

# **Minutes**

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

**Wednesday, 14 July 2021**

# Minutes

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**COUNCIL**

*At a meeting of the Council on Friday, 21 May 2021 in the Bridge Suite - Halton Stadium, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Abbott, Ball, Baker, Begg, Bevan, J. Bradshaw, M. Bradshaw, Bramwell, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Carlin, Dennett, Dourley, Dyer, Fry, Gilligan, Goodall, Harris, S. Hill, V. Hill, Hutchinson, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, McDermott, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Ratcliffe, Rowe, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Stretch, Aimiee Teeling, Angela Teeling, Thompson, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Whitley, Woolfall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Howard and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

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

*Action*

## COU1 ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

Moved by Councillor Margaret Ratcliffe and seconded by Councillor Gareth Stockton:-

RESOLVED: That Councillor Christopher Rowe be elected Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

Moved by Councillor Joan Lowe and seconded by Councillor Abbott:-

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mark Dennett be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

## COU2 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 3 March 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

## COU3 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:-

That the Charities he would support during her term of office would be:-

- LOOSE Music; and
- Mind Halton

COU4 MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS 2021/22

Details of the Borough Council elections held on 6 May 2021 were submitted for information.

RESOLVED: That the election results be noted.

COU5 EXECUTIVE BOARD (SELECTION COMMITTEE) 18 MAY 2021

The following results of the Executive Board (Selection Committee) were moved by the Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Mayor.

COU6 LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mike Wharton be appointed Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2021/22 and Councillor Dave Thompson be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

COU7 BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED: That the Boards and Committees be constituted with the membership as shown for the Municipal Year 2021/22:-

**Executive Board (10)**

Councillors Wharton, (Chair), Dennett, Harris, J. Lowe, M. Lloyd Jones, T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Thompson and Wright.

**Health & Wellbeing Board**

Councillors Wright (Chair), J. Lowe, T. McInerney and Woolfall.

**Corporate Policy and Performance Board (11)**

Councillors Gilligan (Chair), Philbin (Vice Chair), Howard, Hutchinson P. Lloyd Jones, A. Lowe, N. Plumpton Walsh, G. Stockton, Angela Teeling, Wainwright and Wall.

**Health Policy and Performance Board (11)**

Councillors P. Lloyd Jones (Chair), Baker (Vice Chair), Ball, Bevan, D. Cargill, Dourley, Dyer, Goodall, Leck, Ratcliffe and J. Stockton.

**Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board (11)**

Councillors Woolfall (Chair), Fry (Vice Chair), Ball, D. Cargill, Dyer, Gilligan, S. Hill, Howard, Logan, McDermott and Stretch.

**Employment, Learning, Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board (11)**

Councillors Jones (Chair), E. Cargill (Vice Chair), Begg, M. Bradshaw, Dourley, S. Hill, Logan, C. Plumpton Walsh, Stretch, Aimee Teeling and Whitley.

**Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board (11)**

Councillors Logan (Chair), C. Plumpton Walsh (Vice Chair), Abbott, Bramwell, Carlin, Goodall, V. Hill, Jones, Loftus, Ratcliffe, and Aimee Teeling.

**Safer Policy and Performance Board (11)**

Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh (Chair), V. Hill (Vice Chair) Baker, Begg, Bevan, Bramwell, Carlin, Loftus, A. McInerney, Ratcliffe and Wall.

**Development Management Committee (11)**

Councillors S. Hill (Chair), Leck (Vice Chair), Abbott, J. Bradshaw, Carlin, Hutchinson, A. Lowe, Philbin, Polhill, J. Stockton and Thompson.

**Audit and Governance Board (11)**

Councillors Polhill (Chair), A. Lowe (Vice Chair), J. Bradshaw, E. Cargill, Jones, McDermott, Philbin, J. Stockton, Wallace, Wall and Whitley.

**Regulatory Committee (11)**

Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott (Vice-Chair), D. Cargill, Dourley, Fry, K. Loftus, A. McInerney, G. Stockton, Angela Teeling, Wainwright and Woolfall.

**Mayoral Committee (5)**

Councillors Rowe, Gilligan, T. McInerney, Philbin and Wright.

**Appointments Committee (6)**

Councillors Wharton (Leader), Thompson (Deputy Leader), Dennett (or another portfolio holder as selected by Leader), McDermott (or a Chair of a PPB, selected by Leader),

Ratcliffe and J. Bradshaw.

COU8 APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tony McDermott be appointed Scrutiny Co-ordinator for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

COU9 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEEES & INDEPENDENT PERSONS

RESOLVED: That the following appointments be confirmed:

- 1) The re-appointment of Mr David Wilson as the Healthwatch Halton representative and non-voting Co-optee to the Health Policy and Performance Board for the Municipal Year 2021/22;
- 2) The re-appointment of Reverend David Felix as non-voting Parish Council Co-optee and the re-appointment of Mr Tony Luxton as non-voting Independent Co-optee on the Standards Committee for the Municipal Year 2021/22; and
- 3) Professor David Norman and Mrs Diane Howard be re-appointed as Independent Persons for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011, for a further period of 4 years”.

COU10 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, regarding the appointment of Members to serve on various Outside Bodies. A document was tabled showing the recommendations put forward.

RESOLVED: That representatives be appointed to Outside Bodies in accordance with the tabled document.

COU11 EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIOS

The Leader confirmed that the Executive Board would consist of the following Portfolio holders for the Municipal Year 2021/2022

Leader – Overall Leadership and Corporate Strategy, Communications and Liverpool City Region matters –

Councillor Wharton

Deputy Leader – Leadership on Cheshire Sub-Regional matters and Major Projects – Councillor Thompson

Corporate Services Portfolio – Councillor Dennett

Children and Young People Portfolio – Councillor Tom McInerney

Adult Social Care Portfolio – Councillor Joan Lowe

Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder – Councillor Wright

Community Safety Portfolio Holder – Councillor M. Lloyd Jones

Environmental & Urban Renewal Portfolio Holder – Councillor Nelson

Employment, Learning & Skills and Community Portfolio – Councillor Nolan

Climate Change Portfolio Holder – Councillor Harris

RESOLVED: That the Portfolios be noted.

#### COU12 UPDATES TO COUNCIL CONSTITUTION 2021

Executive Board had considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of a number of changes to the Council's Constitution.

RESOLVED: That Council approve the revised Constitution, including the matters set out in Appendix 1, attached to the report.

*Meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.*

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 25 February 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: A. Jones, G. Cook, D. Parr, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, A. Jones and M. Hibbard

Also in attendance: Councillor Ratcliffe and one member of the press

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

*Action*

EXB63 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**LEADER'S PORTFOLIO**

EXB64 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.

**CHILDREN, EDUCATION & SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

EXB65 HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT POLICY - KEY DECISION

The Board received the *Home to School Travel and Transport Policy*, as required under the Department for Education (DfE) Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance (statutory guidance) 2014; the Education Act 1996; and the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

It was noted that the Council's current Policy was regularly reviewed to ensure it met statutory requirements. Further to an investigation made by the Local Government Ombudsman, the Council was asked to consider some recommendations that would further enhance the Policy and assist parents and carers in their understanding of school admissions and eligibility to assistance with transport.

The revised Policy incorporated the Ombudsman's recommendations and there were no changes to the eligibility criteria, which were statutorily set. It was noted that in addition to the minor Policy amendments, a revision of the guidance notes and application forms was in progress. These would provide enhanced information for parents and carers and support them with their application for assistance with transport.

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision is required to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport and provide assistance with transport to eligible children and young people.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

With immediate effect following approval.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board approve the Home to School Travel and Transport Policy 2020-21 (Statutory School Age) for implementation, with immediate effect.

Strategic Director  
- People

EXB66 YOUTH PROVISION - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update on the Integrated Youth Support Service consultation and proposed future model.

The report provided details of feedback from the recent Halton Youth Provision consultation and set out the Council's proposed response. It was noted that the consultation evidenced that there was support for the proposed model and areas of agreement included: the need to work in partnership across all sectors, the importance of valuing volunteers and existing local voluntary and community provision providers, and the need for qualified workers to support those children and young people in most need. Further, the proposal put forward had taken account of the feedback whilst also recognising the financial challenges faced, the changing service needs and the current and future landscape due to Covid-19.

Reason(s) for Decision

To agree the future shape of youth services in Halton

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

To put the service out to the market as one commission. This was rejected, as it did not allow local organisations with good local networks the opportunity to provide a service.

Implementation Date

1 April 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board approves the implementation of a new model of grant funded and commissioned Youth Provision across Halton.

Strategic Director  
- People

EXB67 APETITO (PROVISION OF MEALS TO ST LUKE'S AND ST PATRICK'S CARE HOMES) : DIRECT AWARD

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 to 'Apetito' for the supply of pre-prepared meals to St Luke's and St Patrick's Care Homes, from 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2022.

The report outlined the rationale behind the waiver

request and the ongoing challenges faced by care homes in responding to the Pandemic was recognised. A more permanent interim arrangement was needed therefore, until the service had capacity to complete a full review of catering in care homes. The above waiver was requested, with the option to extend for a further 12 months should the Pandemic continue to place pressures.

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 Direct Award to 'Apetito' for a period of one year.

Strategic Director  
- People

EXB68 SERVICES FOR MISSING FROM HOME AND CARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS CHESHIRE FOR HALTON, CHESHIRE EAST, CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER AND WARRINGTON: REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF STANDING ORDERS

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – People, which requested a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (iv) of Part 3, to allow the continuation of a contract with 'We are With You' to deliver, on behalf of the Council, the Pan Cheshire Missing from Home and Care Service, for a period of one year from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

The report outlined the rationale for the request and the value of the contract extension. It was noted that all contributing local authorities had agreed to continue with a joint commissioning approach with Halton acting as the lead.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) note the contents of the report; and
- 2) approve a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (non emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £1000,00) to allow the continuation of a contract with 'We are With You' to deliver the Pan Cheshire Missing from Home and Care Service, for a period of one year.

Strategic Director  
- People

## **HEALTH & WELLBEING PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB69 HEALTH REFORMS**

The Board considered a report from the Chief Executive, which presented the proposed reforms on the Integration of Health and Social Care. This included the proposed Memorandum of Understanding and a request for a representative from Halton to join the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (C&MHCP) Board.

Appended to the report was the Council and Liverpool City Region's joint response to the consultation on the proposals at appendix one; and appendix two contained the correspondence from Alan Yates (Chair, C&MHCP) and the Memorandum of Understanding – January 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

Chief Executive

- 1) note the contents of the letters;
- 2) agree the proposed Memorandum of Understanding; and
- 3) agree that the Chair of the Halton Health and Wellbeing Board represent Halton on the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Board.

## **CHILDREN, EDUCATION & SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB70 CRADLE TO CAREER TRANSFORMATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OUTCOMES**

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – People, informing of a forthcoming initiative with philanthropists and Right to Succeed, in collaboration with the Liverpool City Region (LCR) to deliver a place shaping transformational approach for children and young people in an agreed ward.

It was reported that the Steve Morgan Foundation had been working collaboratively with SHINE, the Right to Succeed and the LCR to deliver a place based transformation programme for children and young people in North Birkenhead; details of this pilot project were provided in the report. The ambition of the programme was to provide place based intense support from cradle to career to lift aspirations and achievement, thus the overall wellbeing of the next generation and the community. Discussions were

being held with the LCR and Right to Succeed about replicating this approach in Halton.

Further to dialogue with Children's Services and Regeneration, Halton Lea Ward had been identified as an appropriate area to participate in the programme, the reasons were outlined in the report together with the indicative budget information.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) approve Halton Lea Ward to be the area to benefit from the support and focussed approach of the programme.

Strategic Director  
- People

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB71 HALTON SMART MICRO GRID**

The Board considered a report from the Chief Executive, which presented the proposals for the development of a smart micro grid that would seek to decarbonise Council buildings, electricity, heating and transport, via the culmination of several technologies.

It was noted that the Council completed construction of a 1MW Solar Farm connected by private wire to the DCBL Stadium on the former St Michael's Golf Course in September 2020. Following completion of the project further feasibility work had been undertaken to see if there was scope to extend the Solar Farm and create a micro grid connecting other Council buildings.

The report provided details of the key features of the feasibility study and the provisional costings of the schemes discussed.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board agree

- 1) that a formal bid be made to the Strategic Investment Fund for 50% funding of the estimated total project costs (circa £4,971k);
- 2) that a bid of £60k be made to the Energy from Waste Environmental Fund to support pre development costs; and
- 3) subject to a successful Strategic Investment Fund

Chief Executive

Bid, a further report be brought to Executive Board setting out a detailed financial case to support the project.

## **RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB72 BUDGET 2021-22 - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which outlined a recommendation to Council in respect of the Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax for 2021/22.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was approved at the Executive Board meeting on 19 November 2020. It was noted that there were funding gaps of around £15.2m in 2021/22, £3.9m in 2022/23 and £3m in 2023/24. The Strategy had the following objectives:

- Deliver a balanced and sustainable budget;
- Prioritise spending towards the Council's priority areas;
- Avoid excessive Council Tax rises;
- Achieve significant cashable efficiency gains;
- Protect essential front line services and vulnerable members of the community; and
- Deliver improved procurement.

In terms of consultation, it was noted that the Council used various methods to listen to the views of the public, and Members' own experiences through their Ward work was an important part of that process. Individual consultations had taken place in respect of specific budget proposals and equality impact assessments would be completed where necessary.

The proposed revenue budget for 2021/22 totalled £111.446m. Appendix B outlined proposed budget savings for 2021/22, totalling £1.369m. The departmental analysis was shown in Appendix C and the major reasons for change from the current budget were shown in Appendix D.

The Board was advised the final Local Government Finance Settlement figures were awaited, along with confirmation of some 2020/21 grant allocations including the Public Health grant. It was confirmed that the Council would continue to participate in the pilot of the 100% Business Rates Retention Scheme, as part of the Liverpool City Region (LCR).

Further information was provided on the budget outlook, Halton's Council Tax, Precepts for Parishes, Police, Fire and Liverpool City Region Mayor, the Capital Programme, Prudential Code and School Budgets.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be recommended to adopt the resolution set out in Appendix A, which includes setting the budget at £111.446m, the Council Tax requirement of £54.509m (before Parish, Police, Fire and LCR Combined Authority precepts) and the Band D council Tax for Halton of £1,549.34; and
- 2) Council be recommended to approve the revenue budget proposals for 2021/22 set out in Appendix B and capital programme set out in Appendix F.

Operational  
Director - Finance

#### EXB73 REVENUE SPENDING AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which reported the Council's overall revenue net spending position as at 31 December 2020 together with an initial forecast outturn position, and reported the financial impact of Covid-19 and the Government funding made available to the Council to date.

A summary of spending against the operational revenue budget up to 31 December 2020 was presented in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 provided detailed figures for each individual Department. In overall terms the outturn forecast for the year showed that net spend would be over the approved budget by £1.180m. It was noted that in comparison to the forecast overspend of £4.752m reported at the end of September 2020, this represented a significantly improved position. Appendix 3 presented the Capital Programme as at 31 December 2020.

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

Operational  
Director - Finance



- 4) Council be requested to approve the revisions to the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 3.18.

EXB74 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2021-22

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Finance, on the Council’s Capital Strategy for 2021/22.

It was reported that all councils were required to produce a Capital Strategy annually, the aim of which was to ensure that the Council understood the overall long-term policy objectives and resulting capital strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite.

Members were advised that the Capital Strategy should be read in conjunction with the Treasury Management Statement, included on the same agenda. It was noted that the successful delivery of the Capital Strategy would assist the Council in planning and funding its capital expenditure over the next three years.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the 2021/22 Capital Strategy, as presented in the Appendix attached to the report.

Operational  
Director - Finance

EXB75 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT 2021-22

The Board considered the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, (TMSS) which incorporated the Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) and the Minimum revenue Provision (MRP) Strategy for 2021/22.

The TMSS was appended to the report and detailed the expected activities of the treasury function in the forthcoming financial year (2021/22). Its production and submission to Council was a requirement of the CIPFA Prudential Code and the CIPFA Treasury Management Code.

The Local Government Act 2003 required the Council to have regard to the Prudential Code and to set Prudential Indicators for the next three years, to ensure that the Council’s capital investment plans were affordable, prudent and sustainable.

The Act therefore required the Council to set out its treasury strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy, which set out the Council’s policies for

managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments. Government guidance notes stated that authorities could combine the TMSS and the AIS into one report, which the Council had done and was included in Section 4.

Members noted that the provision of a Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement was required and a formal statement for approval was contained within the report at paragraph 2.3, with the full policy shown in Appendix A.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to adopt the policies, strategies, statements, prudential and treasury indicators outlined in the report.

Operational  
Director - Finance

EXB76 PENSIONS DISCRETION STATEMENT

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the annual publication of the Pensions Discretion Statement.

The Board was advised that the 2021/22 Statement was based on the previous Statement (2020/21) and that no new discretions had been either added or removed. In addition, there had been no material changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 that would result in a change in the Statement.

RESOLVED: That the Pensions Discretion Statement for 2021/22 be approved.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

EXB77 TAXI LICENSING - TEMPORARY POLICY - AMENDMENT TO THE CURRENT AGE RESTRICTIONS ON LICENSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, requesting approval for a temporary amendment to the current age restrictions of licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

The background to the request was provided in the report and a consultation exercise was undertaken with the taxi trade, the responses of which were attached at appendix A and the findings were summarised in the report.

The Regulatory Committee considered the matter at its meeting on 13 January 2021 and after considering the consultation responses and the current economic situation

resulting from the Coronavirus Pandemic, recommended that Executive Board approve a temporary amendment to the current restrictions of licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board approves the temporary amendment of the maximum age restriction on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles by two years, for a two-year period, with the following conditions:

- 1) Any vehicle taking advantage of the relaxation of the restriction be subject to 3 tests per year; and
- 2) No vehicle taking advantage of the relaxation of the restriction may be transferred to another proprietor.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

#### EXB78 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2021-22

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which set out the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2021/22 Municipal Year, which was appended to the report for information.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the Calendar of meetings for the 2021/22 Municipal Year, as appended to the report.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

#### **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

#### EXB79 FOUNDRY LANE RESIDENTIAL

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on proposals for residential development at Foundry Lane, Widnes, and to seek approval to appoint a development partner following the procurement process.

It was noted that this regeneration project was last reported to Executive Board in January 2019 (EXB77) where Members supported the acquisition of the Stobart site, forming a larger site with the former Tarmac site; both sites had now been vacant since February 2020.

The Board was advised that due to delays caused by Covid-19, in June 2020 Homes England withdrew its grant funding of £1.8m. The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR) had agreed since, as part of its Brownfield Land Fund, to make the grant funding of this project one of its key priorities, subject to the normal application process.

The report outlined the tender process for a development partner, which was carried out in conjunction with the LCR throughout. This resulted in Cityheart Limited scoring the highest overall, following evaluation as described in the report.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) approves the appointment of Cityheart Limited to act as Development Partner in the regeneration of the Foundry Lane area;
- 2) authorises the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property and/or the Operational Director for Legal and Democratic Services, to ensure full legal compliance with statutory planning matters throughout the regeneration project; and
- 3) the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property be authorised to seek and secure grant funding in relation to the project.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

#### EXB80 HOMELESSNESS FUNDING GRANT ALLOCATIONS

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – People, which described the various grants that had been issued by Central Government to support rough sleepers and people who were, or likely to become homeless.

It was noted that the Coronavirus Pandemic had made the need to support rough sleepers and potentially homeless people more urgent and further guidance had been issued to councils as a result.

Halton had been allocated Homeless Prevention Grant funding for 2021/22 of £344,828, which was an increase of £92,077 from 2020/21. The proposals for allocation of these monies were presented in Appendix 1. Also, received was the Rough Sleeper Initiative funding of £109,000 for 2020/21, with the commitment that the allocation for 2021/22 would be at least the same amount. The proposals for the use of this grant were presented in appendix 2.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board approves the recommendations for expenditure against the grants, as described in Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.

Strategic Director  
- People

EXB81 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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

EXB82 ACQUISITION OF ELITE HOUSE, SHAW STREET, RUNCORN

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval for the acquisition of the freehold interest in Elite House, Shaw Street, Runcorn.

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

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) approves the acquisition and of the freehold interest in Elite House, Shaw Street, Runcorn, on the terms reported in paragraph 3.4; and
- 2) authorises the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, to arrange for all required documentation for the transactions to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

**MINUTES ISSUED: 2 March 2021**

**CALL-IN: 9 March 2021 at 5.00 pm**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 9 March 2021.**

*Meeting ended at 3.15 p.m.*

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 18 March 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: 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 public and one member of the press

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EXB83 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> <p><u>MINUTE NO: EXB72 – BUDGET 2021-22</u> – the Leader, Councillor Polhill, made the following statement, in relation to Pay (referred in Appendix D of the Budget report), and invited the Executive Board to consider and agree the following:</p> <p><b><u>A FULLY FUNDED, PROPER PAY RISE FOR COUNCIL AND SCHOOL WORKERS</u></b></p> <p>Local government has endured central Government funding cuts of more than 50% since 2010. Between 2010 and 2020, councils lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central Government.</p> <p>Over the last year, councils have led the way in efforts against the Covid-19 Pandemic, providing a huge range of services and support for our communities. Local government has shown more than ever how indispensable it is but the Pandemic has led to a massive increase in expenditure and loss of income, and the Government has failed to provide the full amount of promised support.</p>	

Local government workers have kept our communities safe through the Pandemic, often putting themselves at considerable risk as they work to protect public health, provide quality housing, ensure our children continue to be educated, and look after older and vulnerable people.

Since 2010, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing at least 23% of their value since 2009/10. At the same time, workers have experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity.

Across the UK, 900,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of more than 30%. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector. The funding gap caused by Covid-19 will make local government employment even more precarious. There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three quarters of the local government workforce.

Recent research shows that if the Government were to fully fund the unions' 2021 pay claim, around half of the money would be recouped thanks to increased tax revenue, reduced expenditure on benefits, and increased consumer spending in the local economy.

**This Council believes:**

Our workers are public service super heroes. They keep our communities clean and safe, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.

Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the Council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.

Local government workers deserve a proper real terms pay increase.

The Government needs to take responsibility and fully fund this increase; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone and who have not been offered adequate support through the Covid-19 Pandemic.

**Executive Board resolves on behalf of the Council to:**

- 1) write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a



pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central Government;

- 2) call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central Government to fund the NJC pay claim;
- 3) support the pay claim submitted by GMB, Unison and Unite on behalf of Council and school workers, for a substantial increase with a minimum of 10% uplift in April 2021, provided that central Government agree to fully fund, with new money, the pay claim;
- 4) meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim and consider practical ways in which the Council can support the campaign; and
- 5) encourage all local government workers to join a union.

## **HEALTH & WELLBEING PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB84 SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE WAIVER REQUEST - KEY DECISION**

The Board received a request for 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 substance Misuse Service from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

In September 2015 the Executive Board granted authority to the Director of Public Health to carry out all necessary steps in relation to the open tendering and commissioning of Specialist Community Substance Misuse Services. The contract was awarded to *Change, Grow, Live* (CGL) for a fixed period of 5 years and was due to end on 31 March 2021, with no contractual arrangement for extension.

Members were informed that a full procurement exercise was due to take place during 2020 so that a new contract would be in place, however due to the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic this had not been possible. The report outlined the basis for the 6-month waiver request.

#### Reason(s) for Decision

A decision is required as the outcome will result in the Local Authority incurring expenditure which is significant; and is significant in terms of its effects on communities.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

At this stage, alternative options have not been considered.

Implementation Date

1 April 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) approves 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 substance Misuse Service from 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

Director of Public Health

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

EXB85 VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING – GRANT ALLOCATION 2021/22 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, People, on the Voluntary Sector Grant Awards for 2021/22.

The Board was advised that the Council had awarded grants to local voluntary and charitable organisations for a number of years. Applications were assessed against key criteria, such as impact on outcomes for local people, demonstrable wider social impact such as volunteering, training and development opportunities and the impact on reducing the need for statutory services. It was reported that applications were assessed and recommendations agreed by a Panel, which consisted of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development and Officers from the People Directorate.

The report set out the recommendations for an annual allocation for the financial year 2020/21, with the available budget of £226,640, for Members' consideration.

Reason(s) for Decision

A decision is required as the outcome will result in the Local Authority incurring expenditure. The expenditure will provide valuable services to Halton residents, which may otherwise not be financially sustainable.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

No alternative options are available to provide these funded services.

Implementation Date

1 April 2021.

RESOLVED: That the Board approve the grant allocations as outlined in the report.

Strategic Director  
- People

**RESOURCES PORTFOLIO**

EXB86 REVIEW OF COUNCIL WIDE FEES AND CHARGES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the review of the Council wide fees and charges for 2021/22 for services provided by both of the Council’s Directorates.

The Board was advised that, as part of the budget preparations for 2021/22, a review of fees and charges had been carried out. The aim in setting fees and charges was to ensure that the Council fully recovered the cost incurred in providing the service, although this was dependent on a number of factors outside of the agreed charge. These were detailed in the report and noted as including demand, which could change year on year and be affected by weather, economy and demographics; competition, where there may be a strong competitive market; and a statutory element, where some charges were outside the control of the Council and there was no discretion to what could be charged.

Attached at Appendix A was the proposed schedule of statutory fees for 2021/22 and the chargeable rates for The Brindley Theatre and the Registrar’s Service were attached at Appendix B and C respectively, for 2022/23.

RESOLVED: That the proposed fees and charges for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix A attached to the report and for 2022/23 as set out in Appendices B and C attached to the report, be approved.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

EXB87 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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **CHILDREN, EDUCATION & SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

*Councillor Ron Hignett declared a Discloseable Other Interest in the following item as his daughter works as a care worker in Halton.*

#### **EXB88 CARE PROVIDER CONTRACT UPLIFT 2021/22**

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – People, informing of the proposed annual uplift for domiciliary care, direct payments, supported living and care home providers within Halton, for 2021/22.

The report presented the proposed uplifts for each area, against last year's amount and showed comparisons within the Liverpool City Region authorities.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

- 1) note the contents of the report; and

Strategic Director  
- People

- 2) gives approval for the Council to actively enter into discussions with Care Providers, with a view to offer the recommended uplift for 2021/22.

**MINUTES ISSUED: 23 March 2021**

**CALL-IN: 30 March 2021 at 5.00 pm**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 30 March 2021.**

*Meeting ended at 2.15 p.m.*

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 15 April 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: G. Cook, D. Parr, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, S. Wallace-Bonner, A. Jones and P. Preston

Also in attendance: None

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

*Action*

#### EXB89 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

#### CHILDREN, EDUCATION & SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

*Councillor Hignett declared a discloseable other interest in the following item as his daughter works as a care worker in Halton.*

#### EXB90 CARE PROVIDER CONTRACT UPLIFT 2021/22

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which informed of the outcome of the consultation discussions with domiciliary care, direct payments, supported living and care home providers within Halton in respect of the proposed fee increases for 2021/22.

It was noted that the Care Act 2014 required local authorities to ensure that the market as a whole remained viable and sustainable. When commissioning services, local authorities must have regard to the cost effectiveness and value for money that the services offered for public funds. However, they must not undertake any actions that may threaten the sustainability of the market and must ensure that remuneration for staff must be at least sufficient to comply with national minimum wage legislation, and that

there was a fair price paid for care.

Members were presented with the key issues and risks to be considered and the recommended fee uplifts, these were detailed in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.10 of the report.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

- 1) note the contents of the report;
- 2) considers the recommendations and risks; and
- 3) approves that the recommended uplift for 2021/22, as indicated in paragraphs 3.7 to 3.10, be offered to care providers.

Strategic Director  
- People

## RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

### EXB91 COVID 19 EXCEPTIONAL HARDSHIP FUND

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which recommended the introduction of a Covid-19 Exceptional Hardship Scheme.

It was reported that as part of its response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Council had provided a range of financial and non-financial support measures to support residents since March 2020. The Shielded Individuals Hub, the Self Isolation Support Scheme, Discretionary Housing Payments, the Discretionary Support Scheme, as well as the Welfare Rights and Money Advice Service were all provided, as described in the report.

A proposal was made to introduce a Covid-19 Exceptional Hardship Scheme, in order to assist residents who suffered hardship due to having to self-isolate without meeting the criteria for other forms of Covid-19 or other financial support.

The Scheme's Statement of Objectives, application process and eligibility criteria were presented for consideration by the Board. Members were also referred to the Appendix, which contained an extract from the Council's Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) regarding contract tracing and self-isolation.

RESOLVED: That the establishment of a Covid-19 Exceptional Hardship Scheme, as outlined in the report, be approved.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources



*Councillor Wharton declared a discloseable other interest in the following item as he was Treasurer for Hale Youth Centre, so the report was presented by the Operational Director – Finance.*

EXB92 NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which requested consideration of the renewal of discretionary business rate relief for existing registered charities, not-for-profit organisations and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC), who continue to satisfy the appropriate criteria.

Appended to the report was the list of charities, not-for-profit organisations and CASC's currently in receipt of discretionary rate relief and the costs for each one.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) discretionary business rate relief of 15% be granted for those registered charities and CASC organisations currently in receipt of such relief, for the period of three years commencing 1 April 2022; and
- 2) discretionary business rate relief of 90% be granted for the not-for-profit organisations currently in receipt of such relief (with lower amounts for two as indicated in the Appendix), for the period of three years commencing 1 April 2022.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

**COMMUNITY & SPORT PORTFOLIO**

EXB93 LOCAL AREA FORUMS

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented details of the impacts that the planned changes to the Borough's Ward boundaries will have upon Local Area Forums.

It was noted that the planned changes to the Borough's current Ward boundaries were due to come into effect on 7 May 2020, but were delayed as the local elections were postponed due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Therefore, the boundary changes would now come into effect on 6 May 2021 and these had implications for the Local Area Forums.

It was reported that following the establishment of the new Wards the current seven Area Forum 'footprints' would

be affected. Officers recommended that six new Area Forums be established with effect from 6 May 2021; these were set out in paragraph 3.7 of the report. Members were referred to Appendix 1, which showed a map of the proposed new Area Forum boundaries against the current Area Forum footprints.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves

- 1) the proposals for dealing with the impacts that Ward boundary changes will have upon Local Area Forums, as set out within the report;
- 2) that Halton's current seven Local Area Forums be disbanded with effect from 5 May 2021; and
- 3) that six new Local Area Forum, as set out in Paragraph 3.7, be established in Halton with effect from 6 May 2021.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

## **PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB94 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND MOVE ON PATHWAY PLAN FOR THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SERVICES**

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – People, updating them in respect of the changes to the eligibility criteria for accessing housing and homelessness support that was made as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

At the beginning of the Pandemic central Government announced that all local authorities should continue with the statutory eligibility criteria for services but also adopt an approach of supporting all people who contacted housing and homelessness services for help, irrespective of their priority need. This 'Everyone In' approach meant that although those with priority need would continue to be supported as before, there was now an additional layer of support for a wider group of vulnerable people that was needed. The report outlined how this led to an increased demand on services and provided information on the commissioning of additional provision to help meet this increased demand.

It was reported that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) had advised that move on pathway plans to reduce temporary accommodation must now be in place. The policy was now

to support people to move on from their homeless accommodation into more permanent settings and for the local authority to transition back to the routine approach to the delivery of homelessness services.

The 'Move On Pathway' recommendations were set out under paragraph 3.2 together with the proposed pathway plan for Halton. This would enable the Housing Solutions Team to adopt a phased approach in reverting to the homelessness eligibility criteria.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the contents of the report; and
- 2) agrees with the recommendations set out in paragraph 3.2, that the Housing Solutions Team revert to using the homelessness eligibility criteria and adopt a phased approach to its implementation.

Strategic Director  
- People

EXB95 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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**CHILDREN, EDUCATION & SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

**EXB96 BEEHCROFT NURSING HOME**

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update in respect of Beechcroft Nursing and Residential Home in Palacefields, Runcorn.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) agrees to monitor the progress in respect of Beechcroft.

Strategic Director  
- People

**MINUTES ISSUED: 20 April 2021**

**CALL-IN: 27 April 2021 at 5.00 pm**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 27 April 2021.**

*Meeting ended at 2.22 p.m.*

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Tuesday, 18 May 2021 in The Bridge Suite, Halton Stadium, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), D. Cargill, Harris, 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. Reaney and A. Jones

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

	<i>Action</i>
EXB97 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 April 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
EXB98 APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL	
<p>RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to appoint Councillor Mike Wharton as the Leader and Councillor Dave Thompson as the Deputy Leader of the Council for 2021/22 Municipal Year.</p>	
EXB99 APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, PANELS AND SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR AND THE APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEEES TO VARIOUS BOARDS	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources regarding appointments to the Council’s Boards, Committees, Panels, Working Party and Scrutiny Co-ordinator post, and the re-appointment of a non-voting Co-optee to the Health Policy and Performance Board, for the 2021/22 Municipal Year.</p>	
<p>Executive Board was asked to confirm the above as well as the re-appointment of a non-voting Parish Council</p>	

Co-optee and a non-voting Independent Co-optee to the Standards Committee, and the re-appointment of Independent Persons, for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011, for a period of 4 years.

A list of Committee memberships was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to make the following appointments:

- 1) To the Council's Board, Committees, Panels, Working Party and Scrutiny Co-ordinator post for the 2021/22 Municipal Year;
- 2) Mr David Wilson be re-appointed as Healthwatch Halton non-voting Co-optee to the Health Policy and Performance Board, for the 2021/22 Municipal Year;
- 3) Reverend David Felix be re-appointed as non-voting Parish Council Co-optee and Mr Tony Luxton be re-appointed as a non-voting Independent Co-optee on the Standards Committee, for the 2021/22 Municipal Year; and
- 4) Professor David Norman and Mrs Diane Howard be re-appointed as Independent Persons for the purposes of the Localism Act 2011, for a further period of 4 years.

*Meeting ended at 2.05 p.m.*

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 17 June 2021 in The Bridge Suite, Halton Stadium, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), Dennett, Harris, M. Lloyd Jones, J. Lowe, T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Thompson and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, D. Parr, I. Leivesley, 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

		<i>Action</i>
EXB1	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 May 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> <p><b>CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO</b></p>	
EXB2	<p>DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF</p> <p>The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented an application for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.</p> <p>It was reported that an application for discretionary rate relief had been received from 'Have a Heart Foundation', who were a registered Charity, in respect of their new premises located at 47 Runcorn Shopping Centre, Runcorn.</p> <p>The report provided information on the Charity and details of the costs of granting 15% top-up discretionary rate relief to them for the 2021/22 financial year; full details were provided at Appendix one to the report.</p>	

RESOLVED: That the Board approves a 15% top-up discretionary rate relief to the 'Have a Heart Foundation' in respect of 47 Runcorn Shopping City, Runcorn for the 2021/22 financial year.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

EXB3 WASTE, WATER & ANCILLARY SERVICES CONTRACT

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, advising of the intention to undertake a procurement exercise via a suitable framework in respect of the provision of a Waste, Water and Ancillary Services contract.

It was reported that since the deregulation of the water industry on 1 April 2017, United Utilities entered into a joint venture with Severn Trent Water to create 'Water Plus' which by default, had acted as the Council's provider of waste, water and ancillary services ever since.

It was reported that the Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO), the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO) and Manchester Council all now had suitable frameworks in place, from which this service could be obtained. It was noted that the only provider on each framework was 'Wave' who were the leading national water retailer and were formed from two established regional entities.

Due to demonstrating excellent value in becoming the only provider on each of the above frameworks, as such it was the intention to award a contract to Wave via one of these frameworks, subject to the prices being competitive against costs over recent years, and a suitable term being available. A minimum contract of 3 years with the option of a one-year extension was intended. The report presented the likely costs of the contact over a 4-year period.

RESOLVED: That Members note the intention to undertake a procurement exercise via a suitable framework in respect of the provision of a Waste, Water and Ancillary Services Contract, and subject to competitive prices and a suitable contact term being available, note intention to award a contract to 'Wave' as the sole provider on the various frameworks available.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

EXB4 2020/21 FINANCIAL OUTTURN POSITION

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, advising of the Council's overall revenue and capital net spending outturn position for the year



2020/21.

It was reported that the final accounts for 2020/21 were nearing completion. The revenue spending position for each Department was shown in Appendix one; which presented a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget; and Appendix two provided detailed figures for each individual Department. In overall terms, the outturn position for the year showed that net spend was under the approved budget by £2.340m. This was a significant improvement on the forecast overspend of £1.180m reported at the end of quarter 3. The reasons for the improved financial position were presented in the report and the key budget variances for the quarter were noted in the following Departments:

- Children and Families;
- Adult Social Care Department;
- Education, Inclusion and Provision;
- Public Health and Public Protection;
- Finance; and
- Policy, Planning and Transportation.

Members were also advised of the financial impact of Covid-19 and a summary of the general Government funding made available to the Council to date was outlined.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

##### **EXB5 FULL COST DOMICILIARY CARE CLIENTS RECEIVING SUPPORT FROM TWO CARERS - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, advising of the costs relating to full cost domiciliary care clients who receive support from two carers, with the Council covering the cost of the second carer. Approval was sought to charge these clients for both carers with effect from 1 September 2021.

Members were aware that within Adult Social Care, a Full Cost Clients Task and Finish Group was established in 2019, to look at full cost clients in residential care and the level of support provided by the Council (which went beyond the legislative requirements) to those that were deemed able to afford the cost of their own care.

In November 2019, Executive Board agreed some changes to practice relating to this group, allowing the

Operational  
Director - Finance

Council to continue supporting vulnerable people whilst also mitigating the risks to the Council. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it had been necessary to put those changes on hold. The Task and Finish Group had now re-convened to consider when it would be appropriate to progress with the changes.

During the course of its work in relation to the above, the group had also examined practice relating to domiciliary care clients (as well as those in residential care) and discussions took place in relation to the fact that clients with care provided by two people were only charged for one carer, with the Council paying the provider for the other.

The report outlined details relating to legislative obligations; the impact of changing practice; and the proposed course of action should the Board agree that both existing and new domiciliary care clients with two carers, who were deemed able to meet/contribute to the cost of their care, should pay for both carers.

#### Reason(s) for Decision

Executive Board approval is required to enable the Council to begin charging full cost domiciliary care clients with two carers for both carers (rather than one which is currently the case) in line with the Care Act.

#### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Continuing to subsidise the cost of domiciliary care provision for those with two carers who were deemed able to afford the cost of their own care was neither fair nor cost-effective. It was simply not equitable that full cost domiciliary care clients with two carers were only paying for one carer, which represents half the cost of the actual package of care.

Consideration was given to whether clients with two carers could move to single handed care, however, it was felt that two carers would only be put in place for those genuinely in need of assistance of two as determined through the assessment process. As detailed at paragraph 3.12, a review of care needs revealed that in most cases two carers were required due to the equipment that was in place and in order to ensure the safety of staff.

#### Implementation Date

1 September 2021.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

Strategic Director  
- People

- 1) note the contents of the report: and
- 2) approve the plans to charge full cost domiciliary care clients for both carers with effect from 1 September 2021.

EXB6 **ROUGH SLEEPER STRATEGY FOR HALTON AND BOND GUARANTEE SCHEME POLICY**

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – People, which presented the final draft of the Rough Sleeper Strategy for Halton and the local Bond Guarantee Scheme Policy, and requested approval for the publication of each document.

The Board noted that both documents fell under the remit of the Housing Solutions Team and had been developed in response to Government guidelines and policy, taking into account the impact of Covid-19 and duties of the local authority. They formed part of a suite of policy and strategy in place to support the Council's objectives in reducing homelessness and rough sleeping.

The report outlined the priority areas for each Strategy and gave some financial information for the costings for each.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

Strategic Director  
- People

- 1) notes the contents of the report and appendices; and
- 2) approves the publication of both documents.

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO**

EXB7 **PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE REPORT - THE PROCUREMENT OF A NEW INTEGRATED SPECIALIST COMMUNITY SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE FOR HALTON - KEY DECISION**

The Board received a report from the Director of Public Health, requesting authorisation to conduct a procurement exercise to determine the most economically advantageous and effective organisation to deliver an Integrated Specialist Adult Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton.

It was reported that supporting people living with

addictions was a mandatory element of the Public Health Grant and as such, the provision of local services was a key local requirement. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy identified the local problems caused by the use of substances, and reducing the harm caused by alcohol in particular remained a key local, regional and national priority. The report discussed the aims of the misuse service and provided information about substance misuse amongst the people of Halton.

Members were presented with the Business Case and the financial provision for the Service, as contained within the Public Health ring fenced grant. It was noted that a contract commencement date would be 1 October 2021 for a period of 3 years, with the option for two one-year extensions.

Reason(s) for Decision

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

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

Implementation Date

The new procurement process will commence immediately.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board approves the preliminary estimates report and the commencement of the procurement of a new integrated Specialist Adult Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton.

Director of Public Health

**ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

EXB8 EAST RUNCORN CONNECTIVITY CORRIDOR SCHEME DEVELOPMENTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director - Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval to develop a transport scheme for East Runcorn Connectivity Corridor (ERRC).

It was reported that initial pre-development funding was available from the Liverpool City Region (LCR)

Combined Authority on a competitive basis to develop schemes such as the ERRC.

The ERCC scheme was highly complex and it was estimated that delivery of all elements would be over a ten-year period. Therefore, in advance of site works being procured, a considerable amount of planning and preparation needed to be undertaken to inform options and investigate construction details. The purpose of this advanced pre-development work was to create a well designed, feasible, and cost effective scheme.

Members were advised that as part of the LCR's Transport Pipeline, the ERCC was an ambitious scheme that would support the delivery of new homes and employment opportunities by providing a resilient, sustainable transport corridor within East Runcorn. The area was home to the Enterprise Zone, business parks and large housing sites and the scheme would significantly enhance the existing transport network in the Borough. The proposed ERCC scheme consisted of four elements, these were outlined in the report, paragraph 3.2.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) a transport scheme covering the East Runcorn connectivity Corridor be developed and added to the Council's Capital Programme (paragraphs 3.8 and 5.10);
- 2) an initial programme (Year 1) covering technical investigations to inform options appraisal and scheme feasibility be approved (Appendix 1);
- 3) Mott MacDonald, an external consultant, be commissioned via Direct Award under the Warrington Consultation Framework to undertake the Year 1 programme (paragraph 3.10); and
- 4) approval be delegated to the Operational Director - Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Environment and Urban Renewal, to advance the initial programme (Year 1) for the scheme.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

EXB9 HIGHWAY SAFETY INSPECTION POLICY

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented a revised Highway Safety Inspection Policy and requested its

adoption.

Members were advised that the revised policy was based on the Liverpool City Region Highway Safety Inspection Framework that was drafted in accordance with the recommendation set out in the *Well Managed Highway Infrastructure Code of Practice 2016*, relevant to highway safety inspections. This introduced a move to a risk based approach with regard to safe use of the highway.

It was noted that Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980, placed a statutory duty on all Highway Authorities to maintain the highway network under their control; for there to be a breach of Section 41, there must have been a failure to maintain or a failure to repair the highway.

Members were advised of a collaboration of local authorities, as listed in the report, who had contributed to this framework of principles in order to provide a regionally consistent special defence by virtue of Section 58 of the Highways Act 1980, in an action against the Council for an alleged breach of Section 41. Appended to the report at Appendix A was the Highway Safety Inspection Policy and Guidance and B, the Inspection Areas and Frequencies.

RESOLVED: That the Board approved the revised Highways Safety Inspection Policy (Appendix A) and the schedule of inspection areas and frequencies (Appendix B).

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

## **CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB10 PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION FUND**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on a recent bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund and to seek approval for additional funding from the Capital Programme to support the bid.

The Council developed a bid focussed on the DCBL Stadium, which included replacing the current gas boilers with air source heat pumps; replacing existing lighting fittings with new energy efficient LED lighting; replacing single glazed windows; and installing additional insulation.

The report provided Members with details of the bid process and it was reported that in February 2021, the Council was awarded £1,295,846 to deliver the improvements. Since the award of the funding a number of cost variations had been identified, which would increase

costs for the project by approximately £370,000, these were discussed in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the award of £1,295,846m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund be noted; and
- 2) Council be asked to include the Decarbonisation Scheme at a gross cost of £1,677,673 within the 2021/22 capital programme, to be funded as set out within paragraph 3.4.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

EXB11 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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO**

**EXB12 RUNCORN OLD TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN AND RUNCORN STATION DEVELOPMENT**

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the Runcorn Old Town Investment Plan (ROTIP) and also outlined potential future capital and revenue resource requirements, which would be needed to further develop the projects contained within the ROTIP.

**RESOLVED:** That the recommendations presented in the report be approved.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

**MINUTES ISSUED: 22 June 2021**

**CALL-IN: 29 June 2021 at 5.00 pm**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 29 June 2021.**

*Meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.*



**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 24 March 2021 held remotely.*

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), T. McInerney, Polhill, Woolfall and Wright and S. Bartsch, L. Carter, V. Davies, G. Ferguson, L. Gardner, P. Jones, M. Larking, W. Longshaw, M. Lynch, I. Onyia, K. Parker, D. Parr, M. Roberts, S. Semoff, B. Stokes, L. Thompson, S. Wallace Bonner and D. Wilson.

Apologies for Absence: T. Hill and M. Vasic

Absence declared on Council business: One member of the public

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>HWB17 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2021 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>HWB18 PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS</p> <p>The Board received an update report from Ifeoma Onyia, on behalf of the Director of Public Health, on the Public Health response to Covid-19. The Board received information on the most recent coronavirus figures for Halton in comparison to the North West, how the Halton outbreak support team were working to successfully identify and manage local outbreaks, and the most recent testing and vaccination data for people in Halton.</p> <p>The Board thanked the Public Health team for their work in response to Covid-19.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the update be noted.</p>	
<p>HWB19 OVERVIEW OF COVID-19 IN HALTON INCLUDING THE HEALTH PROTECTION BOARD AND THE LOCAL COVID-19 OUTBREAK HUB AND THE CHESHIRE &amp; MERSEYSIDE OUTBREAK HUB</p>	

The Board received a report of the Director of Public Health, which provided an update on Halton's position on Complex Outbreak Management and the associated Local Outbreak Management Plan Refresh. It was noted that the Government had previously requested individual Covid-19 Outbreak Plans for complex settings to be developed by all councils; the deadline for these was 30 June 2020. The Board was advised that the Plan had now been refreshed and was out for consultation with partners.

Alongside the Local Outbreak Management Plan, a Halton Roadmap had been developed which outlined how the Authority wanted services within the Council to support recovery out of lockdown and beyond. A copy of the Roadmap had been previously circulated to the Board.

In addition, the Board also noted the following initiatives which had taken place:

- Halton was part of Public Health England and Local Authorities Senior Leaders Cheshire and Warrington and Liverpool City Region Workshops for Roadmap and Recovery;
- Cheshire and Merseyside had developed the Combined Intelligence for Population Health Recovery data lake;
- A Cheshire and Merseyside Contact Tracing and Outbreak Support Hub had been developed; and
- Halton was part of the Liverpool City Region SMART Testing Pilot.

RESOLVED: That the briefing on Halton's Local Outbreak Management Plan Refresh 2021 be noted.

## HWB20 COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

The Board received an update report on the progress of the local Covid-19 vaccination programme for the Borough. Board Members were provided with information on what vaccines were available, how the vaccine was rolled out, the delivery model, who can have the vaccine and the current vaccine uptake including an update on the current issues and achievements to date.

In order to support the system vaccine delivery across Halton, a Steering Group met twice a week. The Group included representation from all key interested parties from across the system, including partners from the borough council, NHS providers, public health, commissioners and

voluntary sector.

The Board thanked everyone involved in the successful delivery of the Halton Vaccination Programme.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the positive rapid escalation of plans and system wide response is recognised and praised.

HWB21 PRESENTATION HEALTHWATCH HALTON - KATH PARKER

The Board received a presentation from Kath Parker on behalf of Healthwatch Halton. Members were advised on the work of the organisation which included obtaining, collating and supplying feedback from local residents for variety of organisations on a number of initiatives including the proposed Health Hub at Shopping City and the Covid-19 vaccination programme and also contributing to Healthwatch England's reports.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Kath Parker for her presentation and for the work of Healthwatch Halton.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

HWB22 HOSPITAL SERVICES ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION PRESENTATION - CARL MACKIE - WARRINGTON AND HALTON TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

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 presentation outlined the context, the progress made to date and the pre-consultation engagement work to date, including response rates and themed outcomes.

The next steps in the process included a full public consultation exercise between 7<sup>th</sup> May and 18<sup>th</sup> June with the results published in July 2021.

In addition, the Board received a brief update on the proposed relocation of the breast screening service, which was moving from Warrington to Halton whilst retaining a service in Warrington. The consultation period for this proposal was 28<sup>th</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

RESOLVED: That

1. the report be noted; and
2. the Board receives the proposal to begin formal consultation proceedings following local elections in May.

#### HWB23 PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WORKER PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a progress report on the Principal Social Worker (PSW) role and responsibilities. It was noted that Marie Lynch had held this role for over five years since it was first introduced for Adult Services in Halton.

The report highlighted areas of progress achieved by the PSW during the past year, which included:

- Maintaining her professional registration;
- Supporting Social Work staff to renew their registration and completing the Professional Capability Framework in November 2020;
- Supporting staff throughout the challenges of Covid-19 and assisting with the challenges for staff post Covid-19;
- Establishing an employee standards steering group;
- Assisting with an Organisational Health Check Survey;
- Improving practice supervision arrangements; and
- Ensuring reflective practice supervision was taking place across the authority.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### HWB24 PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2021-2024

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which advised on the publication of the next

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) that covered 2021-2024. It was noted that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) had announced that due to all current pressures across all sectors in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the requirement to publish renewed PNA had been suspended until April 2022. Local Health and Wellbeing Boards retained the ability to issue supplementary statements to respond to local changes and pharmaceutical needs during this time.

The Board was provided with an update on the current position and were requested to write to the Local Government Association (LGA) asking them to act on their behalf to request the DHSC to grant a further postponement of the PNA.

RESOLVED: That the Board write to the LGA detailing their concerns about the requirement to start the PNA process and ask that they lobby the DHSC for a further postponement.

#### HWB25 WHITE PAPER - INTEGRATION AND INNOVATION: WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FOR ALL

The Board considered a report which provided a summary update on the key elements outlined in the Government White Paper – Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all – February 2021. The legislative proposals were due to be implemented in 2022 and were themed under the following headings:

- Working together and supporting integration;
- Reducing bureaucracy;
- Improving accountability and enhancing public confidence; and
- Proposals grouped as Social Care, Public Health and Safety and Quality.

Alongside the White Paper, NHS England had issued “Legislating for Integrated Care Systems: five recommendations to Government and Parliament”, details of which were set out in the report. As part of the proposals CCG functions and some NHS England functions would transfer to the new ICS NHS body; this would mean that CCGs would cease to exist when the new legislation came into effect. An employment commitment for NHS staff had been outlined and staff would be employed by the NHS ICS body.

In addition, the report detailed the impact on Place (One Halton), the commitment for Health and Wellbeing Boards to remain and the next steps which included a One Halton Strategy Workshop on 14 April.

RESOLVED: The report be noted.

## HWB26 HEALTH REFORMS

The Board considered a report which provided information on the current developments on Integrated Care Systems (ICS) for Cheshire and Merseyside and Halton. An ICS was a system where: NHS bodies (commissioners and providers), local authorities and third sector providers each took collective responsibility for the management of resources, delivering NHS standards and improving the health of the population they served.

In Cheshire and Merseyside, the Health and Care Partnership (C&MHCP) was working as directed by NHS England, towards formal designation as an ICS by April 2021. As part of this process, the C&MHCP had produced a Memorandum of Understanding. Each of the Local Authorities had been designated "Place" within Cheshire and Merseyside and collectively the nine places made up Cheshire and Merseyside Health & Care Partnership.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the current developments on Integrated Care Systems in the attached presentation;
- 2) support the development of One Halton as the Integrated Care Partnership for Halton;
- 3) agree that the
  - a. Halton Health & Wellbeing Board should set the outcomes for Halton;
  - b. Halton Health PPB provide scrutiny of the work of the HWBB, its officers and partners and the C&M Health Care Partnership;
  - c. Halton Council CEO be nominated the 'Place Lead' for Halton;
- 4) delegate to the CEO responsibility to engage with the Partnership and One Halton partners, to develop:
  - a. A shared Vision and Plan for reducing inequalities and improving health outcomes for Halton, based on a revised JSNA;

- b. Defined neighbourhood footprints and arrangements for the delivery of integrated health and care 'at Place', (recognising the importance of clinically-led PCNs working, with adult and children social care, community, mental health, public health and voluntary / community groups);
- c. Arrangements for the delivery of acute and specialist provision 'at Scale';
- d. Operating arrangements;
- e. Structures; and
- f. Governance.

5) support a programme of public and stakeholder engagement.

#### HWB27 FUTURE MEETING DATES

The following dates of future Health and Wellbeing Board Minutes were circulated to the Board. All meetings would be held at 2pm.

7 July 2021  
6 October 2021  
19 January 2022  
23 March 2022

RESOLVED: That the dates of future meetings be noted.

*At the conclusion of the meeting on behalf of the Board, David Parr, announced that this was Councillor Polhill's last meeting as Chair as he was standing down as Leader of the Council following the May elections. He thanked Councillor Polhill for his contribution and leadership of the Board.*

*Meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.*

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**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, 25 January 2021 held remotely*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Leck and Whitley

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Vasic, A. McIntyre, A. Jones, S. Williams and A. Leach

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

	<i>Action</i>
CYP18 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
CYP19 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CYP20 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
<p>The minutes relating to the Children, Education and Social Care Portfolio, that had been considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of this Board, were attached at Appendix 1 for information.</p> <p>Further to an enquiry regarding ‘the Venus Project’ information on this would be circulated to the Board – in the meantime Members were advised of their website address <a href="https://www.venuscharity.org/">https://www.venuscharity.org/</a></p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.</p>	

CYP21 SSP MINUTES

The draft minutes relating to the Halton Children's Trust meeting held on 3 December 2020 were presented to the Board for information.

One member queried the support in place / being planned for teachers with regards to pupil behaviour for when the children return to school after the current lockdown. Members were advised that schools had already amended their behaviour policies, which was a statutory requirement before schools returned in September 2021. Officers received feedback from headteachers saying that most children responded well to going back to school following the last lockdown. Their behaviour was better than expected and they were happy to work in 'bubbles'. It was noted that schools would be contacted again to plan and offer support for the return of pupils following this lockdown. There would also be training offered to school staff around behaviour support.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CYP22 HALTON LOCAL AREA SEND STRATEGY 2021-25

The Board received a report and accompanying presentation on the consultation and scope of the proposed local area SEND Strategy for 2021-24.

The Board was advised that *The Children and Families Act 2014* and *SEND Code of Practice 2015* set out the statutory requirements and practice required from local areas to meet the needs of children and young people (0-25 years) with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The code stated that statutory bodies in these local areas must work together to meet these requirements, so the SEND Strategy for 2021-25 would be a joint strategy under the governance of the Halton Health and Wellbeing Board; the Children's Trust and Halton Borough Council and be delivered by all three.

It was noted that the draft strategy had also been produced in partnership with other statutory bodies from education and health, including schools, the CCG, and parent carer and young people's representatives.

The presentation outlined the vision of the Strategy, its principles, its four priorities and Governance. The one page Strategy document was also presented which would be a single page living document. It was noted that the next

steps would be to start the consultation – to which Members would be invited to contribute; this would lead to the development of actions plans for each of the priority areas and agreement of KPI's and milestones.

Members queried:

Considering there were so many priorities how would the KPI's be assessed – it was important to measure each outcome to know whether they were successful or not, so the significant priorities would be measured. It was important to note that 17.5% of Halton's children were SEND and some of those were Children in Care; some outcomes would incorporate feedback from these children on a regular basis so that we could ensure they were heard.

Considering the cuts made to Youth Services how will this Strategy be funded – the Youth Service provision would not be reduced but it was proposed that it be delivered in a different way, allowing more local and community involvement. The Strategy was proposing better support and services to be able to identify SEND early so that support and education could be provided in the community, thus reducing the reliance on specialist out of borough provision. This in turn would alleviate pressures on the high needs budget.

Have you taken into consideration who the audience will be and the need for it to be understood by all – yes this had been raised and discussed and the language used would be taken into consideration, so that it was user friendly for professionals, parents and young people.

The Chair requested that an update be brought to the Board following the consultation, with progress of the action plans.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) considered the presentation and notes comments and questions made in relation the draft SEND Strategy; and
- 2) requests annual progress updates on the delivery of the SEND Strategy to ensure that leaders remain informed and able to enquire and intervene as deemed necessary.

Operational  
Director -  
Education,  
Inclusion and  
Provision

CYP23 HEADTEACHER OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR HALTON CHILDREN IN CARE

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – People, which presented the Virtual School Headteacher's Annual Report for Halton Children in Care (CIC).

It was reported that due to the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the subsequent restrictions, the formal education of children in care was ceased on 23 March 2020. This resulted in the suspension of all Primary tests and a change to teacher assessment for the allocation of GCSE results. Further, the requirement to attend school from 23 March 2020 onwards was altered and was determined by individual risk assessment. As a result of all of the above, Members were advised that there could be no meaningful comparison between previous years and this year's educational outcomes for Children in Care.

Despite the above however, the work of the Virtual School had continued throughout the academic year and the Annual Report provided details of how Halton Children in Care were supported to mitigate against the impacts of the Covid Restrictions. The report also provided detailed data, analysis; a summary of the work of the School during the academic year 2019-20; and a summary of the School's progress towards its identified key priorities and those priorities identified for 2020-21.

Members queried:

Following the ILACS inspection in March 2020, what was the strategy for apprenticeships – it was recognised that improvement was needed in the Post 16 area, one staff member left during the first lockdown and the young people that had apprenticeships were forced to suspend these due to the Pandemic. The Strategic Director now chaired a group that was addressing this via the apprenticeship hub and funding had since been identified to recruit a replacement member of staff, who would focus on Post 16 NEET 16-19 year old young people in care and care leavers obtaining apprenticeships.

The rise in nursery aged children going into care was a concern – this could be attributed to the Covid outbreak resulting in some young families struggling without the support of health visitors / children's centres due to lockdowns. It was likely that children of this age would be adopted, nevertheless, once this spike was identified it was

agreed to appoint an early years staff member who would work on identifying the needs, support and funding required going forward.

The Chair suggested a more focussed report on the nursery aged increases be submitted to the Board at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report and information be noted.

Director of  
Children's  
Services

*Meeting ended at 8.10 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, 8 February 2021 held remotely*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Leck, June Roberts and Wallace

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Jones (in accordance with Standing Order number 33) and one member of the press

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

**ELS19 MINUTES**

*Action*

The Minutes from the meeting held on 16 November 2020, were taken as read and signed as a correct record, subject to noting that Councillor Jones was also in attendance.

ELS13 – Minutes – it was noted that a response from central Government regarding the request to increase the numbers of apprenticeships had still not been received.

ELS16 – Preparations for Halton's Borough of Culture – a brief update was provided; due to the ongoing Pandemic some events had been pushed back to the end of the year but nothing had been cancelled so far.

**ELS20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

**ELS21 POLICY UPDATE**

The Board received a report outlining recent key

policy announcements relevant to employment, learning and skills. This included *The Government's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution* and the *Liverpool City Region (LCR) Marketing and Investment Strategy*.

It was reported that within the LCR Employment, Learning and Skills Programmes were a number of policy initiatives and programmes that had been announced since the last meeting of the Board – a summary was provided on:

- Kickstart;
- Youth Employment Task Force;
- Youth Hubs;
- Support for 18 year olds;
- Sectoral work;
- LCR – Local Skills Report; and
- Adult Education Budget.

In response to Members queries around the hydrogen economy the following was noted:

- The Council had been looking at the production and use of hydrogen in the Borough for the past two years;
- Officers were working with Liverpool City Region colleagues and other partners in this regard to develop strategies and campaigns going forward;
- One of the Team's Regeneration Officers would be repurposed to focus on green projects alone;
- A further hydrogen workshop to be hosted by Halton was planned for the summer; and
- In the future hydrogen will be used as an alternative to gas and existing gas fired generators could be converted to green energy.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report are noted.

## ELS22 ADULT LEARNING SERVICE UPDATE ON TEST AND LEARN PROJECTS

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the Test and Learn projects delivered by Halton Adult Learning Service.

It was reported that the Adult Learning Service was funded through the devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB), which was managed by the Combined Authority, who allocated an additional £150k to the service to deliver on two pilot projects, Test and Learn. Halton used the additional



funding opportunity to deliver a number of projects including Web Design, Coding, Digital Marketing and Media, and Engage with Reading (a programme to train reading volunteers to support people in the community with lower level reading abilities).

Members were referred to Appendix 1, which provided details of the Test and Learn delivery and associated data. The Board was pleased that the attendance and success rates had held up well despite the Pandemic and that the project had supported people of all ages to improve their digital skills. It was noted that the reader volunteer programme had received recognition in the education supplement of the 'Times' as being best practice.

RESOLVED: That the Board welcomes the progress made to date in managing the Test and Learn Projects.

ELS23 UPDATE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AND GROWTH TEAM

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on key activities being undertaken and/or overseen by the Council's Business Improvement and Growth Team, during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

It was noted that during the past year most of the Team had been working on supporting local businesses during the Pandemic and activities had been changed to reflect this. Some generic support had continued which was summarised in the report and included:

- Business Growth Programme – Phase 2;
- Liverpool City Region Hospitality and Leisure Grants (HLG's);
- Growth Platform; and
- One Front Door.

Officers provided details on screen of HLG's awarded so far in rounds one and two, and advised that round 3 would start later this week. In response to Members questions, the expectation was that the demand in round three would be greater than it was for one and two, as it would reach the wider business community and those without support so far. A number of businesses did withdraw from the Business Growth Programme Phase 2; some wanted 'cash' support as opposed to 'hours' of business support, so did not engage any further with the Programme. It was noted that the diagnostic process for the

Business Growth Programme was now done in house.

It was reported that Phase 3 of the Business Growth Programme would align with the Council's priorities in improving the economic growth by aiding SMEs within Halton to grow, develop, become more sustainable and increase jobs. Phase 3 was planned to run from 1 January 2022 until 30 June 2023 and would require match funding of £85,799.

RESOLVED: That Members note the activities and performance of the Business Improvement and Growth Team and how this aligned with wider national and city region strategies.

#### ELS24 SPORT AND RECREATION TEAM

The Board received a report on the Council's Sport and Recreation Service covering the 2019-20 financial year and from March 2020 to December 2020, 'Covid year'.

It was reported that it had been an extremely difficult time for the service, the staff, regular customers, and being unable to engage with residents. The service worked actively with partner organisations such as Halton Sports Partnership, in order to facilitate development through a better understanding of the issues and a sharing of resources to achieve success. It was highlighted that without the contribution from staff and partners, much of the work outlined in the report would not have been possible.

It was recognised that sports and recreational activities were an essential component in supporting and developing the infrastructure of the community to improve the quality of life both physically and mentally.

The Sports and Recreation Team consists of two distinct areas: the Sports Development Team; and management of the Council's 3 leisure centres – Kingsway Leisure Centre, Brookvale Recreation Centre and Runcorn Swimming Pool. Members were advised that the Team had undergone a number of changes in 2020 and staffing was currently reduced to two full time officers. The report provided a snap shot of local projects delivered during 2019-20 and gave an insight into the key activities that leisure centres had engaged in since March 2020, when the lockdowns began.

Further to Members queries, the following was noted:

- Although the numbers of swimmers were consistent (exception Runcorn Swimming Pool), junior gym memberships were low – these were being encouraged but it was recognised that there was work to be done here;
- The swimming lessons and schools swimming was removed from Runcorn Swimming Pool due to staffing issues but these were transferred to Brookvale and Kingsway;
- An Aquatics Manager had been recruited to focus on the pools and further encouragement of swimming in the Borough;
- One Member commented that Runcorn Swimming Pool was at the heart of the community and should be the focus of a swimming strategy; and
- With regards to the upgrading of facilities in the Borough it was noted that a proposed new Leisure Centre in Widnes had just been granted planning permission and site identification for a new leisure centre in Runcorn had commenced. There were also other sites identified for improvements as part of the indoor facility strategy.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments made be noted.

#### ELS25 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) and were requested to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of these.

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

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

The report detailed progress against service objectives and milestones and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period. Also, information concerning the implementation of high risk mitigation measures relevant to this Board was included in Appendix 1.

The following points were highlighted:

- The Stadium and The Brindley were currently being used as vaccination centres and two testing centres were also to be introduced;
- It was hoped that the Libraries and Leisure Centres would be open in the next two weeks and staff had prepared and were ready to open, as per the current Covid-19 guidelines;
- Waste collection services; open space services and school meals services had kept going through the Pandemic;
- The development of adult remote learning been a success as discussed earlier;
- Some of the KPI reporting had been interrupted due to Covid-19 so some data was unavailable; and
- It was realised that there would be a loss of income from business rates from businesses closing and being unable to reopen, due to the Pandemic.

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

*Meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.*

**HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Health Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 23 February 2021 held remotely*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors P. Hignett and Zygadlo

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Wallace-Bonner, M. Vasic, A. Jones, D. Nolan, L Wilson, H. Moir, K. Bazley and D. Parr

Also in attendance: Councillors Wright and Philbin, J. Bene and A. Yates – Cheshire & Merseyside Health and Care Partnership and one member of the press.

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

HEA28 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2020 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

HEA29 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

HEA30 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD MINUTES

The minutes from the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 7 October 2020 provided for the information of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

HEA31 HEALTH REFORMS

The Board considered a report, which advised Members on the proposed reforms regarding integration of health and social care. The Chair welcomed Jackie Bene

*Action*

(Chief Executive) and Alan Yates (Chair) from the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership (C&MHCP), who presented the item.

The guests advised the Board of the national development of the integrated framework and the local application of this framework across Cheshire and Merseyside, and how these two matters were linked.

Members were referred to Appendix one which highlighted some consultation responses to the proposals from the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and Appendix two, which gave some examples of points for consideration at the meeting today.

In response to Board Member's queries and concerns on the proposals, the following information was provided:

- The framework would allow local authorities to make their own arrangements at a local level. The main body pulling together plans for Halton would be the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), in partnership with other agencies, who would represent the health needs of the local population;
- Each local authority would have a representative on the overarching Board, eg the Chair of the HWBB;
- There will be opportunity at a local level for challenging the arrangements alongside partners;
- It was noted that there were omissions in the Paper and lack of detail around social care and care homes, but this could be developed at a local level with flexibility to suit need;
- The 'Discharge and Assess' model was seen as preferable to assessing then discharge, which was highlighted during the Pandemic;
- 'One Halton' would remain the driving force for Health reforms in Halton;
- A reliable IT system that worked for all was imperative to the success of the integration as so many users will be involved;
- It was recognised that strong relationships between communities, agencies and the local authority was important to develop deep knowledge of local people and this ethos would be supported under the new framework;
- It was hoped that in 3 years time the integrated programme would result in better partnership working, improved health of the local population,

reduced inequalities and an overall improved service for the benefit of the population of Halton.

RESOLVED: That the report, appendices and comments made be noted.

#### HEA32 PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The Board received a report and supporting presentation from the Public Health Department, on the most recent data on COVID-19, including an update on Halton outbreak support team activity and the most recent information on testing and vaccination for the people in Halton.

Following Members questions the following was noted:

- The Public Health Team had been working alongside the Environmental Health Team in relation to work place safety for employees and support and guidance had been provided to them. A paper had been sent from Halton to the Department of Health with recommendations which may help with reducing outbreaks in work places;
- Daresbury Ward showed a higher infection rate which could be attributable to the high number of work places situated there on sites such as Daresbury Sci-Tech and Manor Park; and
- Testing in schools had begun in readiness for 8 March. Although Covid-19 infection rates amongst children in schools were low, all the required safety measures would be in place to protect children and staff.

On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked the Public Health team for their hard work for the people of Halton, at this unprecedented time.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

#### HEA33 POPULATION MENTAL HEALTH INCLUDING SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update regarding population mental health prevention work that had been

taking place during the Covid-19 Pandemic, including suicide prevention.

It was reported that mental health population involved an upstream approach targeting the majority of the population to keep people well. It used a whole systems approach to improving mental health and wellbeing and involved working in partnership with both statutory and voluntary organisations. The Health Improvement Team led on this area of work which fell into the following categories:

- Developing the workforce and communities;
- Tackling stigma and increasing awareness of support available;
- Supporting organisations to make positive changes in how they operate; and
- Suicide prevention.

The report provided detailed commentary and data on the work and activity carried out within each of these categories since April 2020.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### HEA34 INTERMEDIATE CARE SERVICES IN HALTON

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update on Halton's Intermediate Care (IC) Services Review and progress towards the development of a new model for Intermediate Care in the Borough.

It was reported that in 2019, Halton commissioned a review of IC Services which included: an independent review via the Local Government Association (LGA) (this was attached at appendix 1); a North West Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (NWADASS) Peer Review (attached at appendix 2); and an 'Organisational Raid' to Rochdale, to view the service pathways and models operating in the Borough.

The Board received a summary of the recommendations/issues in relation to IC services in Halton resulting from the review. Members were advised that following this an action plan was developed with a system wide oversight group and various work streams had commenced, including work on reviewing the IC criteria and associated pathways and a case for change in respect to a future model for the delivery of IC services in Halton. It was noted that this work was paused in March 2020 due to the



coronavirus pandemic; the report outlined the impact of this on the action plan. The new IC model was also discussed, particularly with reference to the benefits of the Single Point of Access (SPA) and its Rapid Response Function (RRF).

One member provided positive feedback on the Frailty Team and commented that it was hoped to make this service long term. With regards to the training of Domiciliary Care staff at Warrington and Halton hospitals, this had ceased due to the progress of the new model. Comments made at the peer review with regards to the availability of information for the general public was picked up and a communications plan would be included on the action plan.

RESOLVED: That the report and appendices be noted.

Director of Adult Social Services

#### HEA35 SAFEGUARDING

The Board considered a report which highlighted the key issues with respect to the impact of Covid-19 on safeguarding in care homes.

It was noted that the current global Covid-19 Pandemic was unprecedented and the impact for individuals, families, communities and wider society was significant and long lasting. It had touched every part of people's lives and had required individuals and organisations to adapt to new daily interactions, social distancing, shielding, undertaking assessments by phone or using digital solutions to continue essential business. Further, many of the existing protective factors in the lives of adults at risk of abuse and harm had been temporarily absent or limited.

Members received information on the significant and sustained impact Covid-19 had had on the care home and domiciliary care sectors, for both residents and staff. It was noted that a Care Home Resilience Group had been established, chaired by the Director for Adult Social Care, which oversees work undertaken by all partners within the Borough in relation to care homes.

It was commented that nationally there was concern over the number of vacancies in care homes and the viability of some because of this. The situation was being monitored in the Borough.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HEA36 SCRUTINY TOPIC – 2021/22

The Board considered a draft Topic Brief for the 2021-22 Scrutiny Review, looking at local implementation of the recommendations from the North West Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (NWADASS) Elected Member Commission report into '*The impact of Covid-19 on People with Care and Support needs, their Families, Carers and Communities*'.

The Board agreed the Scrutiny Review topic and all Members were invited to participate. The meetings would commence in March 2021 and a schedule would be sent to the Board following the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Scrutiny Review topic is approved; and
- 2) all Members of the Board are invited to participate in the review.

Director of Adult  
Social Services

HEA37 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS, QUARTER 3 2020/21

The Board received the Performance Management Reports for quarter 3 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 3 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 noted that some areas within the report were not being collected at this time as some metrics were in the process of being changed by central Government. Adult Social Services saw no significant changes from last year and were on currently on target.

RESOLVED: That the quarter 3 performance management reports be received.

*Members made statements on the hard work and dedication of Council staff, Public Health staff and Council Partnership staff and many others working in Halton's communities during the Pandemic. Members had been approached in the community and received positive feedback many times, with the public expressing their thanks and appreciation for the help they have received.*

*The Board wished to congratulate and thank everybody involved for their dedication to their jobs and the communities of Halton. They stated that they were very proud of the work carried out over the past year, in these extremely challenging times.*

*Meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.*

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**HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Health Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 9 March 2021 held remotely*

Present: Councillors J. Lowe (Chair), Dennett, Dourley, C. Loftus, Ratcliffe and D. Wilson (Healthwatch Co-optee)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors June Roberts, Sinnott and Zygadlo

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Wallace-Bonner, A. Jones and L Wilson

Also in attendance: Professor Simon Constable – Chief Executive of Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Dr A. Davies, M. Austin, M. Stanley and L. Thompson – NHS Halton CCG, and one member of the press

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

	<i>Action</i>
HEA38 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
HEA39 COMPLEX SPINAL SURGERY SERVICE	
<p>The Board received a report from the Chief Commissioner, NHS Halton CCG, which provided an update on the status of the realignment of Complex Spinal Surgery services across Cheshire and Merseyside.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Professor Simon Constable, Chief Executive of Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, who presented the item with Dr Andrew Davies of NHS Halton and Warrington CCG. Maria Austin of NHS Warrington CCG and Martin Stanley of NHS Halton CCG, were also in attendance.</p> <p>The Board was advised that NHS England in collaboration with the national programme for improvement of acute services, <i>Getting it Right First Time</i> (GIRFT), set out guidance and plans for the centralisation of complex</p>	

spinal surgery and interventions to improve the outcomes and experiences of patients. This was developed in parallel with the production of the NICE Guidelines and National Pathway for the management of lower back pain to reduce the number of patients undergoing unnecessary surgical interventions.

Following an independent review of spinal surgery services in Cheshire and Merseyside by GIRFT, a number of recommendations were made; these were presented in paragraph 3.3 of the report. It was noted that these recommendations were then adopted as the design principles for a programme of work to establish a single service model for spinal surgery in Cheshire and Merseyside.

The report outlined the key drivers for change; how spinal surgery services would work under the new model; and the local engagement plans for Halton.

The guests responded to Members questions on the proposals, and the following was noted:

- The proposed lead provider would be The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, working in collaboration with Liverpool University Hospitals;
- The remaining two spinal surgeons from Warrington Hospital would be relocated to the Walton Centre;
- The Halton Hospital site was being utilised more and more and there had been an increase in the number of cancer operations carried out there, also breast cancer services had moved to the Captain Sir Tom Moore Building;
- The Walton Centre was further away from Halton than Warrington, so there would be a requirement in some cases for transport assistance for patients;
- Under the new model it was proposed that there would be no change to the location of the Outpatient (Satellite) clinics and at present this did not include one at Warrington and Halton Hospitals (WHH). However work would continue on assessing whether the demand for a clinic at WHH was warranted. It was agreed that if this changed, then the details would be shared with the Board when the update on progress towards the development of the overarching model was presented; and
- Publication of the realignment of complex spinal surgery services would take place soon to raise public awareness.

On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked the guests for their attendance and they looked forward to receiving an update on progress at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board notes that the reconfiguration proposal was in line with the national recommendation for the centralisation of complex spinal surgery; and
- 2) the Board acknowledges that the new service configuration would provide Halton with a single point of access to a high quality, multidisciplinary led surgical service.

Director of Adult  
Social Services

*Meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.*

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**SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 9 February 2021 held remotely*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Zygadlo

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

*Action*

SAF21 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair made the following announcements:

- The Cheshire Police budget for 2021/2022 had been agreed and the Police Force was one of the 10 lowest precepts in the country; and
- The Cheshire Chief Constable was due to retire in the Spring 2021. The new Chief Constable would be announced shortly.

SAF22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

SAF23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was reported that no questions had been received.

SAF24 EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the work undertaken by the Emergency Planning Team during 2019-2020.

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

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

Members noted that Halton had a number of Emergency Plans in place with the aim to ensure resilience. These Plans were regularly updated and tested. The Board was advised of examples of local risks, details of the exercises that took place at COMAH sites in the Borough, information on Emergency Centres and the work the Emergency Planning Team carried out with partner agencies, both within Cheshire and cross border and as part of Cheshire Resilience Forum.

Details of the role of the Team supporting the Authority's response to Covid-19 internally and externally alongside partner agencies was also noted.

Arising from the discussion, the following issues were raised and it was agreed that a written response would be provided to the Board:

- Cllr Peter Lloyd-Jones raised a question regarding the main water pipeline which travels from Wales to Merseyside and a possible threat from terrorism;
- Cllr Thompson asked for further information regarding the plans for the decommissioning of the Fiddlers Ferry Site; and
- Cllr Thompson raised a question regarding gas monitoring in the quarry area of Weston Village.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### SAF25 COVID 19 - UPDATED WORKING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the range of services that Halton Community Safety Partnership had put in place during the Covid-19 Pandemic to support the community. The report provided an update on:

- Widnes and Runcorn Policing;

- Operation Pandas – an internal major response stood up by Cheshire Police which covered the response, management and coordination of all aspects of Coronavirus;
- School Liaison work;
- Domestic Abuse services, raising awareness, press releases, webchat, refuge facilities and MARAC meetings;
- Licensing issues;
- ASB Victim and Witness Support Services;
- Counter Terrorism and Channel Policing during lockdown; and
- Digital Safety resources during Covid-19

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### SAF26 CRIME REDUCTION INITIATIVE - HOUGH GREEN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the new crime reduction initiative that would be taking place in the Hough Green area in partnership with Cheshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Following a community survey of 3200 homes, carried out by the Police and the Community Safety Partnership, the Crime Reduction Officer had designed a project to improve the environment. This included, better lighting/CCTV, litter picking, fly tipping removal, landscaping and encouragement of community engagement to create local pride in the area.

As part of the improvements, a doorbell CCTV project that would provide coverage of hard to monitor areas around the Arley Drive/Cherry Sutton estates was proposed and a number of homes identified. The Police and Crime Commissioner had agreed funding, match funded by the local authority and the bells would be fitted by Community Safety Partnership.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### SAF27 DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The Board received an update report on the activities being supported across the Borough in response to domestic and sexual violence. It was noted that the new Halton Domestic Abuse Service, integrated family model had been awarded to WHAG, a specialist domestic abuse

provider. The new model would focus on the whole family and would provide support services and advocacy to adult victims, children affected by domestic abuse and support services would be offered to those who harm.

The new service began operations in Halton on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Further information would be sent to Board Members to attend a future lunch and learning session.

In addition, further reports would be submitted to a future Board meeting on the Public Protection Unit and on the 'Engage' initiative.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

*Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.*

**ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 24 February 2021 held remotely*

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Ferguson, T. Gibbs, J. Farmer and A. Plant

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EUR21 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2020 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>EUR22 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
<p>EUR23 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>EUR24 PROBLEM PAVEMENT PARKING</p> <p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the progress of the Working Party (WP), which was established to review the current position and issues associated with pavement parking in Halton. The WP had met virtually on 3 February and considered</p>	

legislative framework for parking enforcement and tackling highway obstruction. The WP also debated the merits and likely consequences of the DfT consultation, before moving on to discuss the areas of the Borough where pavement parking problems had been reported.

It was noted that the WP had considered:

- parking on grassed verges were properties had driveways. The WP agreed this was an area for scrutiny and had potential for a new policy to prevent parking on verges where damage was occurring;
- enforcement of parking issues. It was felt that the viability and vitality of town centres continued to be supported through free parking. The strong collaboration with the local Policing teams should be continued and targeted action taken where parking was considered dangerous or causing an obstruction of the pavement or highway; and
- Town Planning policies and the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. It was agreed that the Development Control Committee remained the body for assessing the parking requirements for new developments and the impact on the surrounding area.

The WP agreed an action plan to cover the following:

- recommend the Board endorse a decision not to seek CPE powers at the present time;
- draft a letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner requesting their continued support in taking targeted enforcement action where pavement parking presents an ongoing problem; and
- produce a draft policy to tackle parking on the Council's verges.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the update and endorses the recommendations set out in the report.

## EUR25 ACTIVE TRAVEL SCHEMES UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which set out an update on the following two active travel schemes within the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP):

### LCWIP Phase 2 – Runcorn to Daresbury

Would provide a dedicated cycle route connecting Runcorn

to Sci-Tech Daresbury. The final design of the route would be consulted upon during March 21. The draft consultation leaflet and route map was detailed in Appendix 1.

LCWIP Phase 3 – Runcorn Busway (Halton Lea to Murdishaw)

Funding recently allocated to and received by the Liverpool City Region from the Department for Transport (DfT) for 'active travel'. Halton's allocation would allow the busway cycle route between Halton Lea and Murdishaw to become permanent. This was an important link and essentially formed a second project that eventually aimed to see the whole busway transformed into an active travel corridor. Halton had initially been awarded £2.2m of the £7.896m to make the temporary Active Travel Corridor permanent. Consultation had begun on 18 January 2021 and would close on 22 February 2021. A map of the route was detailed in Appendix 2.

RESOLVED: That the Board endorses the two schemes and recognises the important of consultation in measuring project success.

EUR26 ENVIRONMENT FUND UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the expenditure of the Environmental Fund. Planning permission for the Runcorn Energy from Waste (EfW) Plant was granted in September 2008. The Plant was subject to a legal agreement entered into under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The legal agreement contained a provision that the owner of the Plant agreed to pay the Council an annual lump sum payment for every tonne of fuel received and processed.

The Fund had been in operation since 2015 and over that period had generated £3,471,740. Consequently, a number of projects had been funded and implemented and these were set out in Appendix 1.

Arising from the discussion it was agreed that a breakdown of the Environmental Fund spend for each Ward would be provided to Board Members. It was also suggested that where the Fund had been used to support local projects, appropriate signage could be used to advise that the improvements had been supported by the Fund. It was agreed that this would be looked into.

RESOLVED: That the wide range of projects that had benefitted from the fund as set out in Appendix 1 be noted.

EUR27 IMPLICATIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT BILL

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an overview of the forthcoming Environment Bill and its implications for planning and regeneration. The Environment Bill sets out the new environmental governance framework as the UK leaves the EU. The implications of the Bill for the planning system were as follows:

- The requirement for all development to achieve a minimum of 10% Biodiversity Net Gain; and
- The update of the NERC Biodiversity duty on all public bodies to both conserve and enhance biodiversity.

The Bill was currently at the reporting stage of its passage through the House of Commons was expected to gain Royal Assent in Spring 2021. It was currently unclear what requirements there would be on local authorities to implement biodiversity net gain during the transition period.

RESOLVED: That

1. the likely implications of the Environment Bill be noted; and
2. a further report be submitted to the Board when the detail of the transition arrangements and secondary legislation was available.

EUR28 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2020/21

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 2 of 2020/21.

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

- Development and Investment Services;
- Highways and Transportation, Logistics and Development Services;
- Waste and Environmental Improvement and Open



- Space Services; and
- Housing Strategy.

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

*At the conclusion of the meeting the Chair thanked Councillors Joe Roberts, Sinnott and Rowe for their contribution to the Board and wished them well for the future.*

*Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.*

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**CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 26 January 2021 held remotely*

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: I. Leivesley, E. Dawson, G. Ferguson, M. Murphy, J. Unsworth and C. Patino

Also in attendance: None

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

	<i>Action</i>
CS21 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
CS22 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CS23 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
<p>The Board was presented with the Minutes relating to the Corporate Services Portfolio which had been considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of this Board.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.</p>	
CS24 LOCAL AREA FORUMS	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which detailed the planned changes to the Borough's Ward Boundaries and the impact this would have on Local Area Forums.</p>	

It was noted that changes to the Borough's current Ward boundaries were due to come into effect on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020, however, following the postponement of the 2020 local elections due to COVID-19, those boundary changes would come into effect on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. The boundary changes would have a number of implications for Local Area Forums, including the Area Forum 'footprints', the population levels within each Forum area and the budget allocations. The report provided Members with details of those implications.

It was anticipated that a number of Area Forums would have some level of budget remaining that would be carried forward to the 2021/22 financial year. It was proposed that any Area Forum budget underspend at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 would be split down to Ward level and allocated to the new Ward that was most closely aligned. In addition where any current Ward boundaries alter as a result of the planned changes, the amount of any budget underspend carried forward would be based upon the proportion of Electorate that made up the old Ward that was transferring to the new one.

RESOLVED: That

1. the proposals for dealing with the impacts that Ward boundary changes will have upon Local Area Forums as set out within the report be endorsed; and
2. a report be presented to the Executive Board recommending that:
  - a. Halton's current seven Local Area Forums be disbanded with effect from 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021;
  - b. six new Local Area Forums, as set out in Paragraph 4.1, be established in Halton with effect from 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021;
  - c. the 2021/22 Local Area Forum budget be allocated as set out within Table 1; and
  - d. any Local Area Forum budget remaining as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 be carried forward and allocated as set out within Table 2.

Strategic Director,  
Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

CS25 EU EXIT AND THE END OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD

The Board considered a report which provided

information on the arrangements the Council had put in place, together with its partners, to monitor and if necessary and possible, to mitigate any impacts arising from the end of the EU Exit Transition Period. At the time of the report it was noted that there were no issues of concern had arisen but it was early days.

It was noted that the Council was currently working in partnership with Cheshire Resilience Forum Partners and regional and national agencies, as part of a Command and Control Structure. The aim being to assess and mitigate the impacts of the UK's exit from the EU in Cheshire, whilst supporting the national response through the national strategic responsibilities.

Within the Council there was an internal officer group, which was meeting on a monthly basis. The aim of the group was to monitor potential impacts and escalate matters of concern to Management Team and Members.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the arrangements in place.

CS26 COUNCIL INSURANCE ARRANGEMENTS UPDATE

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the process of retendering for a number of the Council's major insurance policies that included property, motor and computer. The report outlined details of that process and a wider update on the Council's insurance and risk financing arrangements. It was anticipated that an increase in premiums was extremely likely, despite the Council's excellent claims history.

The Board received information on:

- Levels of self insurance from 2010/11 to 2020/21;
- Direct cost of insurance and risk financing – 2010/11 to 2019/20;
- Public liability claims 2010/11 to 2019/20;
- Employer's liability claims – 2010/11 to 2019/20; and
- Motor vehicle claims – 2010/11 to 2019/20.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CS27 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2020/21

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director,

Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Report for Quarter 2 of 2020/21.

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

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

It was agreed that further information would be emailed to Members on the following matters:

1. the latest Universal Credit claimant numbers for Halton from the DWP;
2. the roll out of laptops to school children in the Borough, details on the process and how well it was working; and
3. the roll out of Microsoft Teams to all schools in the Borough.

Arising from the discussion it was agreed that an update on the recent staff survey would be brought to a future meeting of the Board

In addition, on behalf of the Board the Chair thanked Chris Patino and the team for all their work in providing lunches to those children on free school meals whilst the schools have been closed.

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

*Meeting ended at 7.53 p.m.*

**BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 24 March 2021 held remotely.*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor 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: M. Green and S. Nixon (Grant Thornton). One member of the press.

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

**BEB20 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**BEB21 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019-20**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of the final 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

The 2019/20 AGS was originally presented to the Board on 23 September 2020. It was important that the AGS was up to date when the statement of accounts were approved. As such, the document was presented again for the Board to review.

Once approved the AGS would be signed by the Council Leader and Chief Executive and published on the Council's website.

**RESOLVED:** That the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 be approved.

*Action*

BEB22 2019/20 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 2019/20 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 2019/20 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 External Auditor presented the Audit Findings report which summarised the findings from 2019/20 external audit. Section 2 of the Audit Finding report presented the finding of the External Auditor in respect of matters and risks identified at the planning stage of the audit and additional and significant matters that arose during the course of their work. Whilst 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 for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Councillor Philbin asked a number of questions regarding Runcorn Locks and it was agreed that a response would be circulated to Board Members.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the draft Letter of Representation in Appendix 1 be approved and any subsequent additions or amendments be approved by the Operational Director - Finance, in liaison with the Chair of the Business Efficiency Board;
- 2) the External Auditor's draft 2019/20 Audit Findings Report in Appendix 2 and Audit Opinion in Appendix 3 be received and any subsequent additions or amendments be approved by Operational Director - Finance, in liaison with the Chair of the Business Efficiency Board; and
- 3) the Council's draft 2019/20 Statement of Accounts in Appendix 4 be approved and any subsequent



additions or amendments be approved by the Operational Director - Finance, in liaison with the Chair of the Business Efficiency Board.

#### BEB23 PROCUREMENT UPDATE REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on:

- Procurement activity in 2020/2021, with an outline of the key actions taken during the year;
- Brexit and its impact on the Council's procurement arrangements, with details on the new e-tender service 'Find a Tender' which was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021; and
- The progress achieved in delivering the Council's Procurement Strategy 2020-2023 and the impact of COVID-19.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### BEB24 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2021/22

The Board considered a report of the Divisional Manager, Audit, Procurement and Operational Finance, which sought approval for the planned programme of internal audit work for 2020/21.

A risk based Audit Plan had been prepared, designed to enable internal audit to deliver an overall opinion on the Council's risk management and control and governance arrangements.

A copy of the draft Audit Plan for 2020/21 was attached as an appendix to the report. It was noted that the Plan had incorporated a number of reviews originally included in 2020/21 Audit Plan that could not be completed during the year due to significant amounts of unplanned work being necessary to support the Council's response to the pandemic.

The Board was advised that, as in previous years, the Audit Plan would need to remain flexible and that changes may be required in order to respond to risks which emerge during the year.

Performance against the Audit Plan would be kept under review throughout the year and regular progress reports would be provided to the Business Efficiency Board.

Internal Audit would work closely with the Council's external auditor, Grant Thornton, to minimise duplication and to ensure efficient and effective deployment of the overall audit resource.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2021/22.

BEB25 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 paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Councillors E. Cargill and McDermott were not in attendance for Minute no. BEB26**

BEB26 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 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020. The report also highlighted matters relevant to the Board's responsibilities as the Council's Audit Committee.

It was reported previously that COVID-19, had had a significant impact on the work of Internal Audit in 2020/21. There had been a continuation of Covid-19 related audit work since the last progress report with support provided in respect of the range of grant and relief payment schemes introduced by Government. Overall, internal audit coverage in 2020/21 would be less than planned, primarily due to the team providing operational support to other business areas, particularly in the early stages of the pandemic.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Councillors Roberts and MacManus for their contribution to the Board and wished them well for the future.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

*Meeting ended at 7.48 p.m.*

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**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 1 February 2021 held remotely*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Zygadlo

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, J. Eaton, G. Henry, K. Thompson, L. Woodward and I. Dignall

Also in attendance: Councillor Baker and one member of the press

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

DEV27 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2020, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV28 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.

*To avoid any allegation of bias, Councillor Hignett did not take part in the debate or vote on the following item, as he has dealt with the application previously in his capacity as Portfolio Holder for Physical Environment on Executive Board.*

DEV29 20/00352/HBCOUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT (USE CLASS C3) UP TO 86 DWELLINGS WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED EXCEPT FOR ACCESS AT FORMER TARMAC SITE AND FORMER STOBART SITE, FOUNDRY LANE, WIDNES, CHESHIRE

*Action*

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

Since the publication of the agenda, Members were advised that further to the outstanding consultation response outlined on page 23 of the report, Natural England had confirmed that they raised no objection subject to the proposed mitigation being secured. Officers were satisfied that this could be achieved by securing conditions to those listed.

In response to Members concerns over the increase in traffic movements and the need for a 20 mph speed limit on Ditton Bridge, it was explained that a traffic assessment had been carried out with no issues reported and the speed limit on Ditton Bridge was thought to be in place due to the integrity of the sidewalls, so was a safety issue.

A query was also raised about how the scheme fitted with the redevelopment of other land in the area including the Widnes Timber Yard. It was commented that this application sought to bring forward land within the Council's ownership to take advantage of potential funding; the Council's Major Projects Team had been liaising with wider landowners about bringing those sites forward for development.

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

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

1. Standard outline conditions for the submission of reserved matters applications (BE1);
2. Plans condition listing relevant drawings ie. Site location / red edge, access details (BE1 and TP17);
3. Submission and agreement of a submission of a construction management plan including measures to prevent pollution of controlled waters to include an ecological buffer of 5M from the bankside of Ditton Brook (BE1/GE21);
4. Submission of existing and agreement of proposed site levels (BE1);
5. Restricting deep or piled foundation solutions (PR5/PR14/CS23);
6. Breeding birds protection (GE21 and CS20);
7. Bat and bird nesting boxes scheme (GE21 and CS20);

8. Electric Vehicle Charging Points Scheme (CS19);
9. Securing updated noise report / implementation of noise mitigation measures (PR2);
10. Securing updated noise report / implementation of noise mitigation measures (PR2);
11. Submission of detailed remediation method statement, mitigation measures and validation (PR14 and CS23);
12. Drainage strategy based on the SUDS hierarchy, including its implementation, maintenance, management and verification of the scheme (PR16 and CS23);
13. Foul and surface water on a separate system (PR16 and CS23);
14. Materials Management Plan / Waste Audit (WM8);
15. Submission and agreement of a householder information pack;
16. Submission and agreement of Japanese Knotweed eradication scheme and validation report confirming the site had been remediated for 12 months;
17. Submission and agreement of a sensitive lighting scheme for Ditton Brook; and
18. Submission and agreement of ecological / biodiversity enhancement scheme including 5m ecological brook buffer and native planting is designed into the scheme.

DEV30 20/00488/FUL - RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF A TEMPORARY TWO STOREY PORTAKABIN BUILDING TO BE USED AS CLASSROOM ACCOMMODATION. THE CLASSROOM BLOCK WILL HAVE LINKED ON TOILET FACILITIES, A STAIR-POD FOR MAIN ACCESS TO THE FIRST FLOOR AND AN EMERGENCY EXIT STAIRCASE. THE DEVELOPMENT WILL ALSO INCLUDE A LINKED ON PORTAKABIN MODULAR GYM AND A STAND-ALONE MUSIC BLOCK. THE APPLICATION SEEKS A 3 YEAR TEMPORARY PLANNING PERMISSION - WIDNES 6TH FORM COLLEGE, CRONTON LANE, WIDNES, WA8 5WA

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

One Member commented that a retrospective planning application of this nature showed a flagrant disregard for the planning rules, on the part of the agent, who should know better. He suggested that the 3 year approval should begin from when the Portakabin was erected last September 2020, not from the day it is

approved, and moved an amendment to this effect. The amendment was seconded, but defeated following a vote. The Committee then voted on the original recommendation, which was carried by majority, so the application was approved as per the Officer's recommendation.

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

1. Time limit – temporary period of 3 years; and
2. A scheme for the reinstatement of the site following the expiry of the 3 year period.

*Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.*



**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Tuesday, 2 March 2021 held remotely*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Zygadlo

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Wall, one member of the press and the Committee meeting was streamed via You Tube

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

*Action*

DEV31 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV32 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.

DEV33 20/00153/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 249 DWELLINGS, RECONFIGURATION OF GOLF COURSE, DEMOLITION OF EXISTING CLUBHOUSE AND ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS AND ERECTION OF NEW CLUBHOUSE AND GREENKEEPERS STORE, CREATION OF NEW VEHICULAR ACCESSES, ROADS, CAR PARKING & ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT AT WIDNES GOLF CLUB, HIGHFIELD ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 7DT

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

The Case Officer advised that since the publication of the AB Update List one more representation had been received. This raised issues relating to the traffic survey undertaken as well as drainage and increased flood risk which were already dealt with in the Committee Report. Following presentation of the application it was explained why it was recommended for refusal and the fundamental issues with the proposal were described, as outlined in paragraph 8 of the report relating to the following:

- Greenspace / Strategic Greenspace / Potential Greenway / Green Infrastructure / Health and Wellbeing;
- Highways / Transportation;
- Flood Risk/Drainage; and
- Trees / Landscaping / Landscape Impacts

The Committee was addressed by Mr Peter Hurst, who as a long-standing member of the Golf Club, spoke in support of the application. He explained how the Club was once thriving with people of all social backgrounds offering various recreational activities to Members. Unfortunately, in recent times the membership at the Club had declined to a point where its existence was now threatened; he gave examples of reasons why this had happened. He argued that the Club would prosper if the application was approved as new membership would be encouraged by the new facilities. He also added that:

- It was not unusual for a town's golf club to be situated outside its boundary;
- Widnes Golf Club was currently private land so there was no direct benefit to the public as open space;
- The proposal would benefit existing and future residents of the Borough with its high quality design and landscaping;
- It was in a sustainable location;
- It would bring affordable housing to the area and local investment; and
- It would relieve pressure to develop other green spaces in the Borough.

In conclusion, he added that improvements in the sport's technology had changed the game over the past 60 years and the Club needed to respond to this.

Mr Morris, the applicant, then addressed the Committee. He had been a member of Widnes Golf Club for many years and now spoke as a Board Member in support

of the application. He recognised the concerns made by the public over the proposals in relation to the loss of green space. He advised that the Club was in financial difficulty and if the development did not go ahead the Club faced an uncertain future and the facility could be lost altogether. He explained the problems with the existing substandard 18 hole course in relation to quality and drainage and how this had affected its appeal and that improvements needed to be made. The Club had seen a reduction in membership numbers over the years and now found itself in a challenging position, being unable to maintain the Club or invest in its future. He added that:

- The current course was now too small and sub-standard;
- There was no policy requirement for Widnes to have an 18 hole golf club;
- Players were prepared to travel to golf courses elsewhere;
- Sports England and England Golf raised no objections to the proposals;
- A high quality 9 hole course together with an improved club house was better for the Town;
- The Club would offer flexibility to the communities of Widnes offering memberships to all; and
- The proposals were in a highly sustainable location.

Mr Morris concluded, requesting that the Committee approve the application based on the following:

- 1) The development would secure the future of Widnes Golf Club;
- 2) The proposal would ensure that the current substandard 18 hole course would be replaced with a superior high quality 9 hole course with better facilities, offering long term sustainability;
- 3) The site is sustainably located and would relieve pressure on Green Belt land elsewhere in the Borough;
- 4) The technical issues outlined earlier, could be adequately addressed via conditions; and
- 5) The proposal was acceptable as there was a presumption in favour of sustainable development within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The Committee was then addressed by Councillor Wall who spoke on behalf of local residents in objection to the proposals. She began by providing some background to

the history of Widnes in relation to its industrial heritage, in particular with the chemical industry and the environmental consequences of this on the Town over the years. She stated also that the land had been bought by the chemical industry and gifted to the Club for the benefit of local residents.

She added that the numbers in opposition to this development were in the thousands, local people did not want a housing estate to take away the greenspace which was in the heart of Widnes. It was noted that Derek Twigg MP had raised his objections to the proposal. She argued that:

- The site benefits residents' wellbeing;
- The site was part of the green network;
- The site was home to a variety of wildlife;
- The site was prone to flooding;
- There were many TPO's in place and these would be lost as well as many other unprotected trees;
- The road network and traffic at junctions in the area were already at full capacity and this development would exacerbate the problem;
- Children would be at risk walking to school;
- Local schools were already oversubscribed;
- The proposal was against planning policies;
- The Golf Club would be the only beneficiary from the development; and
- Golfers would use neighbouring Boroughs' courses to play 18 holes, thus diverting money and investment away from Halton.

Councillor Wall added that the Officer's recommendation was to refuse the application and she urged the Committee to agree with this.

Committee Members discussed the proposal after hearing the speakers' comments and the Officer's presentation. Officers made clear during the discussion that the application was compliant in respect of affordable housing policy requirements and that this together with the availability of school places was addressed in the Committee report.

Members discussed the unfortunate situation the Club was in; the fact that the popularity of golf itself as a sport was in national decline; the possibility of future opportunities for grant funding for the Club, the loss of protected trees; loss of recreational space, increased traffic volumes in the locality: road safety; and the danger of flood

risk to the site and other residential accommodation. The recommendation to refuse was moved and seconded and the Committee voted to refuse the application for the reasons stated below.

RESOLVED: That the application be refused for the for the following reasons:

- 1) The proposed development would compromise many of the amenity values of this designated Greenspace and would segregate the inter-connecting Greenspaces forming part of the wider Strategic Greenspace identified on the Halton Core Strategy Local Plan Key Diagram.

The applicant's golf needs assessment does not demonstrate that the existing 18-hole golf course is surplus to requirements. The proposed development would not result in replacement provision which is equivalent or better in terms of quantity and quality nor does the development provide alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use. The proposed improvements at the Widnes Golf Course site including the building of a new purpose-built clubhouse and ancillary building forming a greenkeepers store do not go anywhere near raising the overall amenity value of the greenspace to justify the 11ha of residential development being sought by this application nor would it enhance and expand the green infrastructure network.

Whilst the proposed residential development would create an environment for future residents that would be both of a high quality, a healthy environment and would provide diversity in housing typologies, the proposed development would have a negative impact on the wider population in terms of impact on both local green-infrastructure, designated green space and golfing provision in the locality.

To allow the proposed development is therefore considered to be contrary to the provisions of Policies GE6 and GE10 of the Halton Unitary Development Plan, Policies CS1, CS21 and CS22 of the Halton Core Strategy Local Plan and Paragraph 97 of the NPPF.

- 2) The proposed development would result in a significant and unacceptable residual cumulative

impact on the operational capacity of the adopted highway network in the area due to the increased number of vehicle movements generated by the proposal particularly at the traffic signals junctions to the east and west of the site.

The proposed residential layout along the frontage of Liverpool Road would also create significant road safety issues and is therefore considered to be unacceptable.

To allow the proposed development is therefore considered to be contrary to the provisions of Policies BE1, TP14, TP15 and TP17 of the Halton Unitary Development Plan and Paragraphs 108 and 109 of the NPPF.

- 3) The applicant has demonstrated through the hydraulic assessment and modelling the site is at risk of flooding from Moss Brook during events with the same or greater magnitude to the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event. Paragraph 033 of the Environment Agency (EA) Flood Risk and Coastal Change Guidance (Reference ID: 7-033-20140306) and Paragraph 155 to 158 of the NPPF indicate that although the Sequential and Exceptions tests would not normally be necessary to be applied to development proposals in Flood Zone 1, however they should if other more recent information, indicates there may be flooding issues now or in the future. Therefore a sequential test should have been applied.

The sequential approach to locating development in areas at lower flood risk should be applied to all sources of flooding and inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Paragraph 163 of the NPPF goes on to state 'Development should only be allowed in areas at risk of flooding where, in the light of this assessment (and the sequential and exception tests, as applicable) it can be demonstrated that: a) within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest flood risk'. The proposed development of 'More Vulnerable' infrastructure within the modelled flood extent of Moss Brook shown in Annex E of the Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is not considered to be acceptable, particularly when there is a significant area of the site which does not lie within the modelled flood extents and would be more

suitable for development of residential dwellings.

No compensatory storage analysis has been provided along with the proposal to raise land levels. The site is 25ha, with the majority of the site in fluvial flood zone 1 and outside of the modelled 1 in 1000 year flood outline for the ordinary watercourse, therefore the residential development, as the most vulnerable infrastructure, should have been placed in the area of lowest risk and should not require a raised platform.

The proposed development would result in an increased flood risk for properties on Woodland Avenue which is unacceptable and clearly does not follow NPPF or EA guidance by the proposed development increasing flood risk elsewhere.

With regard to alterations to the watercourse, the site is 25ha and there is clearly sufficient land to otherwise place the development and provide the space for a 1 in 3 slope for the watercourse.

The 'Surface Water Drainage Strategy' plan shows development is proposed within 8m of a watercourse which is against standard drainage bylaws and not considered to be acceptable.

The applicant has not applied the Drainage Hierarchy adequately as there have been no site specific infiltration testing undertaken prior to discarding infiltration.

No detail has been provided as to how riparian responsibilities would work as dwellings are proposed above a culverted watercourse.

In respect of flood risk and drainage, to allow the proposal would be contrary to the provisions of Policy PR16 of the Halton Unitary Development Plan, Policy CS23 of the Halton Core Strategy Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 4) The proposed development would destroy many trees including some of those forming part of the recently made Tree Preservation Order which provide significant amenity value as well as other individual trees and tree groups covering a significant area of the site. The proposed development also has the potential to impact existing trees which would remain and therefore compromise tree cover further. The

proposed replacement planting scheme would have a negative residual effect in respect of tree cover and the proposal is not considered to reflect the essential character of this designated Greenspace.

The site forms part of the Mersey Forest with the focus being on landscape improvements. This proposed development would result in the loss of a significant amount of trees with the proposed replacement planting scheme having a negative residual effect in respect of tree cover thus not representing a landscape improvement.

The proposal also fails to enhance and restore the Ball O'Ditton Parkland Character Area by virtue of the amount of residential development proposed on the existing golf course as well as the loss of the key woodland belts which are key characteristics.

In respect of trees, landscaping and landscape impacts, the proposed development is considered to be contrary to the provisions of Policies BE1, GE27 and GE28 of the Halton Unitary Development Plan, Policy CS20 of the Halton Core Strategy Local Plan and Paragraph 170 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

DEV34 20/00636/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION WITH LANDSCAPING RESERVED, FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 26 NO. APARTMENTS AND GROUND FLOOR RETAIL UNIT FOR BOOKMAKERS WITH ASSOCIATED PARKING AND ANCILLARY SPACE AT SPORTING FORD, 164 HOUGH GREEN ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 4PG

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

The Committee was advised that since the publication of the agenda and as per the published AB Update List, Highways Authority had responded to the amendments and were now satisfied with the layout subject to the additional conditions for car parking management plan, offsite highways works relating to the access and removal of a taxi rank, and a condition restricting the use of the retail unit to a bookmakers.

Further comments had also been received from a local Ward Councillor raising the following matters:



- The height of the building and requested a condition so that it could not be increased;
- Securing and controlling provision of car parking;
- A condition that materials, boundary treatments and landscaping were submitted and approved; and
- The need for further site investigations.

Members were advised that the scale and appearance of the building had been submitted in full detail and a condition was recommended so that it would be built in accordance with the submitted plans, this would control the height of the building. The Ward Councillor also wanted to be sure that any cladding used was fire safe and that the building had suitable means of escape, both of these matters would be dealt with under the Building Regulations for the project.

The Committee was advised that the consultation period was due to expire the following day and that delegated authority was therefore sought to determine the application, in consultation with the Chair, once the consultation had expired and considering any further comments received.

The recommendation was moved and seconded and the Committee agreed to approve the application, subject to the conditions listed below which include the additional conditions discussed above.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chair, to determine the application, subject to any consultation responses and to the following:

- a) a legal or other appropriate agreement relating to securing financial contributions for open space;
- b) conditions relating to the following:
  1. Outline planning permission conditions setting out time limits and reserved matters (BE1);
  2. Condition specifying approved and amended plans (BE1);
  3. Requiring submission and agreement of a Construction Management Plan including vehicle access routes and construction car parking (BE1);
  4. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2);

5. Landscaping condition, requiring the submission and approval of landscaping details (BE2);
  6. Boundary treatments to be submitted and approved in writing (BE1);
  7. Wheel cleansing facilities/strategy to be submitted and approved in writing (BE1);
  8. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1);
  9. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties/commencement of use (BE1);
  10. Condition relating to the implementation of bin store provision (BE1);
  11. Requiring submission and agreement of site and finished floor and site levels (BE1);
  12. Site investigation, including mitigation/validation to be submitted and approved in writing (PR14);
  13. Condition relating to the implementation of cycle store provision in accordance with details to be submitted and approved (TP6);
  14. Submission and agreement of biodiversity enhancement features including bird/bat boxes, insect/hedgehog houses etc (BE1 and GE21);
  15. Requiring submission and agreement of foul and surface water drainage including attenuation (PR16);
  16. Submission and agreement of Site Waste Management Plan (WM8);
  17. Requiring submission and agreement of electric vehicle parking and charging point(s) details (NPPF);
  18. Grampian style condition requiring removal of taxi rank;
  19. Details of offsite highways works to be submitted and approved prior to commencement, and completed prior to first occupation (BE1);
  20. Car parking management plan to be submitted and approved prior to commencement and implemented prior to first occupation (BE1);
  21. Condition restricting the use of ground floor bookmakers/betting shop.
- 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.

*Meeting ended at 7.22 p.m.*

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 12 April 2021 held remotely*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors June Roberts and Zygadlo

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, J. Eaton, G. Henry, K. Thompson and I. Dignall

Also in attendance: The Committee meeting was streamed live via You Tube

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

*Action*

*The Committee took part in a minutes silence in honour of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, following his sad passing.*

**DEV35 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**DEV36 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.

**DEV37 20/00445/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION, WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED, FOR A B2/B8 DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING ANCILLARY OFFICE SPACE/STAFF FACILITIES (USE CLASS B1) WITH ASSOCIATED LOADING BAYS, HGV/CAR PARKING, LANDSCAPING, PEDESTRIAN/CYCLE CONNECTIONS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON LAND OFF NEWSTEAD ROAD BOUNDED BY THE LONDON & WESTERN RAILWAY & DITTON BROOK, WIDNES**

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

The Committee was addressed by Mr Smith, who was the planning agent for the applicant. He described the site in question, its size and location and advised that the proposal was in accordance with all required planning policies and had received no objections following the consultation. He also introduced the developer and stated it was the intention that the site be marketed should an outline planning permission be granted.

It was noted that planning permission for a B2/B8 development had been granted on this site previously, but this had now lapsed.

The Committee agreed that outline planning permission be approved subject to the conditions listed.

RESOLVED: That outline planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:

1. Time limit – outline permission;
2. Submission of reserved matters;
3. Development parameters;
4. Floorspace restriction;
5. Removal of permitted development rights;
6. Restriction on construction hours (BE1);
7. Vehicle manoeuvring alarm details (BE1);
8. Restriction of external storage (E5);
9. Piling Risk Assessment (PR14 and CS23);
10. Dealing with unidentified contamination (PR14 and CS23);
11. No drainage system for infiltration of surface water (PR14 and CS23);
12. Sustainable Urban Drainage System (PR16 and CS23);
13. Verification of Sustainable Urban Drainage System (PR16 and CS23);
14. Implementation of Mitigation Measures set out in the Flood Risk Assessment (PR16 and CS23);
15. Construction Environmental Management Plan (BE1, GE21 and CS20);
16. Bird nesting boxes scheme (GE21 and CS20);
17. Breeding birds protection (GE21 and CS20);
18. Reasonable avoidance measures – badgers and hedgehogs (GE21 and CS20);
19. Reasonable avoidance measures – reptiles and amphibians (GE21 and CS20);

20. Pre commencement inspection of Ditton Brook (GE21 and CS20);
21. Scheme detailing the installation of green walls to provide habitat for invertebrate species and planting scheme of native species of shrub, and grassland and wildflower mixes on the grassed areas, native shrub and grassland species (GE21 and CS20);
22. Scheme for the management / eradication of Indian Balsam;
23. Lighting scheme (BE1, GE21, PR4, CS20 and CS23); and
24. Waste audit (WM8).

DEV38 20/00536/FUL - PROPOSED EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 13 UNITS TOTALLING 2545 SQ METRES TO PROVIDE E(G), B2 & B8 USES ON LAND TO THE WEST OF JUNCTION BETWEEN HARDWICK ROAD AND ASTMOOR ROAD, RUNCORN, 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.

RESOLVED: That planning permission be approved subject to the following conditions:

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Restriction of use;
4. Restriction on external storage (BE1 and E5);
5. Proposed site levels (BE1);
6. External facing materials (BE1 and BE2);
7. Implementation of landscaping scheme (BE1);
8. Retention of hedgerows (BE1);
9. Implementation of tree protection measures (GE27);
10. Breeding birds protection (GE21);
11. Reasonable avoidance measures – hedgehogs (GE21 and CS20);
12. Bat and bird nesting boxes scheme (GE21 and CS20);
13. Provision and retention of parking and servicing (BE1);
14. Cycle parking scheme (BE1);
15. Electric vehicle charging point scheme (CS19);
16. Implementation of travel plan (TP16);
17. Implementation of pedestrian link to busway (TP7 and

TP15);

18. Implementation, maintenance and management of sustainable urban drainage scheme (PR16 and CS23);

19. Foul and surface water on separate system (PR16 and CS23); and

20. Waste audit (WM8).

DEV39 21/00138/P3JPA - PRIOR NOTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE FROM OFFICE TO 19 NO. FLATS (USE CLASS C3) (PRIOR APPROVAL APPLICATION) FIRST FLOOR AND GROUND FLOOR ACCESS, FORMER CO-OP BUILDING, LUGSDALE ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 6DJ

Officers advised the Committee that the applicant had made contact to request the withdrawal of the application in order to make some amendments.

Therefore the application would be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred.

*The Chair gave his thanks to Members of the Development Control Committee and supporting Officers for their hard work and commitment to their roles, during what has been a very challenging year.*

*On behalf of the Committee, he also wished Councillors Ron Hignett, Geoff Zygadlo and June Roberts the very best of luck for the future, as they would be leaving the Council.*

*Meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.*

**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Monday, 7 June 2021 at The Bridge Suite, Halton Stadium, Widnes*

Present: Councillors S. Hill (Chair), Leck (Vice-Chair), Abbott, J. Bradshaw, Carlin, Hutchinson, A. Lowe, Philbin, Polhill, J. Stockton and Thompson

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, G. Henry, P. Peak, L. Wilson-Lagan, K. Thompson and R. Cooper

Also in attendance: 5 members of the public and one member of the press

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

		<i>Action</i>
DEV1	MINUTES  The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
DEV2	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.	
DEV3	20/00544/FUL - PROPOSED CONVERSION AND EXTENSION OF THE FORMER TYRE DEPOT FOR RE-USE AS A SELF-STORAGE FACILITY, SELF-CONTAINED OFFICES, COUNTER AND BUSINESS UNITS, INCLUDING TWO NEW MEZZANINE FLOORS WITHIN THE WAREHOUSE AT FORMER ATS BUILDING, TANHOUSE LANE, WIDNES, WA8 0RR  The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.	

It was noted that further Lead Local Flood Authority observations had been reported as per the published AB Update List and one additional condition was suggested to those in the report, added at number 16 below.

The Committee approved the application subject to the conditions listed and the addition of the above condition.

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

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Restriction on use;
4. External facing materials (BE1 and BE2);
5. Boundary treatments scheme (BE1);
6. Parking and servicing (BE1);
7. Electric vehicle charging point scheme (CS19);
8. Cycle parking (BE1 and TP6);
9. Pedestrian improvement scheme (BE1 and TP7);
10. Tree protection measures (GE27);
11. Breeding birds protection (GE21 and CS20);
12. Ground contaminations (PR14 and CS23);
13. Drainage strategy (PR16 and CS23);
14. Foul and surface water on a separate system (PR16 and CS23);
15. Waste audit (WM8); and
16. Verification of Drainage Scheme (PR16 and CS23).

DEV4 20/00607/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF 26 LIGHT FLEXIBLE INDUSTRIAL UNITS (USE CLASSES E(G) AND B8) WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING, PARKING AND ACCESS ON LAND TO NORTH OF JUNCTION OF WARRINGTON ROAD AND DOMINO COURT, RUNCORN, CHESHIRE

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

The Case Officer reported a minor amendment to the site layout to provide a footway along the northern edge of the internal access road, to improve pedestrian linages through the site. It was noted that the highway authority had been consulted and was satisfied with this improvement to the proposal. It was also noted that the internal road was intended to be private.

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



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

- a) entering into a legal or other agreement to secure a financial contribution to mitigate loss of priority habitat and greenspace;
- b) conditions relating to the following:
  1. Standard time limits condition (BE1);
  2. Plans condition listing approved drawings (BE1);
  3. External facing materials (BE1 and BE2);
  4. Submission and agreement of ground investigation report, and remediation strategy (PR14 and CS23);
  5. Submission of validation report (PR14 and CS23);
  6. Submission of access design (BE1);
  7. Parking, access and servicing provision (BE1);
  8. Electric vehicle charging points scheme (CS19);
  9. Cycle parking (TP6);
  10. Existing and proposed site and finished floor levels (BE1);
  11. Survey of United Utilities assets (BE1);
  12. Flood risk assessment and mitigation (PR16 and CS23);
  13. Submission and agreement of drainage scheme (PR16 and CS23);
  14. Foul and surface water on a separate system (PR16 and CS23);
  15. Construction Environmental Management Plan (BE1, GE21 and CS20);
  16. Lighting details in relation to wildlife protection (GE21 and CS20);
  17. Protection of nesting birds (GE21 and CS20);
  18. Provision of bird nesting boxes (GE21 and CS20);
  19. Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) for amphibians/reptiles and hedgehogs (GE21 and CS20);
  20. Scheme to deal with invasive species (GE21 and CS20); and
  21. Site waste management (WM8);

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.

DEV5 21/00038/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, LEAN-TO CANOPY AND SILO, ANCILLARY TO EXISTING OPERATIONS AT DEVENISH NUTRITION, EARLE ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 0GY

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

Members were advised that since the publication of the report a response had been received from the Contaminated Land Officer, as presented in the AB Update List.

Officers requested an amendment to the recommendation, that delegated authority be granted to the Operational Director, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair to determine the application. This was due to the applicant's request to provide further technical details with regards to contaminated land, with the aim of reducing down the information required by conditions. It was noted that Officers' would consult with the Environment Agency and the Contaminated Land Officer on such information, prior to finalising the relevant conditions.

The Committee agreed that the application be approved, subject to the above amendment and conditions listed.

RESOLVED: That

- a) authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair, to determine the application, subject to any consultation responses following receipt of the additional information submitted by the applicant; and
- b) conditions relating to the following:
  - 1. Standard time limits condition (BE1);
  - 2. Plans condition listing approved drawings (BE1);
  - 3. Submission and agreement of a construction method statement including HRA avoidance measures and timing of development (BE1, GE21 and CS20);
  - 4. External facing materials (BE1 and BE2);
  - 5. Submission and agreement of ground investigation report and remediation strategy (PR14 and CS23);

6. Submission of validation report (PR14 and CS23);
7. Foundation design (PR14 and CS23);
8. Flood risk assessment and mitigation (PR16 and CS23);
9. Submission and agreement of drainage scheme (PR16 and CS23); and
10. Foul and surface water on a separate system (PR16 and CS23).

DEV6 21/00059/FUL - PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDING AND ERECTION OF 37 NO. OVER 55 RETIREMENT LIVING APARTMENTS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS INCLUDING CAR PARKING, CYCLE PARKING, EXTERNAL BIN STORE AREA AND LANDSCAPING AT FORMER UPTON MEDICAL CENTRE AND ADJACENT LAND, BECHERS, WIDNES, WA8 4TE

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

Officers' advised that since writing the report representations had been received from all Ward Councillors, as presented in the AB Update List – responses to these concerns were provided. Further consultee responses had also been received and it was noted that the applicant had submitted a further bat survey, which MEAS had confirmed was satisfactory. Two additional conditions were also recommended to be added to the list contained in the report.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Steve Grimster, who spoke on behalf of the applicant and provided some background to and the merits of the proposal. This included *inter alia*, an introduction to the operator Housing 21 who were specialists in the field of retirement properties; details of the retirement apartments including landscaping and on-site parking; on-site support for residents; the design and quality of the development; its affordability and contribution they will make to the housing needs of an aging population in Halton.

Following Members' questions it was confirmed that the parking ratio for retirement developments was 1 space per 3 dwellings, which was applied with this proposal. It was also noted that a planning condition would restrict the use, and that a further planning application would need to be made should an alternative use be proposed.

In response to concerns raised by Members over the

scheme's proximity to Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and the potential for disruption to future residents, Officers' advised that the proposed building had been designed so that only windows serving the communal staircase and kitchen areas would be located facing the MUGA, and that there was scope for other possible mitigation measures, such as the height of the fence surrounding the MUGA or landscaping.

The Committee agreed that the application be approved, subject to the conditions listed and the addition of the two conditions referred to in the AB Update List.

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

- a) entering into a legal or other agreement relating to securing financial contributions in lieu of on-site open space provision;
- b) conditions relating to the following:
  1. Standard time limits condition (BE1);
  2. Approved plans condition (BE1 and TP17);
  3. Submission and agreement of a submission of a construction / traffic management plan, which will include wheel cleansing details, hours of construction and deliveries (BE1);
  4. Existing and proposed site levels (BE1);
  5. External facing materials (BE1 and BE2);
  6. Conditions for landscaping, planting, management and maintenance (BE1 and BE22);
  7. Breeding birds protection (GE21 and CS20);
  8. Bird nesting boxes scheme (GE21 and CS20);
  9. Electric vehicle charging points scheme (CS19);
  10. Parking, access and servicing provision (BE1, TP6, TP7, TP12, TP15 and TP17);
  11. Submission of ground investigation report, mitigation measures and validation (PR14 and CS23);
  12. Drainage strategy condition (PR16 and CS23);
  13. Foul and surface water on a separate system (PR16 and CS23);
  14. Provision of affordable housing scheme (CS13);
  15. Sustainable energy scheme (S19); and
  16. Restriction to use as over-55's retirement living apartments (BE1 and RP12);
  17. Provision of information in sales/rental packs for new occupants, informing residents of the importance of the European sites and responsible

user code and the location of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (GE21 and CS20); and  
18. The provision of bat boxes (GE21 and CS20).

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.

*Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.*

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**REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Wednesday, 10 March 2021 held remotely.*

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. Cleary, N. Wheeler and L. Woodward

Also in attendance: One Member of the public

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

REG14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2021 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

REG15 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

*Action*

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.

REG16 TAXI MATTER

Case No 727

RESOLVED: The renewal of the Single Status Drivers Licence was granted subject to a 3 month suspension starting from 10 March 2021

*Meeting ended at 7.45 p.m.*