in the borough, information on Emergency Centres and the work

the Emergency Planning team carried out with partner agencies both within Cheshire and Cross-Border and Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

Details of those incidents that the team had responded to since February 2019 were provided to the Board. In addition, the Board was advised on an Asbestos training event which would be held in partnership with Cheshire Fire in March and any member who wished to attend should contact Michelle Cotgreave.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### SAF27 DETRIMENT PREVENTED TO HALTON RESIDENTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which outlined the work of the Trading Standards team over the last year in Halton. During 2018/19 the team had saved residents at least £262.2k as follows:

- Consumer Advice Service had saved Halton consumers at least £32,001;
- Through rapid response to doorstep crime incidents Trading Standards had saved Halton residents £10,790;
- Detriment prevented through scam - working with people who had been caught out by scams to prevent a repeat had saved residents £104,618;
- iCAN – an email alert system used to warn residents about doorstep incidents, current scams and product recalls had saved residents £113,582; and
- through the free loan of call-blocking devices, 11 units, £3229 had been saved in Halton.

Arising from the discussion, Members requested that Officers share information on the call blocking device and how to purchase them.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### SAF28 WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

The Board received an update report from Sarah Ashcroft, on behalf of the Community Safety Team, which gave an update on the work with those victims of domestic abuse and the progress on the commissioning of a contract to provide a service which would work with families, victims and the perpetrator. In addition, Members noted information on Stalking Protection Orders which had recently come into force.

Members were also updated on the progress of achieving White Ribbon Status. It was noted that the White Ribbon Action Plan had been completed and the team were now in a position to approach the White Ribbon Council.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF29 NORTHWEST REGIONAL ORGANISED CRIME UNIT (NWROCU)

The Board received a presentation from Mike Ankers on behalf of the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit (NWROCU), which provided Members with an outline of the priorities and themes of their work. The Unit was established in 2009 and was a collaboration between the six North West Police Forces in Cheshire, North Wales, Lancashire, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, and Merseyside.

The Board noted that the Unit comprised officers and staff from across the region who brought specialist skills to tackle serious and organised crime that crossed borders in the region. The mission of the Unit was to identify, disrupt and dismantle organised crime groups causing the most harm to the North West. This was done by working with partners to gather intelligence, cracking the most serious and organised crime networks and then seizing the assets of those criminals involved.

Members were advised on each of the following specialist units and areas of work within the NWROCU:

- Protective Persons Unit;
- Regional Organised Crime Threat Assessment Unit;
- Regional Intelligence Unit;
- Sensitive Intelligence Network;
- Regional Asset Recovery Team;
- Regional Fraud Team;
- Asset Confiscation Enforcement Team;
- Cyber Crime Team; and
- Regional Prison Intelligence Unit.

The Board discussed a recent incident at Riverside College, Kingsway, Widnes and were provide with an update on the investigation which was ongoing.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

*Meeting ended at 8.45 p.m.*

**CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 28 January 2020 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chair), Philbin (Vice-Chair), Abbott, Howard, M. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, A. Lowe, A. McInerney, N. Plumpton Walsh and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, E. Dawson, G. Ferguson, W. Rourke and M. Baker

Also in attendance: N/A

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

	<i>Action</i>
CS29 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
CS30 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CS31 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>EXB57</u> – Members were advised that this item would be discussed at the Boundary Working Party once the new Ward Boundaries were confirmed.</p>	
<p>RESOLVED: That the minutes and comments made be noted.</p>	

CS32 COMMUNICATIONS, DESIGN AND MARKETING SERVICE UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources and received a presentation, which provided an overview of the work of the Communications, Design and Marketing Service. Work within the department had been prioritised against a number of criteria, these being:

- An income would be generated for the authority;
- There would be a reduction in cost/improved efficiency;
- The reputation of the authority would be significantly enhanced/or risk to reputation would be reduced; and
- There was a statutory duty.

It was noted that as the Team had reduced in capacity over the years its key priority was to support and market those Council owned venues which generated income namely The Brindley, Stadium, Widnes Market and since 2016 Halton's Leisure Centres. There had also been ongoing support for major projects and regeneration activity.

Members were also advised on the use of social media which had provided a fast , inexpensive and effective way to reach increased numbers of our community, paid for advertising opportunities across these platforms and the role of the central press office.

The Board discussed how Members were kept up to date by the Team on key issues and it was agreed that in light of their comments this would be reviewed.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CS33 2019 GOVERNMENT REPORT ON LEASEHOLD REFORM: THE FUTURE OF GROUND RENTS, SERVICE CHARGES AND SELLING PRACTICES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director Community, Enterprise and Resources, which provided an update on the Government Report (2019) on Leasehold Reform and if any of the recommendations outlined in the report could be implemented in Halton.

It was noted that at a previous meeting of the Council held in October a motion was approved in respect of Leasehold Ownership. The background to the motion was that in 2017 the Government had commissioned an Inquiry



into unfair practices in the leasehold market and the Inquiry concluded in April 2019. Following the Inquiry, a report was produced which identified some areas of concern such as:

- Onerous ground rents;
- High and unclear service charges;
- Frequent one off bills;
- Alleged miss-selling of leasehold properties by developers;
- Unbalanced dispute resolution mechanisms;
- Unreasonable costs to enfranchise or extend leases; and
- Future leasehold tenure.

In the government's response to the report, it was suggested that developers would be required to establish voluntary compensation schemes to assist leaseholders with onerous ground rent terms but if it did not see the sector responding proactively then it would take further action. It also stated an intention to make it easier for leaseholders to buy the freehold on their property.

Members were advised that subsequent Private Members Bill had its first reading in the House of Commons on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 but the Bill failed to make its passage through Parliament. Therefore, the report was a series of recommendations which were not currently supported by legislation. Unfortunately, without legislation, it would not be possible to apply retrospective measures to support existing leaseholders in Halton. Similarly, the Council could not place a ban on leaseholders on non-Council land or land that had been sold to developers in the past.

The Council could consider mechanisms for either capping or removing the costs for leaseholders on land it proposed to sell for housing development in the future. This would need to be a condition of any future Development Agreement. Arising from the discussion, the Board agreed that any Council owned land sold to housing developers should contain a condition that it is for freehold development only. It was agreed that the suggestion should be submitted as a proposal to the Liverpool City Region Planning Committee for adoption across the Region.

**RESOLVED:** That any Council owned land sold to housing developers should contain a condition that it is for freehold development only. It was agreed that the suggestion should be submitted as a proposal to the Liverpool City Region Planning Committee for adoption across the Region.

|

*Meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.*

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 6 January 2020 at Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Thompson

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: None

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>DEV16 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2019 having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>DEV17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.</p>	
<p>DEV18 - 19/00235/FUL - APPLICATION FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF 243 DWELLING HOUSES INCLUDING ACCESS, OPEN SPACE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON LAND TO THE NORTH OF RAILWAY AND WEST OF TAN HOUSE LANE, WIDNES, CHESHIRE</p> <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 this application had been withdrawn by the Planning Department as to date,</p>	

the outstanding matters had not been resolved by the applicant. So the application was not considered by the Committee today.

DEV19 - 19/00379/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION WITH APPEARANCE, LANDSCAPING, LAYOUT AND SCALE RESERVED, FOR DEMOLITION OF EXISTING OUTBUILDINGS, CONVERSION OF BARNs TO 4 NO. DWELLINGS AND ERECTION OF NEW BUILD RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT TO A MAXIMUM OF 10 UNITS TOGETHER WITH ACCESS AT WOODFALLS FARM, STOCKHAM LANE, RUNCORN, CHESHIRE, WA7 6PT

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

Following a query, officers provided clarity to the Committee around pedestrian access to Stockham Lane and the manoeuvring required by cars in the cul-de-sac to turn around as shown in the layout plan 2B. The Committee agreed that the application be approved.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the entering of a Legal Agreement or other agreement for the provision of a financial contribution towards off-site public open space and the following conditions:

1. Time limit – outline permission;
2. Submission of reserved matters;
3. Development parameters;
4. Breeding birds protection (GE21);
5. Hours of construction (BE1);
6. Implementation of site access (BE1);
7. Parking and servicing (BE1);
8. Visibility splays on Stockham Lane (BE1);
9. Reasonable avoidance measures – hedgehogs and common amphibians (GE21);
10. Ecologically sensitive lighting scheme (GE21);
11. Foul water (PR16);
12. Drainage strategy (PR16);
13. Ground contamination (phase 2 site investigation, remediation strategy, validation report (PR14);
14. Programme of archaeological building recording (BE5 and CS20);
15. Affordable housing scheme (CS13).

DEV20 - 19/00506/FUL - PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF FORMER PUBLIC HOUSE AND CONSTRUCTION OF 15 NO. ONE BED APARTMENTS FOR ASSISTED LIVING (USE CLASS C2) WITH ASSOCIATED COMMUNAL AMENITY SPACE, CAR/CYCLE PARKING, REFUSE STORAGE AND ANCILLARY WORKS AT THE CROFT, HALTON LODGE AVENUE, RUNCORN, CHESHIRE, WA7 5YQ

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

Officers advised the Committee that this application had been withdrawn today by the applicant, therefore could not be considered by the Committee.

DEV21 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

The following applications had been withdrawn:

**19/00351/PDE**

Proposed single storey rear extension projecting from the rear wall by 4.050 metres the extension had a maximum height of 3.638 metres and an eaves height of 2.951 metres at 7 Marsden Court, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 9PG.

**19/00299/ADJ**

Adjoining authority consultation by Liverpool CC for installation of ground mounted solar photovoltaic pv array including boundary treatment, control buildings and internal access track at land bounded by Dungeon Lane, Hale Road and Baileys Lane to the East of Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Hale Road, Liverpool, L24 1UU.

**19/00284/FUL**

Proposed siting of 2 no. shipping containers at the rear of the car park for storage and to act as a plant room for the swimming pool at Beechwood Community Centre CIC, Beechwood Avenue, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 3HB.

**19/00071/PDE**

Proposed single storey rear extension projecting from the rear wall by 8 metres the extension had a maximum height of 4 metres and an eaves height of 2.9 metres at Lenox Farm, Ramsbrook Lane, Hale, Liverpool, L24 5RP.

**19/00159/S73**

Application under section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act to vary condition 2 of permission 11/00007/FUL to substitute new plan drawing DRG no. 2 for previously approved plans to amend elevations and layout and to remove condition 12 restricting the use of the barn to agriculture for livestock and associated interpretation centre at Water Garden, Harefield Cottage, Warrington Road, Rainhill, St Helens, L35 6PG.

**15/00213/COU**

Proposed temporary change of use from land used as part of a thermos site to fabrication yard and compound for the rebar which was to be used for the construction of the Mersey Gateway Bridge and the approaches at former Thermphos Site, Earle Road, Widnes, Cheshire.

**19/00345/COU**

Proposed change of use from use class B8 (storage and distribution) to use class D2 (assembly and leisure) at Unit 1 Kingfisher Business Park, Brown Street, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 0RE.

**19/00336/PLD**

Application for a certificate of proposed lawful development for use of the property as a home for the care of up to 3 children between the age of 8 to 17 years with the provision of 24 hour care by not more than 2 day time and 2 night time carers at 4 Bamford Close, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 5NT.

**19/00355/FUL**

Proposed part single, part double storey side/rear extension and creation of 4 no. parking spaces together with Change of Use from dwelling house (Use Class C3) to a Sui Generis mixed use comprising dwelling house and consulting/treatment rooms at 101 Birchfield Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 7TG.

**19/00437PLD**

Application for a certificate of proposed lawful development for single storey rear extension and garage conversion at 4 Portside, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 3LE.

**18/00331/FUL**

Proposed erection of new vehicular access to Windmill Lane at Ryecroft, Windmill Lane, Preston Brook, Cheshire, WA4 4AZ.

**19/00442/COU**

Proposed change of use to ground floor restaurant with separate first floor residential accommodation at 82 Pit Lane, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 9HW.

**19/00339/FUL**

Proposed first floor rear extension at 41 Gregson Road, Widnes, Cheshire. WA8 0BX.

**19/00443/COU**

Proposed temporary change of use for two years from domestic dwelling (use class C3) to Sui Generis mixed use of office and storage to ground floor and garage, with the first floor to remain residential at 2 Elworth Avenue, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 9JW.

**16/00176/FUL**

Proposed erection of factory / production building together with associated infrastructure at former Cameron House, 351 Hale Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 8TS.

The following appeals had been received / were in progress:

**17/00497/FUL**

Proposed erection of two storey block containing 4 no. one bedroom apartments at Rear Garden of 67 Main Street, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2AT.

**19/00252/OUT**

Outline application (with appearance, landscaping, layout and scale reserved) for demolition of one dwelling (32 Ash Lane) to create access and development comprising 4 dwellings at land to the rear of 26-38 at 32 Ash Lane Widnes Cheshire WA8 8JQ.

The following appeals had been allowed:

**NONE**

The following appeals had been dismissed:

**18/00117/FUL**

Proposed removal of the existing equine and WC building and erection of 1 no. residential static park home at "Ponderosa", land to South West of Junction between Newton Lane and Chester Road, Daresbury, Cheshire.

**18/00218/FUL**

Proposed erection of 1 no. dwelling attached to the side of the existing property at 20 Maple Avenue, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 5LB.

The following appeals had been withdrawn:

**NONE**

**High Court Judgement**

A challenge was made to the High Court of Justice to the decision of Halton Borough Council to grant planning permission for the proposed change of use to waste transfer and treatment facility with ancillary development, at the former J Bryan Victoria Ltd. site, Pickering's Road, Widnes by Hale Bank Parish Council on the following three grounds:

- a) Breach of s.38(6) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 by failing to properly apply WM1 of the Joint Waste Management Development Plan (JWDP) or a failure to give adequate reasons in respect of the same matter;
- b) Failure to provide the required mandatory information in accordance with policy WM12 of the JWDP; and
- c) Failure to provide the relevant background papers as required by s.100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

The judgement dated 14 October 2019 was that Grounds One and Three were made out but that Ground Two was not made out. The planning permission had been quashed and the application fell back to the Council to be determined.

*Meeting ended at 6.40 p.m.*



**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Standards Committee Wednesday, 12 February 2020  
The Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors P. Lloyd Jones (Chair), M. Bradshaw, J. Lowe, Sinnott, Zygodillo and Mr A. Luxton (Independent Co-optee)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Howard, Wharton and Felix (Parish Council Co-optee), Mrs Howard (Independent Person) and Professor Norman (Independent Person)

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney and A. Scott

Also in attendance: One member of the press and two members of the public

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>STC1 MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2019, having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>STC2 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>The Committee considered a report of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer, which summarised the work of the Committee in the last Municipal Year.</p> <p>At the meeting in February 2019, Members had considered the Annual Report, which summarised the work of the Committee. There had been an update on issues that had arisen in other parts of the country, which provided an insight into the nature of matters raised and how they were dealt with elsewhere.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted and referred to Council for information.</p>	<p>Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services</p>

STC3 STANDARDS COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT

The Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer provided the Committee with an update on issues which had arisen in other parts of the country, which provided an insight into the kind of issues faced and the manner in which they had been proceeded.

Details on recent cases were given from a range of locations which included the following:-

- Lewisham;
- Bournemouth;
- Isle of Wight;
- Hackney;
- Dudley; and
- Bromley.

Members discussed the impact and use of social media in connection with the role of the Elected Member. It was felt that it would be beneficial if Members were reminded that they should report any incidents of misconduct or abuse via social media accounts to the relevant authority.

A verbal update was given on a number of local matters that had been considered since the last meeting. It was reported that in three of the cases, the Committees' Independent Persons had been consulted. Additionally, it was noted that there were three 'live' matters ongoing, which were yet to be concluded, and that the outcome of these would be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

*Meeting ended at 2.29 p.m.*