

Minutes

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

Wednesday, 3 March 2021

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COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 11 November 2020 held remotely

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Morley

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: One member of the press

Action

MINUTES SILENCE

At the commencement of the meeting the Mayor asked everyone to pause for a two minutes silence as a mark of respect for remembrance day.

COU1 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 4 March 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU2 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

It was noted that there were no Mayor's announcements.

COU3 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader made the following announcements:

- He outlined the significant work of the Council and its staff supporting the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of the Council he thanked those staff, members of the voluntary sector, Halton CCG,

the NHS, Liverpool City Region and Councillors for all their work; and

- He also brought members attention to the impact COVID-19 had on the Council's finances and budget. Despite these pressures the Council had met every target set by Government and would continue to lobby Government for a sustainable financial settlement for the Council for the upcoming year.

COU4 URGENT DECISIONS

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, on the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED: That Council note the report.

COU5 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings on 30 July 2020, 17 September 2020 and 15 October 2020.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU6 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

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

COU7 ASTMOOR REGENERATION PROGRAMME (MINUTE EXB 17 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the Astmoor Regeneration Programme.

RESOLVED: That Council approve

- 1) the Masterplan and Delivery Strategy for Astmoor ;
- 2) a variation to the capital programme of £1.5m to cover the costs as outlined in section 6 of the report; and
- 3) the extension to the Discretionary Business Rates Scheme of one year to March 2025.

COU8 2020/21 REVISED CAPITAL PROGRAMME (MINUTE EXB 21 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance on the 2020/21 Revised Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: That the revisions to the Council's 2020/21 capital programme set out in paragraph 3.2 be approved.

COU9 DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2021/22 (MINUTE EXB 28 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, P. Hignett R. Hignett, S. Hill, V. Hill, Horabin, Howard, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, MacManus, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Philbin, N. Plumpton Walsh, Polhill, Ratcliffe, Joe Roberts, June Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Teeling, Thompson, Wainwright, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Whitley, Woolfall, Wright and Zygadlo .

There were no votes against the motion.

There were no abstentions.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 be set at 35,182 for the Borough, and that the Cheshire Fire Authority, the Cheshire Police & 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	655
Halebank	521
Daresbury	179
Moore	324
Preston Brook	357
Sandymoor	1,326

COU10 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 4th March 2020:-

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

COU11 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 4 March 2020:-

- Development Control; and
- Regulatory.

COU12 LICENSING ACT 2003 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the Licensing Act 2003 Statement of Licensing Policy.

RESOLVED: That Council

- 1) adopt the Statement of Licensing Policy attached to the report to come into effect immediately following the expiry of the current Policy; and
- 2) direct that the Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services publishes the Statement of

Licensing Policy in Accordance with section 5
Licensing Act 2003.

COU13 NOTICE OF MOTION - UNION LEARNING FUND

UNION LEARNING FUND

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

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

'This Council notes the Department for Education intends to end the Union Learning Fund (ULF) from March 2021. The fund was established in 1998 to support trade unions to widen access to learning and training in workplaces for both union members and non-members. It benefits each year around 200,000 workers in providing learning and training, including basic literacy and numeracy, ICT skills, apprenticeships and traineeships, vocational training, and continuing professional development.

Council notes that this decision is contrary to the key government skills and retraining priorities at such a crucial moment for our economy and fails to put reskilling workers at the heart of its economic recovery plans after the pandemic.'

This Council RESOLVES: To write to the Secretary of State to express its concern at this decision and to appeal that government reconsiders this the ending of the ULF.

Meeting ended at 7.13 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 19 November 2020 held remotely

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: D. Parr, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, S. Wallace-Bonner and A. Jones

Also in attendance: L. Howarth, N. McGrath and C. Deadman from Halton Housing Trust, one member of the press and two members of the public

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

Action

The Board took part in a minute's silence in honour of Councillor Morley, who sadly passed away last week.

EXB35 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB36 URGENT DECISIONS

The Executive Board received a report from the Chief Executive, which provided the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Board and during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

It was noted that the Council's constitution gave authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Operational Director Finance and/or the Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services, where necessary.

A list of these decisions were provided to Members in the report and full details were published on the Council's website.

RESOLVED: That the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Executive Board be noted.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB37 HALTON HOSPITAL AND WELLBEING CAMPUS STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE

The Board considered a report which provided an overview of progress to date of the plans for new hospital developments in Warrington and Halton, and sought support to continue to progress the plans for Halton Hospital site redevelopment.

The Board was advised that following the Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHSFT's publication of its Estate and Facilities Strategy 2019-2024, the need for modernisation and reconfiguration on both the Warrington and Halton sites was reiterated. This included the provision of a new hospital for Warrington and the completion of the development of a hospital and wellbeing campus on the Halton site.

It was reported that the Strategic Outline Cases (SOCs) had been developed for both and reviewed by NHSE with positive feedback received. Further, the SOC had been approved by the Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHSFT's Board and by Warrington and Halton CCGs. In order to further progress the planning for the new hospitals to the next stage, Executive Board was asked to give their support to the programme and support in progressing to the next state of business case development.

RESOLVED: That the Board supports the development of a business case for a new hospital and wellbeing campus for Halton.

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB38 MERSEY GATEWAY

The Board considered a report presenting the outcome of a consultation held in relation to the updating of the *Road User Charging Scheme Order* for the Mersey Gateway Bridge and the Silver Jubilee Bridge (the 'Bridges').

The public consultation took place from 23 September 2020 to 14 October 2020 and a summary of the responses received were outlined in the report. Appended to the report was the updated *Road User Charging Scheme*

Order 2020 (RUCSO) and the consultation response analysis.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) confirms that no further consultation is required in respect of the updated RUCSO;
- 2) confirms that no public inquiry is required to be held into the making of the updated RUCSO;
- 3) agrees to the making of the updated RUCSO in the form (or substantially the same form) as that in Appendix 1 and delegate to the Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services, the authority to make any non-material or consequential amendments as necessary to enable the updated RUCSO to be made;
- 4) agrees to the toll charges being unchanged – as specified in the updated RUCSO; and
- 5) agrees to the administration fees in relation to registering with Mersey Gateway / Merseyflow being unchanged.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB39 DISABLED PARKING SPACES POLICY

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the revised Disabled Parking Spaces Policy.

It was reported that the current Policy required updating to bring Halton's approach in line with those of neighbouring authorities within the Liverpool City Region. Further, the current process required review due to changes to how mobility allowances were defined and awarded, increasing levels of on-street parking congestion, and the need to update explicit guidance and qualifying criteria in the existing Policy.

For Members information, the current application form was available at appendix A, and appendix B presented the proposed new application form, which also included the updated list of guidelines.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the revised Disabled Parking Spaces Policy.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB40 HALTON HOUSING TRUST PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report on the progress of Halton Housing Trust, since the last report to the Board on 17 January 2019.

Members welcomed Neil McGrath, Liz Haworth and Clive Deadman, from Halton Housing Trust who presented the report – *Annual Report to HBC Executive Board, October 2020*, which outlined some of the key organisational achievements over the past 18 months. Highlights included the completion of an additional 134 new homes to bring the total stock since transfer to almost 1,300; the appointment of five new apprentices; and the achievement of the highest possible regulatory rating of V1 G1.

The guests' responded to Members' questions on the report and Members congratulated the Trust on its achievements, recognising the challenges they faced generally, as well as in more recent times with the onset of the Pandemic and the need to support more vulnerable customers.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the progress made as set out in the report.

EXB41 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Board considered a report describing changes to the eligibility criteria for accessing housing and homelessness support that were made as a result of delegated powers to the Chief Executive, during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The report explained the impact and implications of the changes in eligibility and discussed the arrangements going forward. Members agreed, taking into account the placement of Halton into Tier 3 and the subsequent national lockdown, and with the onset of winter, that Halton should adopt a similar approach as the LCR and continue with the wider eligibility of access to homelessness support, thus protecting the most vulnerable from the illness.

A review of the eligibility criteria would take place at the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: That the Board

Strategic Director
- People

- 1) notes the contents of the report; and
- 2) agrees to continue with the current approach to determining homelessness eligibility, subject to a review towards the end of the financial year.

EXB42 UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DRAFT
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS (SDPS)

The Executive Board received a report that requested the removal of the Draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) from the Halton Local Development Scheme (LDS).

It was noted that the following documents had not progressed and were now unlikely to be progressed in their current form due to the expiration of the Unitary Development Plan:

- Draft Runcorn Old Town SPD;
- Halton Lea SPD;
- West Bank SPD; and
- Halebank Regeneration Area SPD

The reasons why each SPD was not progressed were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the removal of the draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) from the Halton Local Development Scheme (LDS), in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB43 LOCAL PLAN - ADDENDUM TO STATEMENT OF
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

The Board received a report that explained the requirement for an addendum to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) within the Local Plan and sought a resolution from the Board for formal implementation of this.

Members were advised that due to national legislative change, an addendum was required to be temporarily added to the adopted SCI, which formed part of the Halton Local Plan Framework. This was presented in Appendix A – *Addendum (Covid-19) to the adopted SCI 2019*.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the addition of

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,

the addendum (Appendix A) to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for Local Plan making.

Community and Resources

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB44 2020/21 REVENUE SPENDING AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Finance, advising of the Council's overall revenue net spending position as at 30 September 2020, together with a forecast outturn position.

Appendix 1 presented a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget up to 30 September 2020 and Appendix 2 provided detailed figures for each individual Department. It was reported that in overall terms the outturn forecast for the year showed that net spend would be over the approved budget by £4.752m. In comparison to the forecasted overspend of £6.951m reported at the end of June 2020, this represented a significantly improved position, but was still of great concern. Appendix 3 presented the Capital Programme as at 30 September 2020, with a number of revisions, as listed in the report.

The report also provided the Board with details of the financial impacts of Covid-19 and the Government funding made available to the Council to date. It was reported that there was a forecast shortfall in Government funding of £10.924m, this was summarised in Table A, paragraph 3.16 of the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) all spending continues to be limited to only absolutely essential items;
- 2) departments seek to implement those approved budget savings proposals which currently remain to be actioned;
- 3) Strategic Directors take urgent action to identify areas where spending could be reduced or suspended for the remainder of the current financial year; and
- 4) Council be requested to approve the revisions to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 3.19.

Operational Director - Finance

EXB45 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24, which took into account the potential impact of Covid-19 on the Council's finances.

The MTFS sets out a three year projection of the Council's resources and spending and was based on information that was currently available. It was noted that the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic had resulted in delays to planned changes to Local Government finance in 2021/22. Further, there was limited financial information available for 2021/22, with the Public Sector Spending Review being the first indicator of funding resources – this would be published at the end of November 2020, covering the one financial year only.

The Board was advised that the delay and uncertainty regarding 2021/2022 financial resources meant the financial information included within the MTFS was based on a large number of assumptions and best estimates. The financial forecast would be updated as and when further information was known. Appendix 1 therefore detailed the MTFS from 2021/22 – 2023/24 using a prudent estimate of the financial conditions over the course of the next three years. Appendix 2 presented the Reserves and Balances Strategy.

Reason for the Decision

To seek approval for the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2021/22 to 2023/24.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

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

Implementation Date

The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 will be implemented from 1 April 2021.

RESOLVED: That

Operational
Director - Finance

- 1) the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved;
- 2) the 2021/22 base budget be prepared on the basis of the underlying assumptions set out in the Strategy;
- 3) the Reserves and Balances Strategy be approved; and
- 4) the award of Council Tax Support for 2021/22 remains at the 2020/21 level of 21.55%.

EXB46 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20
AND HALF YEAR REPORT 2020-21

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented the Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20 and Half Year Report 2020/21.

These reports updated Members on the activities undertaken on the money market, as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

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

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB47 COUNCIL TAX SECTION 13A DISCOUNT POLICY
STATEMENT

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which requested approval to amend the Council Tax Section 13A Discount Policy Statement, to reduce to nil the Empty Homes Premium levied on certain residential dwellings which were being renovated to bring back in to use.

This would apply to properties that had been unoccupied and unfurnished for over two years and required significant works to render them habitable.

RESOLVED: That the amendment to the Council Tax Section 13A Discount Policy Statement to reduce to nil the amount of Empty Homes Premium payable on certain residential dwellings which are being renovated to being back in to use, be approved as follows:

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

- 1) From 1 April 2020, reduce to nil the amount of Empty Homes Premium payable on a residential dwelling which has recently been purchased or inherited and where the property was previously unoccupied and unfurnished between two and five years, for a period of three months; and
- 2) From 1 April 2020, reduce to nil the amount of Empty Homes Premium payable on a residential dwelling which has recently been purchased or inherited and where the property was previously unoccupied and unfurnished for over five years, for a period of six months.

EXB48 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) Whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with 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 paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB49 REPORT TO EXECUTIVE BOARD AND RESOLUTION TO USE COMPULSORY PURCHASE (CPO) POWERS. PROPOSED LEISURE SITE, MOOR LANE, WIDNES

The Executive Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval to exercise the Council's powers of compulsory purchase to enable delivery of the proposed Leisure Site, Moor Lane, Widnes with vacant possession.

The report outlined the steps required for this process in legal terms and the status of negotiations with third party interests.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.5.3 of the report be approved.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

MINUTES ISSUED: 24 November 2020

CALL-IN: 1 December 2020 at 5.00 pm

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 1 December 2020.

Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 10 December 2020 held remotely

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: G. Cook, D. Parr, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, S. Wallace-Bonner and A. Jones

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

EXB50 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB51 URGENT DECISIONS

The Executive Board received a report from the Chief Executive, which provided the urgent decision/s taken since the last meeting of the Board and during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

It was noted that the Council's constitution gave authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Operational Director Finance and/or the Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services, where necessary.

A list of these decision/s were provided to Members in the report and full details were published on the Council's website.

RESOLVED: That the urgent decision taken since the last meeting of the Executive Board be noted.

Action

**CHILDREN, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CARE
PORTFOLIO**

**EXB52 THE FUNDING FORMULA FOR MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS
& ACADEMIES FOR 2021-22**

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – People, which outlined the proposal for the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Schools Block Funding Formula for Halton’s mainstream schools and academies for 2021-22.

The National Funding Formula (NFF) was used by the Department for Education to calculate the Schools Block element of the DSG allocated to Halton. It was reported that further to earlier consultation with schools and the Schools Forum, it was decided to move Halton’s mainstream schools and academies to the NFF, with transitional protection for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

The Board was requested to make a decision on the funding formula to be adopted for 2021-22; the changes to the NFF for 2021-22 were outlined in the report. The consultation paper sent to schools was attached at Appendix A which also presented each factor of the NFF and the Council’s recommendation to continue to use this for 2021-22. The consultation process and responses were provided in the report.

RESOLVED: The Board approves the continuation of the National Funding Formula for 2021-22.

Strategic Director
- People

**EXB53 PARENT TO PARENT VOLUNTEER FAMILY SUPPORT
PROGRAMME: REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF STANDING
ORDERS**

The Board received a request for a waiver of Standing Orders in relation to ‘The Venus Project’ who delivered the Parent to Parent Volunteer Family Support Programme.

The Programme recruited, trained, supervised and developed skills of local volunteers who were parents themselves, so that they could provide support and practical assistance to families under stress. Additionally it also delivered the Intensive Cleaning Experience (ICE) Programme, which supported parents and carers to put in place and maintain household cleaning and decluttering routines.

It was reported that the contract was due to end in January 2021. The reasons for a waiver request rather than implementing a tender process were outlined in the report. The request was for a period of one year from 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2022, with the option of a further one-year extension.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board approves the waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.1 iv of Part 3, to allow the continuation of a contract with The Venus Project to deliver, on behalf of the Council, the Parent to Parent Volunteer Family Support Programme, for a period of one year with the option to extend for a further year.

Strategic Director
- People

EXB54 PROPOSAL TO INCREASE PAYMENT RATE FOR HALTON'S ADULT PLACEMENT CARERS AND APPROVE MINOR CHANGES TO THE PLACEMENT SCHEME

The Strategic Director – People, presented the Board with details of a proposal to increase the payments made to Halton's Adult Placement Service Day Carers and to change the name of the service to 'Shared Lives Services'.

Halton's Adult Placement Service provided care for people who had been assessed as requiring support due to age, illness or disability. It offered adults an alternative and highly flexible form of accommodation and/or care or support using the Adult Placement Carer's home as a resource and the care was provided by individuals, couple or families in the local community. Halton had used Adult Placement Carers for almost 20 years and was proud to say that in 2019 they were the regional winners of the Great British Care Awards for Dementia Care.

The report outlined the rationale for the requested increase in payments and the requested change to the name of the service. In support of these requests and other minor changes, Members were referred to Appendix 1 – the Shared Lives Plus Funding Model; Appendix 2 – comparisons with other local authorities for 2020 day carer payments; and Appendix 3 – Halton Shared Lives Carers monthly breakdown of fees paid for 2019 and the proposed increase for 2020. It was noted that there would be an increase of £38,871 per annum for the costs of the Service with the increased payment rates, which was still considerably less than the alternative of day care or residential services.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

Strategic Director
- People

- 1) notes the report and accompanying appendices; and
- 2) approves the requested payment increase, change of service name, advert for carers and minor changes to the scheme.

COMMUNITY AND SPORT AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIOS

EXB55 LEASE OF RECREATION CLUB BUILDING AND KING GEORGE V PLAYING FIELDS, DUNDALK RD, WIDNES

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval to the granting of a lease to Widnes FC Ltd, for the Recreation Club building on Dundalk Road and King George V playing fields.

The report outlined the background and history of the Club in recent years and Members were referred to the plan of the site attached to the report.

The Council invited Expressions of Interest (EOIs) to lease the Recreation Club building and King George V playing fields, subject to them being retained for social, sports and recreational use. Following a site visit made by interested parties, only Widnes FC Ltd expressed an interest to continue with discussions and went on to present a proposal to the Council.

It was noted that the proposal would require significant investment and resources to deliver and the report laid out the Council's position and steps required to be taken should the granting of a lease to Widnes FC Ltd be approved.

RESOLVED: That

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

- 1) the Council enter into a lease agreement with Widnes FC Ltd;
- 2) the Council bring forward the site for sporting development, subject to planning permission; and
- 3) the Board delegates responsibility for oversight of the development and lease to the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property and the Operational Director – Communities and

Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Physical Environment and Community and Sport.

MINUTES ISSUED: 15 December 2020

CALL-IN: 22 December 2020 at 5.00 pm

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 22 December 2020.

Meeting ended at 2.10 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 21 January 2021 held remotely

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: D. Parr, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, S. Wallace-Bonner and A. Jones

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

EXB56 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB57 URGENT DECISIONS

The Executive Board received a report from the Chief Executive, which provided the urgent decision/s taken since the last meeting of the Board and during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

It was noted that the Council's constitution gave authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Operational Director Finance and/or the Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services, where necessary.

A list of these decision/s were provided to Members in the report and full details were published on the Council's website.

RESOLVED: That the urgent decision taken since the last meeting of the Executive Board be noted.

Action

CHILDREN, EDUCATION & SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

EXB58 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2022 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on School Admission Arrangements for 2022.

The Board was advised that in October 2020, Halton Local Authority issued a statutorily required consultation on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2022 intake for Primary and Secondary Schools (attached as appendices 1 and 2 respectively). The Primary Scheme also included the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools for whom the Local Authority was the admission authority.

Since the publication of the Executive Board agenda, the Board was advised of a proposed amendment to the Primary Co-ordinated Scheme, this was presented on screen. It was proposed that Paragraph 9.1, under *Oversubscription Criteria* be amended to four criteria instead of three, so criterion 1 would be split into criteria 1 and 2. The reasons for this were provided to the Board and the proposal was agreed.

The report provided details of the consultation, which ran from 1 October 2020 to 13 November 2020. No changes were proposed to the current oversubscription criteria for admission to Local Authority maintained community and voluntary controlled primary schools.

It 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).

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 2022 academic intake.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Coordinated Schemes for admission to Primary and Secondary schools for the 2022/23 academic year.

Strategic Director
- People

EXB59 CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 2021/22 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, which provided a summary of the capital funding received by the Council from central Government to support Schools Capital Programmes for 2021/22.

The Board was advised that the Department for Education (DfE) had not announced the Capital Grant Allocation for 2021/22 at the time of writing the report. However, given the timescales for some of the capital projects, there was a requirement to present this report, so it was compiled using the 2020/21 allocation, which was £903,847.

The report set out details of the indicative funding available to support capital projects across the schools estate and also explained 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 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

- 1) notes the position regarding capital funding from the DfE for 2021/22;
- 2) approves the proposals to be funded from the School Condition Capital Allocation; and

Strategic Director
- People

- 3) agrees that the capital allocations are put forward for inclusion in the budget report to full Council.

EXB60 PAUSE DELIVERY MODEL FOR HALTON AS PART OF THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – People, which sought approval for Halton to enter into a partnership with the registered Charity ‘Pause’ and the other City Region Authorities – Wirral, Liverpool and Knowsley, to develop a regional Pause Programme.

Pause was described as an intensive trauma informed relationship based model that aimed to reduce the damaging consequences of children being taken into care. The development of the Programme would address the increasing demands on statutory services and rising numbers of looked after children and the need to safely manage a reduction in children becoming looked after.

The report outlined the proposals in detail, which included how the Programme would be delivered, how the Department for Education (DfE) grant funding would be used, and the financial and resource implications of the Programme on the contributing local authorities once the DfE funding ended.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves that

- 1) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Social Care, the Strategic Director – People and the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, grant funding from ‘Pause’ be accepted for the establishment of a Pause Practice in Halton;
- 2) authority be granted for the Council to enter into a collaboration agreement with the registered ‘Pause’ Charity, Liverpool City Council, Knowsley Council and Wirral Council, to oversee the delivery of Pause Practices within the local authority areas; and
- 3) the Strategic Director – People, in liaison with the Operational Director – Finance, seek to identify potential sources of funding for the Council’s contribution to enable the continuation of the project once the DfE funding ends.

Strategic Director
- People

HEALTH & WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB61 AGE UK – MID MERSEY : DIRECT AWARD - KEY DECISION

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – People, which sought a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v) of part 3, for the granting of a Direct Award for the delivery of a Wellbeing Model from Age UK – Mid Mersey, from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2024.

Members were aware that Age UK Mid-Mersey played a vital role in providing older people in Halton with the necessary support that helped promote their wellbeing and independence. The report discussed the important work carried out by the Charity, which focused on supporting older people to continue to live fulfilling lives in their own homes and enabled them to live in an environment that promoted personal safety, social engagement and activity, maximised wellbeing and reduced the ill effects of social isolation and the adverse impacts of ageing.

The report outlined the rationale behind the request and Members were referred to appendix one, which presented the Client Support Pathway and details of how the Wellbeing Model would be delivered.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) note the contents of the report and associated appendix; and
- 2) approve a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v) of part 3 for the granting of a Direct Award to Age UK Mid-Mersey, for the delivery of a wellbeing model.

Strategic Director
- People

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB62 RUNCORN TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN (TIP)

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval to submit Runcorn’s Town Investment Plan (TIP).

In November 2019, the Government issued the Towns Fund Prospectus inviting 100 towns to develop a Town Investment Plan to benefit from up to £25m funding

each from a national £3.6bn fund. Runcorn was invited to develop a TIP, which was now in its final draft stage and would be ready for the submission deadline date of 31 January 2021.

The report outlined the details of the TIP and discussed the list of emerging projects to be included in the Plan. The Board was requested to delegate the final sign off to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Physical Environment.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

- 1) agrees in principle to the Runcorn Town Investment Plan and project list; and
- 2) delegates approval of the final submission of the Runcorn Town Investment Plan to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Physical Environment, in order to meet the 31 January 2021 deadline.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

MINUTES ISSUED: 26 January 2021

CALL-IN: 2 February 2021 at 5.00 pm

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 2 February 2021.

Meeting ended at 2.12 p.m.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 7 October 2020 held remotely.

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), T. McInerney, Woolfall and Wright and S. Bartsch, N. Bunce, P. Cooke, G. Ferguson, T. Hemming, T. Hill, P. Jones, M. Larking, R. Macdonald, E. O'Meara, K. Parker, D. Parr, C Pritchard, S. Quinn, S. Semoff, M. Stanley, M. Vasic, I. Whiley, D. Wilson and S. Yeoman.

Apologies for Absence: K. Parker, L. Thompson and S. Wallace Bonner

Absence declared on Council business: None

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

		<i>Action</i>
HWB1	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING	
	<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2020 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
HWB2	CRF ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO RAPID INCREASE IN COVID-19 CASES	
	<p>The Board received a report on the Cheshire Resilience Forum Action Plan in response to a rapid increase in COVID 19 cases. It was noted that all areas of Cheshire had seen an increased incidence of COVID-19 cases in the last week (as at 14 September) with more significant increases being observed in Warrington and Halton.</p> <p>In response to these concerns, the Cheshire Resilience Forum had produced an action plan, a copy of which had been previously circulated to the Board. The plan set out a summary of the epidemiological evidence for Cheshire and steps that were being taken now in response to the rapid increase in COVID-19 cases and also what steps were under consideration. The appendix at the back of</p>	

the action plan provided a more detailed summary of COVID-19 surveillance data for both Cheshire and Merseyside.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

HWB3 WINTER PLANNING

The Board considered a copy of the Mid Mersey Winter Planning document and the two local system winter plans which had been derived from local system partnerships of Warrington and Halton and St Helens and Knowsley. On receipt of the plans the Urgent and Care Network and the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership would aggregate the plans up as a Cheshire and Merseyside response.

It was recognised within the plan that winter was likely to place unique pressures on the health and care system. COVID-19 remained a concern with seasonal flu and other viruses, seeing an increase in transmissions over the winter period. Additional challenges were set out in the plan that would exacerbate pressures on the health and social care system in Winter 2020/21, increasing demand on usual care as well as limiting surge capacity. These factors had all been considered in the winter plans and mitigations of COVID-19 this winter had substantially changed the local response to that used for previous winter planning and the first wave of infection in Spring 2020.

RESOLVED: That the Board

1. acknowledge the winter planning requirements; and
2. support the two local system winter plans and the Mid Mersey submission.

HWB4 INITIAL REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS ON HALTON'S ADULT SOCIAL CARE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Services, which provided a summary of the impact of the coronavirus on people known to the adult social care mental health services in Halton. The report set out the work of the Mental Health Social Work Services and the Mental Health Outreach Team. It included some of the adjustments to service delivery that had been made as a result of the pandemic.

The early indications were that the impact of the coronavirus on people's mental health and wellbeing in Halton had been considerable, although it would take at least another quarter before this was more fully understood. A further report could be brought to the Board in the near future which would provide more detailed information about referral rates and mental health outcomes in the subsequent quarter.

On behalf of North West Boroughs' Specialist Mental Health Services, T. Hill provided a brief update of their work and agreed to provide a more detailed update to a future meeting.

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

HWB5 LLOYDS BANKING UPDATE

The Board considered an update on the work of the Lloyds Banking Foundation in Halton. In November 2019, Halton was confirmed as one of the areas supported by the Lloyds Banking Foundation. In early March, colleagues from Lloyds came to Halton for a two day study visit and met with several key Partners. Since then some of the anticipated activities had been impacted by COVID-19 but colleagues from Lloyds had continued to support partners in Halton with:

- A small grant and advice to the Halton VCA;
- Ringfenced two development grants for Halton charities;
- Assisting with the Halton Foundation; and
- Information gathering on future initiatives in Halton.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the work of the Lloyds Foundation in Halton be supported.

HWB6 HBC LOCAL LOCKDOWN EMERGENCY PLAN TO SUPPORT SHIELDED, VULNERABLE AND THOSE SELF-ISOLATING

The Board considered a report that detailed Halton's Local Lockdown Emergency Plan to support shielded, vulnerable and those self isolating for shielded and vulnerable individuals. The plan had been produced in response to a risk of a local lockdown and the impact on these vulnerable individuals who resided within the Borough.

The Authority had developed a suite of Contingency

Plans in response to a virus outbreak occurring, copies of which had been shared with the Board. Should the mitigation measures detailed within the Outbreak Plans not be sufficient to reduce the spread of the virus, a Local Lockdown may be required. Therefore, the aim of the plan was to support the individuals and provide guidance for the Authority and partner agencies in response to the lockdown.

RESOLVED: That the Emergency Plan be noted.

HWB7 ONE HALTON - UPDATE REPORT

The Board received an update report on work relating to the One Halton Forum, the Integrated Commissioning Group and the Provider Alliance. The report summarised recent initiatives involving NHS Phase Three, Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership, the potential for a Cheshire and Merseyside CCG, the Mersey Thought Session held on 16 September, future One Halton Priorities and One Halton Finance (a budget statement was shared with the Board).

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 3.00 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, 23 November 2020 held remotely

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor P. Hignett

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Vasic, A. McIntyre, A. Jones, T. Coffey, D. Roberts and K. Mackenzie

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

Action

CYP12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CYP13 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members were advised that no public questions had been received.

CYP14 COVID-19 UPDATE

The Board received a presentation on the current response to the Covid-19 Pandemic and how service delivery had been altered to respond to initially Tier 3 and now lockdown restrictions.

Following the Education part of the presentation, Members queried:

The morale of teaching staff and how this had been affected during the Pandemic – staff were feeling the strain due to the need to catch up on teaching lost due to students and teachers not being in school during periods of isolation. Remote learning was challenging for some teachers and

students and some teachers were now teaching in the classroom and remotely as well.

Positive feedback had been received from schools who felt that they had been well supported. Staff were understandably anxious and school leaders were feeling the stress. To help prevent burn out they were encouraged to encourage distributive leadership and put a greater emphasis on health and wellbeing. The Council's Education Team had made themselves available at any time to provide advice and support, schools had been provided with regular briefings and there had been weekly meetings with each of the school groups to discuss and address any emerging issues. Additionally, the Health Improvement Team, Behaviour Support and the Educational Psychologists were available as part of the support offered.

How was the morale of Headteachers – The Council was trying to support Headteachers and offered advice from Senior Officers when support was needed. Ofsted inspections in the near future could be difficult to manage with staffing levels changing, so they had been requested to defer these. Weekly meetings were taking place with headteachers from primary, secondary and special schools to discuss emerging issues and share good practice. To date thirty-two schools had been audited by Health and Safety colleagues and advice and guidance had been provided to headteachers. It was noted that The Heath Academy had received a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspection with support provided by Health and Safety colleagues. There were no recommendations for improvement.

How has Covid-19 effected school budgets – at the start of the Pandemic some costs were covered by additional Government funds, however supply teaching cover was not included. It would not be clear for some time how schools' finances would be effected by the Pandemic.

Following concerns over the lost time for Year 11 students and the likely impact on their GCSE's, Members were advised that a letter had been sent from the leaders of the LCR authorities to the Head of Ofsted, the Head of Ofqual and the Secretary of State for Education, requesting flexibility with exam timetables and Ofsted inspections in the region.

The Board was also advised of the some unintended benefits since the Coronavirus had taken hold, such as the increases in pupil attendance; the increased attendance in

early years settings with 86% of them remaining open in Halton during the Pandemic; no large increases in the number of pupils being home educated compared to last year and the reduction in exclusions.

Following the Children Social Care and Early Help part of the presentation, Members queried:

Staff morale and welfare in the care sector and effects of self-isolation on the service – very few staff needed to self-isolate as early on in the Pandemic office based staff had formed bubbles in specific groups to include a manager and supervisor. If self-isolation was required, the impact was manageable. The welfare support provided helped staff enormously and they knew they could meet face to face if required. It was commented that although the sickness level had dropped during the Pandemic and the staff were generally healthy, they would be monitored and support services would continue.

It was noted that the financial information for quarter two of 2020-21 was unavailable at the time of publishing so this would be sent to the Board when it was completed.

Members welcomed the positive feedback received and agreed that staff had coped very well during this difficult and challenging time and gave their thanks. It was understood however that more challenging times lay ahead as the demand for social care referrals, child protection plans and children in care placements were ever increasing.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received.

Operational
Director -
Education,
Inclusion and
Provision

CYP15 CHILDCARE SUFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT REVIEW
AUTUMN 2020 – 2021 (CSA)

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – People, which provided a summary of the revised Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) Report.

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

The CSA Report detailed achievements since the last review and outlined Halton’s current position. It also highlighted any gaps in provision and explained how these were being addressed. It also discussed the early indications of how the effects of Covid-19 were affecting the childcare sector. Members queried:

What can the Council do to provide extra day care provision for under 2 year olds – in terms of provision this segment was reliant upon the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector to meet demand. Halton did promote early years provision and encouraged existing providers to expand and potential new providers to open.

How residents from the most deprived Ward in Halton (Windmill Hill) were able to take children to nurseries outside of their area due to lack of provision – the review highlighted a deficit in places in Windmill Hill but feedback from parents and other users of childcare in the area had shown a willingness to travel outside of the area. Parents from Windmill Hill and other areas were generally satisfied with early years childcare provision in the Borough and were prepared to travel to access the setting they preferred. Members asked that the data be looked at again to ensure that this was still the case.

How long does it take to become registered as a childminder – the system needed to be rigorous to ensure health and safety training and safeguarding checks were all in place, there was also the requirement to be registered with Ofsted. Information on the actual length of time this took would be sought and provided to Members.

It was noted that part of the Council’s CSA Action Plan 2020-21 focussed on the encouragement of new providers to enter into the local childcare market in the Borough.

RESOLVED: That the revised Childcare Sufficiency Assessment be approved.

Operational Director
Education,
Inclusion and
Provision

CYP16 ANNUAL REPORT - COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS AND COMPLIMENTS RELATING TO CHILDREN’S SOCIAL CARE SERVICES 1ST APRIL 2019 - 31ST MARCH 2020

The Board was presented with the Annual Reports for Comments, Complaints and Compliments relating to Children’s Social Care Services from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

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 was provided in the report which also presented detailed information and data relating to the numbers of complaints received between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020.

The report also detailed feedback on compliments made by clients and positive feedback from workers / professionals relating to Children's Services in the Directorate. The positive impact and outcomes on the lives of people accessing services in this Directorate were highlighted.

Members welcomed the report and recognised the good work that goes on, as presented in the feedback examples from Child Protection and Children in Need, Children in Care and Care Leavers, and Team around the Family (paragraphs 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 respectively). It was also understood that managing complaints was also about managing a client's expectations which these days was much higher due to improved technology and communication, and people forget that staff have caseloads to manage and were not available all the time. Officers did learn from complaints and some learning had informed future modelling and made a difference.

Members commended the Children's Social Care Services and all the staff working in the various departments who had improved the quality of or saved people's lives.

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

CYP17 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2020/21

The Board received the Performance Management reports for quarter 2 of 2020-21 (1 July 2020 to 30 September 2020).

It was noted that the key priorities for development or improvement in 2020-21 were agreed by Members and included in the Local Authority's Business Plan, for the various functional areas reported to the Board as follows:

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

The reports detailed progress made against objectives and milestones and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period. Members were requested to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of these.

The following queries were made:

The numbers of children who were placed in foster care was up – due to an increase in older children with complex needs requiring care from specialised carers who were unavailable, resulting in the use of independent fostering agencies. Recruitment for foster carers had continued throughout the Pandemic.

There was a decrease in the number of Care Leavers in education, employment or training – funding had been received for an extra staff post to support this as extra capacity was needed, as identified in the Ofsted Action Plan.

Was there a limited amount of places available in further education in Halton – the numbers of NEETS (Not in Employment, Education or Training) in Halton was well below the national average, although there were problems with NEET in Care Leavers as mentioned above. There were less young people accessing 6th Forms in schools in Halton because they were moving onto Cronton or Riverside Colleges which offered excellent academic and vocational courses. Neither College had reported being oversubscribed.

Was Covid responsible for those children admitted to Welfare Secure – no it was for safeguarding reasons for children at risk of criminal or sexual exploitation not Covid.

Welfare Secure provided safety and security for the children involved.

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

Meeting ended at 8.28 p.m.

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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, 16 November 2020 held remotely

Present: Councillors MacManus (Chair), C. Plumpton Walsh (Vice-Chair), J. Bradshaw, Cassidy, 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 and P. Corner

Also in attendance: One member of the press

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

Action

The Board took part in a minute's silence in honour of Councillor Morley, who had sadly passed away last week.

ELS13 MINUTES

The Minutes from the meeting held on 21 September 2020, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

The following updates were provided –

ELS8 – a response had not yet been received from Government following the request to increase the number of apprenticeships. A report is to be presented at the Liverpool City Region's Employment and Skills Board meeting on the same issue and would be shared with Members following the meeting.

A brief update was provided on the JETS Programme which went live on 5 October 2020.

Operational Director Economy, Enterprise & Property -

ELS14 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that no public questions had been received.

ELS15 DWP KICKSTART PROGRAMME

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided information on the introduction of the Government's *Kickstart* job creation scheme.

It was reported that the Government had recently launched its job creation scheme *Kickstart* for young people aged 16 – 24 which aimed to provide wage subsidies to employers that created new 6-month work experience placements.

Members were advised that the Executive Board agreed at its meeting held on 15 October 2020 that the Council should apply to become an intermediary in Halton, for the delivery of the Programme. If successful, the Employment, Learning and Skills Division would act as an intermediary for the Programme. It was noted that the forecast number of 6-month placements to be administered by the Division between November 2020 and December 2021 was 100, with the Programme scheduled to end in December 2021 the final placements would therefore run for 6 months up to June 2022.

The report provided detailed information on the *Kickstart* Programme; Halton's approach to this and the resources available and costs associated with becoming an intermediary.

Following Members' queries, the following was noted:

- If an employer was unable to continue with the employment of the young person they would have 6 months' work experience behind them which could assist with securing another job;
- The Council had approximately 30 local companies who were participating in the Programme each with between one and five placements available;
- The Programme was also aimed at working with employers as well, to assist them with their recovery, following the effects of the Pandemic; and
- The costs and calculations discussed in paragraph 5.3 were set following advice from DWP and were agreed by all participating local authorities in the Liverpool City Region, so all were using the same figures.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the report; and
- 2) supports the proposal for the Council's Employment, Learning and Skills Division to act as a *Kickstart* Programme intermediary.

ELS16 PREPARATIONS FOR HALTON'S BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2021

The Board was presented with an update on the preparations being made to deliver Halton's Borough of Culture (BoC) year in 2021.

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

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

The progress made so far was outlined to Members, which included the emerging programme of activities and also described the potential risks and challenges that could be faced, in light of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Members welcomed the presentation and progress made to date with the programme of activities and events. They made the following comments / suggestions:

- The opportunity to explore and highlight the 'climate emergency' should not be missed during this year;
- Public art could be displayed in each Borough as well as in a central point;
- There was no reference to the written or spoken word – it would be an opportunity to include schools with a poetry writing competition for example;
- Councillors should be encouraged to participate, particularly those with musical or artistic talents;
- Providing transport for people to cross the bridges would help encourage participation from all communities;
- The immigrant community should be invited to

showcase their cultures in some form;

- A mascot would help promote the BoC year as it would be easily recognisable and they could be placed in different locations in the Borough; and
- The BoC could be advertised outside of the area, which could attract more investment in the Programme.

In response to some comments, Officers advised that the BoC could be used as a toolkit from an inward investment perspective to get businesses involved in celebrating part of history and encouraging them to contribute any artefacts they may have. Although businesses had not been approached yet, due to the Coronavirus complications, this task would be revisited when some improvement in the situation was made. It was also commented that Halton would be producing a booklet to be used to advertise the BoC.

Members were invited to submit any further suggestions they may have to Chris Patino. The Chair requested an update on the BoC for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the update and Members comments and suggestions be received.

Operational
Director
Economy,
Enterprise
&
Property

ELS17 COMMUNITY CENTRES ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

The Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, presented the Board with information on the Council’s Community Centres Service for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

It was noted that the incorrect report had been published for this item but the correct one had been circulated to Board Members prior to the meeting.

It was reported that the Community Centres Service provided for the management and delivery of services from five buildings: Castlefields, Ditton, Grangeway, Murdishaw and Upton. The centres delivered programmes of community activities with varying models of community cafes and service outlets. It was noted that these centres provided a community hub, a central point at the heart of the communities where they were located, for residents to enjoy chosen activities and receive services in their neighbourhoods.

Members were provided with a summary of service performance which included centre usage and operating

costs. The report went on to include the profile for each community centre, which included key performance indicators to illustrate the performance of each over a three-year period. They were also referred to Appendix 1, which gave examples of community centre activities and events in 2019/20, with internet links to the Council's events page where photographs and further details on these events could be found.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ELS18 COVID-19 - LCR HOSPITALITY AND LEISURE GRANT (HLG)

The Board received a report and accompanying presentation on how the Hospitality and Leisure Grant (HLG) provided by the Liverpool City Region (LCR) had gone some way to support local businesses during the Coronavirus outbreak.

It was noted that at the time of writing the report the LCR was placed in a Tier 3 Lockdown. Businesses most affected by the lockdown were identified in order to offer some level of support. It was noted that many of Halton's businesses had been severely affected with many losing several months of trade since the initial lockdown in March, and some were still not fully operational.

An allocation of £1,060,792 had been provided to Halton and Members were provided with an update on the number and the types of businesses eligible for support and the grant allocations awarded to Halton's businesses so far.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.

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HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Health Policy and Performance Board held on Tuesday, 24 November 2020 held remotely

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor June Roberts

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Wallace-Bonner, M. Vasic, A. Jones, D. Nolan and E. O'Meara

Also in attendance: L. Bloomfield – North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS FT, Dr. A. Davies – NHS Halton & Warrington CCG, L. Gardener – Warrington & Halton Hospitals NHS FT, L. Thompson – NHS Halton CCG and one member of the press

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

	<i>Action</i>
HEA20 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2020 were signed as a correct record.	
HEA21 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.	
HEA22 COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RESTORATION & RECOVERY OF CLINICAL SERVICES	
The Board welcomed Lee Bloomfield from North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (FT), who provided an update in respect to North West Borough's Healthcare NHS FT's response to Covid-19 and the subsequent restoration and recovery of clinical services for the local population of Halton.	
The report gave an overview of the current Trust and local Borough service delivery, patient activity including referral rates, activity levels, waiting list sizes and how and	

where care was being delivered. It also detailed the process the Trust had undertaken to restore services in the short term and detailed the process for the medium and long term.

It was noted that the report was produced using a snapshot approach, focussing on two points – weeks commencing 2 March 2020 and 10 August 2020.

On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked the presenter and queried the position with regards to Child and Adults Mental Health Services. This information would be made available to the Board following the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be received and comments made noted.

Director of Adult
Social Services

HEA23 CREATION OF A 'HEALTH HUB' DELIVERING SOME OUTPATIENT HOSPITAL SERVICES FROM RUNCORN SHOPPING CITY

The Board considered a report from the Clinical Chief Officer NHS Halton CCG and the Director of Strategy, Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals (WHTH) NHS Foundation Trust (FT) on the creation of a 'Health Hub', delivering some outpatient hospital services from Runcorn Shopping City.

It was reported that a partnership between WHTH NHS FT, Halton Borough Council and the Liverpool City Region (LCR) had developed a plan to utilise unused retail space in Runcorn Shopping City to deliver a number of clinical services. The report outlined the context, the progress made to date and described the next steps with regard to undertaking a patient, public and staff pre-engagement and consultation exercise to consider the proposal and detail within these plans. Appended to the report was the '*Draft Consultation FAQ's – Runcorn Shopping City*'.

Following the presentation the *Healthwatch* Co-optee Member to the Board offered their assistance with the promotion of the pre-engagement work and the 8-week consultation through their networks, as well the opportunity to carry out engagement using their online Zoom sessions. One Member suggested that the Council's Customer Intelligence Unit may be able to assist with the survey as they had experience of conducting these in the past.

RESOLVED: That the Health Policy and Performance Board receives the proposal outlining the

proposed actions to proceed with engagement and consultation relating to the proposed service expansion and/or relocation of services at Runcorn Shopping City as outlined.

HEA24 HALTON HOSPITAL AND WELLBEING CAMPUS STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE

The Board considered a report which provided an overview of progress to date of the plans for new hospital developments in Warrington and Halton, and sought support to continue to progress the plans for Halton Hospital site redevelopment and to ensure the provision of hospital services in a modern fit for purpose estate.

Members welcomed Lucy Gardener, from Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who presented the update.

The Board was advised that following the Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHSFT's publication of its *Estate and Facilities Strategy 2019-2024*, the need for modernisation and reconfiguration on both the Warrington and Halton sites was reiterated. This included the provision of a new hospital for Warrington and the completion of the development of a hospital and wellbeing campus on the Halton site.

It was reported that the Strategic Outline Cases (SOCs) had been developed for both and reviewed by NHSE with positive feedback received. Further, the SOC had been approved by the Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHSFT's Board and by Warrington and Halton CCGs. In order to further progress the planning for the new hospitals to the next stage, Executive Board was asked to give their support to the programme and support in progressing to the next state of business case development, this was agreed at the last meeting of the Executive Board in November.

Following Members queries, it was confirmed that the new extension to Halton Hospital would be completed before the demolition of buildings where services were currently being delivered. So there would be no loss of services from the Halton site, including the Brooker Centre. More information would be provided in the full business case once this was available.

One Member requested sight of the Strategic Outline Cases. It was noted that once final NHSE approval had

been given, they would be shared with the Board.

Director of Adult
Social Services

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the report.

HEA25 PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The Board received a report and accompanying presentation from the Director of Public Health and Protection, which updated them on the Public Health response to Covid-19 Coronavirus.

The presentation included the most recent data; the latest update on the Halton Outbreak Support Team and the testing approach in the community, including mass testing.

Members welcomed the news that Halton's infection rate was now below the North West average and hospitals had seen a reduction in the numbers of beds occupied by Covid-19 patients.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HEA26 WINTER PLANNING

The Board considered a report from the Chief Commissioner – NHS Halton CCG, appraising them of the Winter Planning 2020 requirements and the Mid Mersey system Winter Plan submissions.

The Mid Mersey Winter Planning document was attached to the report and the Board was advised that the two local system Winter plans had been derived from local system partnerships of St Helens and Knowsley, and Warrington and Halton and were attached to the report as appendices one and two respectively.

It was noted that the two local plans had been aggregated to form a Mid Mersey introduction into the system response to Winter. The local systems would need to continuously assist local delivery for any new challenges for the winter planning task ahead.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) acknowledge the Winter planning requirements; and
- 2) supports the two local system winter plans and the Mid Mersey submission.

HEA27 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS, QUARTER 2
2020/21

The Board received the Performance Management Reports for quarter 2 of 2020-21.

Members were advised that the report introduced, through the submission of a structured thematic performance report, the progress of key performance indicators, milestones and targets relating to Health in quarter 2 of 2020-21. This included a description of factors, which were affecting the service.

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

It was reported that the emergence of the Coronavirus had disrupted reporting with some areas being suspended and some being reported differently. Officers advised that since publication of the agenda, the financial information had become available and would be circulated to Members following the meeting.

The Chair suggested that the commentary in the report should include reference to the good work that was being done by all staff at this unprecedented time, as they deserved recognition for their dedication and hard work.

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

Director of Adult
Social Services

Meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.

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SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 17 November 2020 held remotely.

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: PC Tetlow and Alex Crisp – Cheshire Police. One member of the press

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

Action

The Board took part in a minute's silence in honour of Councillor Morley, who had sadly passed away last week.

SAF14 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Chairs announcements.

SAF15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

SAF16 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that no questions had been received.

SAF17 CHESHIRE POLICE THERAPY DOG TRIAL

The Board received a presentation from PC Jane Tetlow in relation to the new initiative to trial a Police therapy dog in the Northern division of Cheshire. Cheshire Police would be the first North West Force to pioneer this resource with the aim to improve victim engagement, staff wellbeing and youth intervention and diversion. The therapy dogs would work alongside the Safer Schools Young Persons Partnership Officers. Their work involved working closely

with schools, Beat Management and Partnerships to anticipate problems involving young people and their families. They regularly attended schools dedicated to additional educational needs working with those individuals.

PC Tetlow outlined to the Board examples of ways the therapy dog could be used in Halton and the benefits this would bring.

RESOLVED That the report be noted.

SAF18 MENTAL HEALTH STREET TRIAGE TEAMS

The Board considered an update from Alex Crisp, Mental Health Co-ordinator, Cheshire Police, on the Cheshire Police approach to addressing mental health issues when they presented themselves in the community. The report also highlighted the increased number of calls for mental health support and of suicides during the Covid-19 Pandemic and the Police response.

The Board was advised on the changing demand for crisis management services during the past months, the impact on the increasing calls to Cheshire Police to respond to those in crisis and details of the 24-hour crisis line that had been in place since March 2020. In addition, the report set out:

- the partnership approach that was in place and the benefits and areas for development including; street triage, liaison and diversion, Cheshire and Merseyside Prevention of Suicide (CHAMPS) and High Intensity Users (HIU); and
- the training for Cheshire Constabulary for Officers and Staff to develop a best practice emergency response to mental illness.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF19 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PROTECTION ORDERS

Members were advised that this report had been added to the agenda in error and had been considered by the Board at its last meeting.

SAF20 CONSUMER ADVICE

The Board considered a report on the work of the Consumer Advice Team, which also provided case studies from the past 12 months. The report provided information on

the work of the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline, which was a national helpline that provided the first response advice on behalf of the Trading Standards Service. It also detailed how Trading Standards worked alongside the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline to support the needs of the consumer and the law that applied when goods and services were bought.

Members were advised that a satisfaction survey of service users was undertaken quarterly which showed that consistently 98% of users were either very satisfied or satisfied with the service they had received from Halton Trading Standards Consumer Advice Service.

RESOLVED: That the Board noted the information presented.

Meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

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ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 2 December 2020 held remotely.

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Ferguson, T. Gibbs, I. Saxby and J. Unsworth

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EUR14 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2020 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>EUR15 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
<p>EUR16 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES</p> <p>The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.</p>	
<p>EUR17 ROAD SAFETY REPORT</p> <p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which gave details of road traffic collision and casualty numbers within the Borough in the year 2019.</p> <p>The Board was advised that Appendix A to the report</p>	

set out full details of the numbers of traffic collisions and casualties in the year 2018, and compared these figures with those from previous years.

The latest figures (2019) for Halton could be summarised as follows:

- There were 183 road traffic collisions involving personal injury in Halton, 14 fewer than the year before, and a continuation of the overall general downward trend. These incidents resulted in 239 casualties, a 3% increase on the 2018 figures;
- A total of 31 killed or seriously injured (KSI) remained relatively low when compared to 10 years ago (41 in 2010). The figure for 2018 was 30;
- 28 of the casualties were classed as serious, with 3 fatalities (an increase of 1 compared to 2018);
- A total of 2 child serious injury (CKSI) which represented a decrease of 66% (compared to 6 in 2018);
- The numbers of people of all ages being slightly injured (SLI) was 208 (202 in 2018); and
- A total of 23 collisions occurred on Mersey Gateway controlled roads, resulting in a total of 28 casualties, slightly higher than in 2018.
- Halton still remained on course to achieve its performance targets.

In addition, the report highlighted the work the Road Safety Team had undertaken in 2019/20 and the programme for 2021 which would continue to cover road traffic reduction schemes, road safety education, training and publicity.

Members also considered information on the road safety schemes undertaken in 2019/20 and the report outlined the planned works for 2020/21 which included:

- Improved pedestrian crossing facilities at Halton Lea, Runcorn;
- Review of all school sites to ensure road layouts were appropriate, given the ongoing issues related to the Covid19 pandemic;
- Improvements to side-junction layouts on Liverpool Road, Widnes following concerns raised regarding poor visibility;
- Improvements to pedestrian crossing points at Dykin

Road / Moorfield Road roundabout;

- Reconfiguration of road markings as part of wider improvement scheme on southern section of Ditchfield Road, Widnes; and
- Major changes to route signage through Runcorn town centre following Runcorn de-linking works and associated changes to traffic flows.

RESOLVED: That

1. the overall progress made on casualty reduction in Halton over the past decade be noted; and
2. the road safety programme for 2021 be supported.

EUR18 ROADSIDE MEMORIALS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought views on the creation of a roadside memorials policy. A number of authorities had started to establish policies and protocol relating to the placement and removal of roadside floral tributes and other memorials placed at the scene of fatal road crashes and other fatalities adjacent to the highway. Adopted policies generally set a time period for the placement of flowers and other tributes and include protocols and arrangements for their removal and the return of non-perishable items to relatives. It was recognised that this was a sensitive and emotional issue.

It was noted that the Council had a legal duty to ensure that highways were fit for purpose and to make sure that public open spaces were free from debris. An example of a roadside memorials and tribute policy had been previously circulated to the Board as Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That the Board supported the need for a roadside memorial policy in Halton.

EUR19 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION TOWN CENTRE FUND

The Board was advised that the Metro Mayor had previously announced a £1m Town Centre Fund allocation for each of the Liverpool City Region local authority areas. The purpose of the fund was to stimulate plans for Town Centres that would generate a long term sustainable approach to revitalising the high street. In Halton it was agreed that the investment would be in the Halton Lea ward. An action plan had been agreed with the Combined Authority in February 2020, initially for delivery by the end of

the calendar year however the programme had now been extended to 31st October 2021.

It was noted that the programme had nine projects and generated £601,875 of match funding in addition to the £1m. Members received details on the following nine work streams in the Halton Lea Town Centre Fund and the amount of funds allocated to each:

Re-location of Halton Hospital Services;
Third sector hub;
Roof top garden;
Culture HQ;
Wayfinding;
Wellbeing hub;
Community shop;
The box grants; and
Third sector grants.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EUR20 FLYPOSTING

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which outlined the Council position with regard to tackling fly posting. Fly posting was illegal and it was also unfair on those companies who chose to advertise legitimately. Fly posting also put an additional cost on the Local Authority and other landowners who had to remove fly posters. It also had a severe effect on the local environmental quality of the Borough and could act as an anti-social magnet that encouraged a social downward spiral and could lead to an increase in residents fear of crime.

The report proposed a week long 'crackdown' to raise awareness of the negative impacts of flyposting, confront and discourage the main perpetrators and improve the public realm of the Borough. The Council aimed to reduce fly posting throughout Halton through education and enforcement. In addition, a draft policy for fly posting prevention would be put together based on the principles outlined in the report and brought back to a future Board meeting.

Arising from the discussion, Members identified areas that could be targeted for enforcement, which included bridges, Halton Stadium, empty shops in the town centres and traffic lights.

RESOLVED: That

1. a formal anti fly posting policy be drafted based on the principles set out in paragraphs 4.3 – 4.8; and
2. the activity set out in paragraph 4.9 be endorsed.

Strategic Director,
Enterprise,
Community and
Resources,

Meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

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CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 3 November 2020 held remotely.

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor N. Plumpton Walsh

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, I. Leivesley, G. Ferguson, M. Foy, J. Unsworth and J. Yates

Also in attendance: None

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

		<i>Action</i>
CS14	MINUTES The Minutes from the meeting held on 8 September 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
CS15	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.	
CS16	EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES 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. RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.	
CS17	AREA FORUMS ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020 A report was presented to the Board by the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which informed Members of the project delivery of the Local Area Forums for the financial period 1 April 2019 to 31 March	

2020.

Members were advised that Local Area Forums (LAF) provided a mechanism for Councillors to respond to community needs and aspirations through the funding and delivery of initiatives and projects. Area Forum money could also be used as 'match funding' to help lever in additional funding from a variety of external sources.

It was reported that in 2019/20, £200,000 was allocated to Area Forums, split on a per capita basis across all seven Forums, which covered the Borough. Details of the funding for each of the LAF's, case study information and resident feedback was provided to demonstrate the impact LAF projects had made for Halton's communities. Projects funded through the LAFs were categorised into the following key areas:-

- Children and Youth Facilities;
- Community Events;
- Community Resource and Equipment;
- Community Initiatives;
- Improved Parks;
- Landscapes;
- Pedestrian and Highway Improvements; and
- Community Safety.

It was highlighted that the Area Forum budget had enabled the leverage of other grants and had secured funds from other bodies. Overall, an additional amount of £162,286.82 was 'levered' in to support Area Forum projects, providing a total spend of £413,166.98.

Arising from the discussion, it was agreed that a report would be brought to a future meeting on the impact of the forthcoming Ward boundary changes.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

CS18 CORPORATE COMPLAINTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an analysis of Corporate Complaints received during the 2019/20 financial year.

The report outlined the two stage procedure to deal with corporate complaints; a corporate complaints trend analysis from 2012 to 2020; the nature of those complaints received; and outcomes. In addition, the report also

Strategic Director,
Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

provided a summary on complaints and queries that had been received by the Local Government Ombudsman during 2019/20. It was noted that the Ombudsman had made 51 decisions during the year and undertook 38 investigations, 34 of which were not upheld. Members noted that these figures provided reassurance that the Council's internal complaints procedures were robust and effective in resolving fault where it occurred at a local level.

Arising from the report, it was agreed that a copy of the Council's vexatious corporate complaints policy would be shared with the Board.

Strategic Director,
Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

RESOLVED: That the report and comments made be noted.

CS19 ENERGY / CARBON REDUCTION UPDATE

The Board considered an update report on related activities aimed at reducing CO2 emissions within the Borough. Since the Council's participation in the Local Authority Carbon Management Programme, the Council had continued to implement a number of actions to reduce its carbon emissions and impact on the environment and at the same time deliver financial savings. Overall, the Council's CO2 emissions continued to reduce from a baseline of 2006/7 of 26,338 tonnes of CO2, to 11354 tonnes for 2019/20.

It was noted that there had been a slight increase in emissions associated with both fleet transport and business mileage from the previous years. In addition, Corporate buildings had also seen a slight increase, this being solely down to increased gas usage. The report advised members on the progress and impact of changes in the Borough which included: street lighting, roof top solar and biomass, the construction of a solar farm, climate action plan, public decarbonisation fund, municipal fleet decarbonisation plan, 3MG going green and the Astmoor low carbon study project.

RESOLVED: That the report and ongoing work be noted.

CS20 CORPORATE ACCIDENT / INCIDENT REPORT 1ST APRIL TO 31ST AUGUST 2020

The Board was provided with a report from the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented details of health and safety management within the Authority from 1 April 2020 to 31 August 2020.

Officers commented that the report highlighted the national and local health and safety information, and together with performance and incident trends, these formed the basis for the recommended actions for 2020/21. In order to be proactive in health and safety management the report also indicated the number of completed risk assessments and training delivered to staff.

The report highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on the period the report covered. There had been a significant reduction in accidents and violent incidents due to a high volume of home working during the nationwide lockdown. A number of risk control measures had been implemented across the authority to protect staff and many frontline workers during this change in working practices. Assistance for staff had also been provided on the Enable e-learning platform via a number of wellbeing programmes and courses;

Members were advised on a number of recommended actions for 2020/21. These had been identified as a result of accident analysis data for 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.

BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 18 November 2020 held remotely.

Present: Councillors M. Lloyd Jones (Chair), E. Cargill, A. Lowe, MacManus, McDermott, Philbin, Joe Roberts, G. Stockton and J. Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Wall and N. Plumpton Walsh

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Dawson, I. Leivesley, M. Murphy, S. Baker and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: S. Ironmonger, M. Green and S. Nixon (Grant Thornton).
One member of the press.

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

	<i>Action</i>
BEB13 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 September 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
BEB14 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018/19	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of the revised 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement (AGS).</p>	
<p>The Board was reminded that at its meeting on 24 July 2019, the 2018/19 AGS had been presented, with a further updated version presented to the Board on 24th February 2020. The delay in the completion of the external audit of the 2018/19 statement of accounts had necessitated that the document be updated again. This ensured that the AGS was current at the time of the approval of the 2018/19 statement of accounts.</p>	
<p>Once approved the AGS would be signed by the Council Leader and Chief Executive and published on the Council's website.</p>	
<p>RESOLVED: That the updated Annual Governance</p>	

Statement be approved.

BEB15 2018/19 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AUDIT FINDINGS REPORT AND LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which sought approval for the Council's 2018/19 Statement of Accounts (the latest version of which was enclosed with the Agenda), and the report of the Audit Findings of the External Auditor (Grant Thornton) on the 2018/19 financial statements. The report also sought approval of the Council's Letter of Representation.

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

The Board had previously received a number of reports setting out the reasons for the delay in the Council publishing the audit certificate or opinion on the 2018/19 Statement of Accounts. Officers had been working with the External Auditor to reach resolution on a number of technical accounting issue changes. Agreement had been reached in resolving the issues and changes had been made to the draft Statement of Accounts, passed to the Council's External Auditor (Grant Thornton) on 31 May 2019. Changes were set out in the Audit Findings report which was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

The External Auditor presented the Audit Findings report which summarised the findings from 2018/19 external audit. Section 3 of the report also presented the External Auditor's findings on the Value for Money (VFM) conclusion. It was noted that the overall conclusion was that the Council had proper arrangements in all significant respects to ensure it delivered value for money in its use of resources.

The Board wished to place on record their thanks to the Operational Director, Finance and the Finance Team for their work in the preparation of the accounts and to Grant Thornton for their work on the audit.

Arising from the discussion it was noted that:

- Steps had been taken to improve technical issues between the Council and the External Auditors including development of IT software sharing and weekly meetings; and

- A report on the estimation of pension liabilities could be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Letter of Representation in Appendix 1 be approved;
2. the External Auditor's 2018/19 Audit Findings Report in Appendix 2 be received and approved; and
3. the Council's 2018/19 Statement of Accounts in Appendix 3 be approved.

BEB16 2019/20 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS - VERBAL UPDATE

The Board was advised that the Council's 2019/20 accounts had now been received by Grant Thornton and due to the COVID-19 pandemic work was ongoing remotely to complete the audit of those accounts. All field work was expected to be complete in January 2021 and the audit findings would be brought to a Board meeting in March 2021

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

BEB17 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER BIENNIAL UPDATE 2020/21

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the bi-annual update of the Corporate Risk Register.

The Board was advised that the Council recognised its responsibility to manage both internal and external risks as a key component of good corporate governance. At Directorate level, arrangements were in place for the high risk mitigation measures on the Directorate Risk Registers to be reviewed and updated mid-year, in line with Directorate Business Plans. Progress was then reported to Management Team and Policy and Performance Boards.

It was reported that the Risk Control Measures had been reviewed and updated in line with current changes within the Authority and as proposed by managers and stakeholders. The risks had been re-prioritised so that people, (the community and staff), took priority. These were set out in the report.

The Board discussed the impact of COVID-19 and the pressure that it had brought on the Council's finances

and budget.

The Board also commended the work of the staff for their ongoing support for Halton residents during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED: That

1. the progress of actions be noted; and
2. the robustness of the Corporate Risk Register and the adequacy of the associated risk management arrangements be noted.

BEB18 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

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

BEB19 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Divisional Manager, Audit, Procurement and Operational Finance, which provided Members with a summary of internal audit work completed since the last progress report on 21st July 2020. The report also highlighted matters relevant to the Board's responsibilities as the Council's Audit Committee.

It was noted that a total of 15 Internal Audit reports had been finalised since the last progress report. An overall assurance opinion was provided for each audit engagement.

It was reported that as a result of COVID-19, internal audit had needed to adapt and change its focus in the short term. As previously agreed by the Board in July, changes to planned audit work had been agreed with the operational Director – Finance. Revisions to the Audit Plan had seen internal audit complete reviews of the systems for the payment of the Business Support Grants and the Discretionary Grant Fund. In addition a substantial piece of work was ongoing in Adult Social Care providing assurance over the coding of packages of care.

On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked the internal audit team for their work.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 8.03 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 2 November 2020 held remotely

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Morley, C. Plumpton Walsh and June Roberts

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, M. Pagan, G. Henry, P. Peak and L. Woodward

Also in attendance: Councillors Ratcliffe, Rowe, G. Stockton, C. Loftus and Logan, 26 members of the public and one member of the press

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

Action

DEV13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2020, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV14 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.

DEV15 - 19/00020/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL DISTRICT CENTRE COMPRISING CONVENIENCE STORE (USE CLASS A1), 5 NO. RETAIL UNITS (USE CLASSES A1, A3, D1 WITH A MAXIMUM OF ONE UNIT TO BE D1), CHILDREN'S NURSERY (USE CLASS D1), 43 NO. RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS AND 5 NO. DWELLINGS (USE CLASS C3) TO PROVIDE LIVING FACILITIES FOR THE OVER 55'S TOGETHER WITH ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT ON LAND BOUNDED BY PITTS HEATH LANE AND OTTERBURN STREET, SANDYMOOR, RUNCORN

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

The Committee was addressed by Mr Boyle who objected to the application on the basis that the accommodation block was several times bigger and taller than Sandymoor Community Hall, which was a focal point for the area. With this building being adjacent to it the Hall would not been seen. He also made reference to:

- the increase in traffic and therefore noise that would occur from the retail units;
- the fact that Sandymoor is a flood plain area;
- why had a nursery been included in the plans when Sandymoor had a pre-school already – what would happen to this;
- Sandymoor needed a Primary School not a nursery;
- The over 55's accommodation block was short on parking spaces (21 for 43 flats) and they were in the wrong place; and
- The proposed cream coloured brickwork was not in keeping with the area.

Members were then addressed by Mr Hazeldine, the Chair of Sandymoor Community Hall, who spoke in objection to the proposal. He advised that the Hall was opened in 2003 and was run by volunteers, hosting incredible events for the community. He said that plans submitted as far back as 2004 took no account of how the community now used the Hall and surrounding space. He commented that they were not against a retail development but objected to the inclusion of a nursery, which would undoubtedly see the demise of theirs. He explained that the existing nursery operated from Sandymoor Hall and provided them with 50% of the income needed to run it, the other 50% came from guides, clubs, events, fetes etc. He also raised concerns over the potential for noise complaints from the over 55's accommodation block, from the events that they held, some licensed. He requested sufficient soundproofing in the accommodation block. Concerns were also made around parking for the retail and accommodation and that it may push cars into the narrow streets in the Village Green area.

Mr Irvine, the Vice Chair of Sandymoor Parish Council, then addressed Members giving support for the local centre in principle, but raised concerns relating to the following:

- How the project would be delivered;
- Wanted assurance that Otterburn Street would not become a shortcut;
- Queried the A5 use as no consultation carried out with residents on this;
- The threat to the existing nursery operating from Sandymoor Hall and therefore threat to the loss of income for the Hall;
- Local job losses and early years education;
- Parking and possible future charges for parking; and
- Can the new surface / improvements for Sandymoor Hall, which have been negotiated with the developer, be included in the conditions.

In response to some concerns mentioned, Officers advised that competition between businesses was not a material planning consideration and there would be conditions in place for a car parking strategy. It was noted that with regards to delivery of the proposal, a construction phased management plan would be required, which was already listed in the conditions.

The Council's Highways Officer advised that parking calculation was based on all the proposed uses – retail units, the nursery, residential apartments and existing Sandymoor Hall. The total provision showed a slight shortfall against the UDP recommended (15 spaces) but across the whole development he considered the parking would be sufficient for the area. The access point onto Pitts Heath Lane would be a standard priority junction with a bollarded emergency link onto Biggleswade Drive.

Officers advised Members that the reference to Class A5 use has in effect not been consulted upon and should be disregarded for this meeting, so the uses were those listed on the introduction of the report. Clarity was also provided over the Parish Council's comments that they were unsure what the conditions of the development were as they were not provided in full. It was explained that the final wording of the conditions were delegated for officers to draft and that the Parish Council would not be consulted on the draft but if they had specific issues these should be provided to officers.

After considering the application before them and hearing the speakers comments and responses to these, the Committee agreed that the application be approved, subject to the conditions listed below.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to:

- a) The entering into a Legal or other agreement relating to securing financial contributions to woodland mitigation / compensation and works to implement footpath along Otterburn Street; and
- b) Conditions relating to the following:
 1. Time;
 2. Approved plans;
 3. Site levels;
 4. Material details;
 5. Affordable housing;
 6. CEMP (MEAS requested);
 7. Lighting scheme;
 8. Bird nesting boxes;
 9. Scheme of mitigation – MEAS – planting and bins;
 10. Retain bollards on Biggleswade Drive;
 11. Signage and road marking strategy;
 12. Road safety audits;
 13. Travel plan;
 14. Car parking strategy;
 15. Electric vehicle charging points;
 16. Cycle storage details
 17. Construction phase management plan – phasing plan
 18. Acoustic fence;
 19. Opening hours; and
 20. Site waste management plan.

DEV16 - 20/00028/FUL - PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 28 NO. DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS AND ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT ON CANAL WALKS SITE, HALTON ROAD, RUNCORN, WA7 5QS

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

Councillor Thompson asked for clarification in relation to the history and contaminated land information for the site. Officers explained what the position was in relation to this application.

The Committee welcomed the scheme and agreed that it be approved subject to the conditions below.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to:

- a) The applicant entering into a Legal Agreement or other agreement for the provision of a financial contribution towards off-site public open space; and
- b) The following conditions:
 1. Time limit – full permission;
 2. Approved plans;
 3. Implementation of proposed site levels (BE1);
 4. Submission of facing materials (BE1 and BE1);
 5. Submission of soft landscaping scheme and subsequent maintenance (BE1);
 6. Implementation of submitted boundary treatments scheme and subsequent maintenance (BE1);
 7. Breeding birds projection (GE21 and CS20);
 8. Submission of a bat and bird boxes scheme (GE21 and CS20);
 9. Removal by hand of potential bat roosts (GE21 and CS20);
 10. Submission of an information leaflet for new residents regarding access to natural greenspace (GE21 and CS20);
 11. Submission of method statement – invasive species (GE21 and CS20);
 12. Submission of validation – invasive species (GE21 and CS20);
 13. Hours of construction (BE1);
 14. Electric vehicle charging points scheme (CS19);
 15. Implementation of noise mitigation measures (PR8);
 16. Ground contamination (PR14 and CS23);
 17. Off-site highway works (BE1);
 18. Provision and retention of parking and servicing for residential development (BE1 and TP12);
 19. Submission of a cycle parking scheme for the apartments (BE1 and CS23);
 20. Implementation of submitted drainage strategy (PR16 and CS23);
 21. Foul and surface water on a separate system (PR16 and CS23); and
 22. Waste audit (WM8).

In order to avoid any allegation of bias, Councillor R. Hignett did not take part in the debate or vote on the following item, as he has relatives who reside near the site of the application.

DEV17 - 20/00064/FUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF 20MW PEAKING POWER GAS FIRED GENERATING FACILITY COMPRISING 5 NO. GENERATORS, SITE FENCING, ACOUSTIC FENCING, ASSOCIATED PLANT, CAR PARKING AND RELATED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND TO THE SOUTH EAST OF JUNCTION BETWEEN WEAVER VIEW AND CHOLMONDELEY ROAD, RUNCORN

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

It was noted that the published AB Update List provided responses from the Council's Ecological Advisor on concerns submitted by Heath Ward Member Councillor Ratcliffe since the publication of the agenda, in relation to the potential for damage to the floral diversity of the Local Wildlife Site.

The Committee was addressed by Mr O'Keefe, who spoke on behalf of the community objecting to the proposal. He had sent in a detailed list of points to Members in advance of the meeting, points that he believed required further investigation prior to a decision on the proposal being made. He stated that appearance of the building was not a concern but the quality of life of the people in the Village was. He argued that the proposal was contrary to a number of planning policies and the power station was too close to residents of the Village and Beechwood. He discussed the potential for pollution and alternative green energies and suggested that there were mistakes and inconsistencies with the surveys referred to in the report.

Councillor Ratcliffe then addressed the Committee, objecting to the proposal. She stated that Clifton Village had seen major changes over the years; it was small, historically rich and cut off from the rest of Runcorn. She argued that the Village already had a power station in the area and to add another, would take away from the quality of life of its residents. Further, the fact that it was gas powered could result in additional continuous noise for residents and queried why a green energy proposal could not be considered. She had presented photographs of the site of the proposal to the Committee in advance and discussed the effect the proposal would have on the ecology of the area. She urged the Committee to refuse or defer its decision as the application was contrary to policies in the UDP as it stood.

Members were then addressed by Councillor Logan, who spoke objecting to the proposal, supported by his Beechwood Ward colleague Councillor Loftus. He questioned why the Council was considering this fossil fuelled proposal, as clean energy was now being produced in Halton for the 21st century. He stated that the 14-metre high chimneys would have a huge impact on the area and the whole development was incongruous with the Village, for Halton and for the 21 century. He stated that the proposal was damaging and that residents of Halton expected regeneration, not degeneration.

Mr Dodds then addressed the Committee, on behalf of the applicant. He stated that the proposal supported the UK Governments policies for renewable energy sources as discussed on page 74 of the report and that concerns raised by objectors relating to air pollution and noise were addressed on page 76 of the report. He added that the nearest residential properties would not hear any noise and in response to noise claims being made by speakers about noise at night time, he confirmed there would be no noise at night as the plant was restricted to 1500 hours per year and it would be unlikely to run at night especially as there were no peak times at night. He further added that the ecological and tree surveys had been carried out; the site would be operated remotely so there would be no parking or traffic issues; and advised no concerns had been raised from nearby residents regarding the height of the chimneys. He urged the Committee to approve the application as it complied with national and local planning policies.

The Committee discussed the points of concern raised by speakers, in particular the potential for noise, the conservation of nature in the area and the hours of operation of the generator. One Member moved an amendment to the conditions of the proposal – to restrict the hours of operation from 10pm to 7am – this was seconded and agreed by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to conditions relating to the following and the addition of the extra condition mentioned above.

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Existing and proposed site levels (BE1);
4. Boundary treatments scheme (BE1 and BE22);
5. CCTV scheme (BE1);
6. Mitigation planting scheme (BE1 and GE27);
7. Tree protection measures (GE27);

8. Breeding birds protection (GE21 and CS20);
9. Outline biodiversity management plan (GE21 and CS20);
10. Reasonable avoidance measures – common lizard and terrestrial mammals (GE21 and CS20);
11. Japanese Knotweed method statement (GE21 and CS20);
12. Japanese Knotweed validation report (GE21 and CS20);
13. Hours of construction (BE1);
14. Off-site highway works (BE1);
15. Visibility splay – site access with Cholmondeley Road (BE1);
16. Parking and servicing provision (BE1 and TP12);
17. Ground contamination / ground stability (PR14 and CS23);
18. Detailed drainage strategy (PR16 and CS23); and
19. Hours of operation.

DEV18 - 20/00206/FUL - PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND THE ERECTION OF A TWO STOREY LEISURE CENTRE WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS, PARKING, LANDSCAPING AND SUBSTATION ON LAND AT MOOR LANE, WIDNES

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

Members agreed that the proposal be approved subject to the conditions listed.

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

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Boundary treatments scheme;
4. CCTV scheme;
5. Off-site highway works;
6. Parking and servicing provision;
7. Ground contamination;
8. Drainage / flood risk conditions;
9. Archaeological condition;
10. Electric charging points;
11. Materials;
12. Landscaping;
13. Boundary treatments;
14. Off-site highway improvements; and
15. Cycle storage.

DEV19 - 20/00219/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION, WITH ALL MATTERS OTHER THAN ACCESS RESERVED, FOR DEMOLITION OF ALL EXISTING BUILDINGS AND DEVELOPMENT OF UP TO 33 NO. APARTMENTS FOR RESIDENTS OVER 55 YEARS OLD, TOGETHER WITH PARKING AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT 33-37 IRWELL LANE, RUNCORN, WA7 1RX

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

Councillor Thompson commented that the demolition of this historic building would be a loss to Runcorn, however it had been empty for years with no interest ever shown in its restoration, meaning it was no longer viable to renovate it. One Member suggested that photographs be taken for prosperity. The Committee agreed that the application be approved.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to:

- a) The entering into a Legal or other agreement relating to securing financial contributions to open space and highway dedication; and
- b) Conditions relating to the following:
 1. Time limit – outline permission;
 2. Submission of reserved matters;
 3. Approved plans;
 4. Site level details;
 5. Affordable housing scheme;
 6. Contaminated land – site investigation;
 7. Contaminated land – locate and decommission well;
 8. Drainage strategy;
 9. Access implementation;
 10. Electric Vehicle charging;
 11. Ecologically sensitive lighting scheme;
 12. Bat boxes;
 13. Breeding birds protection;
 14. Bird boxes;
 15. Hedgehogs;
 16. Information packs for new residents;
 17. MEAS CEMP;
 18. Waste audit / management plan; and
 19. Hours of construction.

DEV20 - 20/00238/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF TWO INDUSTRIAL AND WAREHOUSING UNITS FOR B1, B2 AND B8 USES WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING, SERVICE YARDS AND CAR PARKING AT UNITS 2 AND 3, LAND OFF GORSEY LANE, WIDNES

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

The Committee agreed that the application be approved subject to the resolution of the outstanding issues relating to drainage being resolved and the conditions listed.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the drainage issues being resolved and the following conditions:

1. Time;
2. Approved plans;
3. Use restriction;
4. Materials;
5. Landscaping;
6. Boundary treatments;
7. Vehicle access, parking and servicing construction prior to occupation;
8. Cycle parking details;
9. Electric vehicle charging details;
10. Drainage;
11. Site and finished floor levels;
12. Site waste management plan;
13. Operational waste management plan;
14. Implementation of measures recommended within BREEAM pre-assessment report;
15. Grampian style condition requiring off-site pedestrian / cycle crossing improvements and connection within the development;
16. Tree protection for retained trees; and
17. External lighting.

Meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 14 December 2020 held remotely

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, J. Eaton, G. Henry, P. Peak, L. Woodward and R. Cooper

Also in attendance: 13 members of the public and one member of the press

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE

Action

The Committee took part in a minute's silence in honour of Councillor Morley, who had sadly passed away last month. The Chair paid tribute to him on behalf of Members and colleagues, saying that Councillor Morley was a long standing Member of the Development Control Committee, who acted with loyalty and made a huge contribution in his role as Vice Chair. He would be greatly missed.

DEV21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2020, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV22 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.

DEV23 20/00026/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION, WITH ALL MATTERS OTHER THAN ACCESS RESERVED FOR DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING UP TO 42 APARTMENTS AND ANCILLARY WORKS AT LAND BOUNDED BY MILL LANE AND DERBY ROAD, WIDNES, CHESHIRE

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

The Committee agreed that the application be approved, subject to the conditions listed below.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to:

- a) The entering into a legal or other agreement relating to securing financial contributions towards open space;
- b) Conditions relating to the following:
 1. Standard outline conditions for the submission of reserved matters applications (BE1);
 2. Plans condition listing relevant drawings i.e. site location / red edge, access details (BE1 and TP17);
 3. Submission and agreement of a submission of a construction / traffic management plan which would include wheel cleansing details, hours of construction and deliveries (BE1);
 4. Submission of existing and agreement of proposed site levels (BE1);
 5. Submission and agreement of external facing materials (BE1 and BE2);
 6. Conditions for the submission and agreement of boundary treatments, landscaping, management and maintenance (BE1 and BE22);
 7. Tree protection measures outlined in arboricultural report (GE27);
 8. Breeding birds protection (GE21 and CS20);
 9. Bird nesting boxes scheme (GE21 and CS20);
 10. Hedgehog reasonable avoidance measures (GE21 and CS20);
 11. Method statement for the irradiation of invasive species (GE21 and CS20);
 12. Electric Vehicle Charging Points Scheme (CS19);
 13. Parking, access and servicing provision (BE1, TP6, TP7, TP12, TP15 and TP17);
 14. Submission of revised noise report with reserved matters (PR2);
 15. Submission of ground investigation report, mitigation measures and validation (PR14 and CS23);
 16. Drainage strategy based on the SUDS hierarchy, including its implementation, maintenance,

- management, and verification of the scheme (PR16 and CS23);
- 17. Foul and surface water on a separate system (PR16 and CS23);
- 18. Waste Audit – (WM8);
- 19. Submission and implementation of an archaeological watching brief (CS20); and
- 20. Provision of affordable housing (CS13).

And

- c) That if the S106 Agreement or alternative arrangement was not executed within a reasonable period of time, authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee to refuse the application.

Due to connection problems, Councillor Zygadlo missed part of the Officer's and speaker's presentations to the Committee for the item below, so he was not permitted to vote on this application.

DEV24 20/00337/OUTEIA - OUTLINE PLANNING PERMISSION, WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED EXCEPT FOR ACCESS, FOR THE RESIDENTIAL LED MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE, COMPRISING RESIDENTIAL (USE CLASS C3), EMPLOYMENT (USE CLASS B1) AND LOCAL CENTRE USES (USE CLASS A1-A4/D1) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE, LANDSCAPING AND LAND REMODELLING ON LAND AT DARESBUY PARK, WARRINGTON WA7 4BB

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

It was noted that further consultee responses had been received from Natural England; Highways and Transportation; and Preston Brook Parish Council. The additional recommended conditions resulting from these were presented in the AB Update List, together with details of four additional representations received.

Officers advised that since the publication of the report and update list Appleton Parish Council had raised concerns regarding additional traffic generation in areas of Stockton Heath, Appleton, Stretton, Hatton and Walton. However, Warrington Borough Council's Highways Engineer had advised that they had no objection to the proposed development.

The Committee was addressed by Mr William Tavernor, who objected to the proposals on behalf of local residents from Preston Brook, at Bankside and Quay Place. He informed the Committee that residents felt under represented due to the fact that only one objector was permitted to speak to the Committee. He argued that:

- The proposal was in fact two developments put together as one – Daresbury Business Park and a housing development;
- The take up on the existing business development on Daresbury Park is low so why build more offices;
- The housing proposals are on a greenbelt site;
- There would be an adverse impact on wildlife and habitats;
- This was one of a few remaining areas of natural beauty in Halton – a brownfield site would be more suitable for this development so these sites should be looked at;
- There was no guarantee of jobs for local people as workers on construction sites typically come from outside the Borough; and
- Extra housing would add pressure on amenities and traffic in Runcorn, for example, Runcorn Shopping City was over used whilst across the bridge in Widnes, Tesco Extra was under used.

Mr Jamie Lynch, a representative from the Client's planning agent then addressed the Committee. He advised that due to the reduction in demand for office development in recent times it was necessary to look at a new approach so an employment study was undertaken, which advised that a mixed-use development would be more appropriate for the site. He added that the proposals were supported by the emerging Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP), which now identified the site for employment and residential development.

He added that:

- That the development would include 350 much needed new homes, including 25% affordable;
- It would generate new jobs during construction and long term employment opportunities once completed;
- The local centre would support the new community;
- There were no objections from statutory consultees;

- All representations were dealt with in the reports;
- There would be Section 106 contributions towards enhancing public transport and public rights of way; and
- He confirmed that there was no intention to close Red Brow Lane.

Clarity was provided to Members over questions relating to the reference to World War II features in the report and the retention of access to Red Brow Lane, which was also a key route for pedestrians and cyclists. It was commented that as the site was now allocated for employment and residential uses (mixed uses), this proposal was acceptable and complied with planning policies. The Committee agreed that the application be approved, subject to the conditions listed below.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to:

- a) The entering into a Legal or other agreement relating to a financial contribution in lieu of on-site open space provision; financial contribution towards the improvement of public rights of way including railway crossing; and financial contribution towards sustainable transport improvements.
- b) Conditions relating to the following:
 1. Standard outline conditions for the submission of reserved matters applications (BE1);
 2. Condition setting out the parameters of the permission including number of dwellings, permitted uses and floor space (BE1);
 3. Condition for a phasing plan (BE1);
 4. Plans condition listing relevant drawings i.e. site location / red edge, access details (BE1 and TP17);
 5. Submission and agreement of a submission of a construction environmental management plan which will include, dust mitigation wheel cleansing details, hours of construction and deliveries (BE1);
 6. Submission of ground investigation report, mitigation measures and validation (PR14 and CS23);
 7. Submission of existing and agreement of proposed site levels (BE1);
 8. Submission and agreement of external facing materials (BE1 and BE2);
 9. Condition(s) for the submission and agreement of

- boundary treatments, landscaping, management and maintenance (BE1 and BE22);
10. Condition(s) for tree report and protection measures (GE27);
 11. Conditions(s) for breeding birds protection and bird nesting boxes scheme (GE21 and CS20);
 12. Condition(s) securing the protection and mitigation measures for bats (GE21 and CS20);
 13. Condition(s) for badger and hedgehog reasonable avoidance measures (GE21 and CS20);
 14. Method statement for the irradiation of invasive species (GE21 and CS20);
 15. Submission of a biodiversity action plan (GE21 and CS20);
 16. Electric Vehicle Charging Points Scheme (CS19);
 17. Condition(s) for parking, access and servicing provision (BE1, TP6, TP7, TP12, TP15 and TP17);
 18. Submission of noise report (PR2);
 19. Drainage strategy based on the SUDS hierarchy, including its implementation, maintenance, management, and verification of the scheme (PR16 and CS23);
 20. Foul and surface water on a separate system (PR16 and CS23);
 21. Waste Audit (WM8);
 22. Submission and implementation of a scheme for archaeological work (CS20);
 23. Provision of affordable housing (CS13);
 24. Submission and approval of landscape and ecology management plan (LEMP) (GE21 and CS20);
 25. Condition to protect and enhance the Red Brow Cutting SSSI (GE21 and CS20); and
 26. Submission of details, agreement and implementation of the provision for bus infrastructure (TP1).

And

- c) That if the S106 Agreement or alternative arrangement was not executed within a reasonable period of time, authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee to refuse the application.

DEV25 20/00355/FUL - PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EXISTING SINGLE STOREY OFFICE AND REPLACEMENT WITH A NEW TWO STOREY OFFICE AND JOINING OF THE TWO EXISTING INDUSTRIAL UNITS WITH A LINK EXTENSION AT UNIT 2 GODDARD ROAD, ASTMOOR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, RUNCORN, WA7 1QF

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

The Committee noted the response from the Council's Contaminated Land Officer, as presented in the supplementary AB Update List and that he raised no objection, subject to the requirement of investigation and assessment of the site be conditioned, should the application be approved. The Committee agreed that the application be approved, subject to the conditions listed below.

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

1. Time;
2. Approved plans;
3. Materials;
4. Ground contamination;
5. Vehicle access, parking and servicing construction prior to occupation;
6. Cycle parking details;
7. Electric vehicle charging details;
8. Drainage;
9. Site and finished floor levels; and
10. Site waste management plan and onsite waste storage and management.

DEV26 20/00371/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF A BUILDING TO BE USED AS OFFICES (USE CLASS B1) AND AS A SELF-STORAGE FACILITY (USE CLASS B8) PLUS ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING, IMPROVED ACCESS AND OTHER ASSOCIATED WORKS ON LAND AT THE JUNCTION OF EARLE ROAD AND CARTER HOUSE WAY, WIDNES, WA8 0WR

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

It was reported that updated drainage information had been provided by the applicant in line with requests made by

the Council's Lead Local Flood Authority and United Utilities. Their responses to this information was provided in the supplementary AB Update List and noted by the Committee.

Mr Bruce Risk, who represented the agent for the planning application, addressed the Committee. He introduced the family run business to Members stating that they had established in 2006, were expanding in the area, and considered this site key for their expansion plans. He stated that the facility would create new jobs on what is currently a vacant site; it would complement existing businesses in the area; all statutory consultees were supportive and all material conditions had been addressed in the officer's report.

The Committee agreed that the application be approved subject to the conditions listed below.

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

1. Time;
2. Approved plans;
3. Use restriction;
4. Materials;
5. Site levels;
6. Vehicle access, parking and servicing construction prior to occupation;
7. Cycle parking details;
8. Electric vehicle charging details;
9. New crossing point over Earle Road;
10. Breeding bird protection;
11. Bird nesting boxes;
12. RAMS for terrestrial mammals;
13. RAMS for amphibians;
14. Contaminated land;
15. Site waste management plan;
16. Drainage and flood risk;
17. Protection of United Utilities assets; and
18. No additional temporary structures or external storage.

Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Wednesday, 25 November 2020 via remote access.

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor P. Hignett

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Thompson, K. Cleary, N. Wheeler and L. Woodward

Also in attendance: One member of the public

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

		<i>Action</i>
REG9	MINUTES The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2020 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.	
REG10	SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 The Committee 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 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.

As the Part II item commenced, Cllr Wainwright left the meeting.

REG11 TAXI MATTER

Case No: 726

RESOLVED: That the Committee having taken several matters into account, resolved to issue a Final Written Warning.

Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Wednesday, 13 January 2021 held remotely

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott (Vice-Chair), Dourley, Fry, K. Loftus, McDermott, A. McNerney, Nelson, G. Stockton and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors P. Hignett

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Thompson, K. Cleary, N. Wheeler and L. Woodward

Also in attendance: None

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

Action

REG12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2020 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

REG13 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

The Committee considered a report which outlined the concerns within the Taxi Trade due to the economic consequences of the current pandemic, relating to the replacement of vehicles on reaching the prescribed age limits. At a previous meeting it was resolved that Licensed Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles in the Borough of Halton would be subject to age restrictions.

Members were advised that the current concerns within the trade were that replacing a licensed vehicle on attaining current age limits could, in the current lack of trade and governmental restrictions due to the pandemic, be punitive to the proprietor of said vehicles and place unreasonable financial and / or personal pressures on Licence Holders. It was suggested to allow a further temporary lift to the age restriction, as was decided in 2012 in reason of the recession.

The Committee noted the 77 comments and

considerations received in response to the consultation.

RESOLVED: That

1. with effect from 26 February 2021 any Hackney Carriage Vehicle or Private Hire Vehicle licenced by Halton Borough Council (“the Council”) on that date may continue to be capable of being a qualifying vehicle notwithstanding that on or after that date the vehicle may exceed the adopted qualifying vehicle age threshold of the Council (“the Dispensation”) subject to the conditions (“the Conditions”) set out below at (3); and
2. the Dispensation shall apply for a period of 2 years commencing on 26 February 2021 (but for the avoidance of doubt any new vehicle licence granted during this period shall continue to the end of the period of that licence) and thereafter the Council’s adopted qualifying vehicle criteria for the time being in force shall apply and the Dispensation shall cease to apply:

The Conditions shall be:

- Any vehicle taking advantage of the Dispensation shall be subject to 3 tests per year; and
- No vehicle taking advantage of the Dispensation may be transferred to another proprietor.

Meeting ended at 6.53 p.m.