

Minutes

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

Wednesday, 2 March 2022

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COUNCIL

At an Extra Ordinary meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 26 January 2022 in the Bridge Suite - Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Abbott, Ball, Begg, Bevan, J. Bradshaw, M. Bradshaw, Carlin, Dennett, Dourley, Dyer, Fry, Gilligan, Goodall, Harris, Hutchinson, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Ratcliffe, Rowe, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Stretch, Aimee Teeling, Angela Teeling, Thompson, Thornton, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Woolfall and Wright.

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Baker, Bramwell, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, S. Hill, V. Hill, McDermott, Nolan and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: One member of the press

	<i>Action</i>
<p>COU45 COUNCIL MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 8 December 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>COU46 TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO THE POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE</p> <p>Council was asked to consider the recommendation of the Appointments Committee for the appointment to the post of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the recommendation of the Appointments Committee be approved and Mr. Stephen Young be appointed as Chief Executive with effect from a date to be confirmed.</p>	Chief Executive
<p>COU47 TO CONSIDER ANY ANCILLARY MATTERS THAT MAY</p>	

FOLLOW FROM ITEM 4

Council was asked to consider ancillary matters that followed on from Minute No. COU46.

RESOLVED: That Ian Leivesley, Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources:

Chief Executive

- 1) be appointed Interim Chief Executive, with effect from 1st April 2022 until the date the new Chief Executive commences in post;
- 2) have the full authority of the Chief Executive with effect from 1st April 2022 until the date the new Chief Executive commences in post;
- 3) have the full authority to exercise the delegations of the Chief Executive with effect from 1st April 2022 until the date the new Chief Executive commences in post; and
- 4) receive an Honorarium, at a sum to be agreed by the Leader, with effect from 1st April 2022, until the date the new Chief Executive commences in post, to reflect the additional duties and responsibilities he is undertaking as Interim Chief Executive.

Meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 9 December 2021 in the Karalius Suite - Halton Stadium, Widnes

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Nelson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: D. Parr, I. Leivesley, M. Reaney, E. Dawson and A. Jones

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

EXB54 MINUTES

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

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

EXB55 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 2021 - 22

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the Council’s performance for the second quarter period – 1 July to 30 September 2021.

The Directorate Performance Overview Reports provided a strategic summary of the key issues arising from performance in the relevant quarter for each Directorate and were aligned to Council priorities or functional areas. This information was central to the Council’s performance arrangements and the Executive Board had a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability.

The information for each of the Council’s Directorates, including the implementation of high-risk mitigation measures, were presented in the appendices:

Action

Appendix 1 – People Directorate (Adult Social Care) and
Appendix 2 – Enterprise, Community and Resources
Directorate.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the information
contained in the reports and comments made in respect of
these.

CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIO

EXB56 TOWARDS A CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic
Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, advising
of the steps being taken to develop a Climate Change
Strategy and Action Plan for the Council and sought
approval to a number of principles to help inform and guide
that strategy.

It was reported that the United Nations and the
international scientific community had made clear the
potentially severe global human, environmental and
economic impacts that manmade climate change posed.
The recent COP 26 Summit brought the world's focus to the
challenges that Climate Change was and would bring to the
world's communities if action was not taken. It was
recognised that both the Council and the wider Halton
Community had a role to play in reducing the amount of
carbon that was released into the atmosphere.

It was noted that the Council had been addressing
this agenda for many years and had a strong track record of
reducing its own Carbon emissions, having developed its
own Carbon Management Plan in 2008. The Council also
approved its own Climate Emergency Motion in October
2019, demonstrating its commitment to reducing its own
carbon output.

The report outlined some of the successful initiatives
the Council had pursued in recent years, in order to reduce
its own carbon emissions, such as street lighting, roof top
solar biomass, the solar farm, the Public Sector
Decarbonisation Fund and various transport projects. It was
noted that there were many others which were in the
developmental stages – Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging
points, further sustainable transport initiatives and additional
investment in the Council's green spaces.

It was recognised that despite the above

achievements the Council had more to do and needed to develop a more detailed Action Plan, in order to make further progress. A number of steps had been identified in order to get to this position in 2022, these were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) acknowledges the progress made to date by the Council in reducing its own carbon emissions;
- 2) approves, in principle, that the Council sets its target to reach a carbon neutral status as 2040;
- 3) agrees that in terms of the Council's initial approach that the focus should be on buildings and vehicles as these two areas contributed the most to the Council's existing emissions, together with the continued development of the Borough's green infrastructure;
- 4) supports the approach outlined in the report in relation to developing a detailed Action Plan in 2022 to support the Council's objective of being carbon neutral by 2040;
- 5) agrees that as part of that Action Plan that a methodology is developed to ensure that carbon reduction is considered both as part of any key decisions the Council is taking itself and as part of its formal procurement processes; and
- 6) following the development of the Council's action, a broader Borough wide Strategy be developed in consultation with partners and the community.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

MINUTES ISSUED: 14 December 2021

CALL- IN: 21 December 2021 at 5.00 pm

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 21 December 2021.

Meeting ended at 1.15 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 20 January 2022 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. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson and A. Jones

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

EXB57 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

EXB58 AGENCY WORKER CONTRACT PROCUREMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval to award a contract for the supply of Agency Workers beyond 2022 for the Liverpool City Region (LCR).

Halton was the lead Authority for the review of agency provision on behalf of the LCR and had led the re-procurement of a further collaborative contract for agency worker supply to LCR authorities. In 2017 the Council accessed the ESPO Framework MSTAR2 and made a direct award to Matrix SCM for the provision of a Natural Vendor Managed Service for Agency Workers. This was due to end in February 2022 so an options appraisal was conducted, with five options considered, as outlined in the report.

Action

The Board agreed that Option 3 – *Direct Award to a single provider accessing the ESPO framework – REF: 653F Managed Services for Temporary Agency Resources (MSTAR3)*, would be the most economically advantageous based on the assessments made in relation to previous years' contract usage. Members were advised that the ESPO Framework was in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and was open for access by LCR members, via a direct award option within Lot 1(a) – Neutral Managed Service Provision, which had 8 shortlisted providers. The incumbent provider, Matrix SCM, was the preferred supplier.

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 1.9.4 and 1.10.1, the Executive Board authorise the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, to enter into a 4 year contract with the preferred supplier, who had been assessed as being the most economically advantageous and effective organisation to supply agency workers to the Council and three other authorities within the Liverpool City Region.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

Councillor Thompson declared an Other Registerable Interest in the following item, as he is a member of the Runcorn Town Deal Board.

EXB59 WAIVER OF STANDING ORDERS: APPOINTMENT OF A CONSULTANT TO DEVELOP RUNCORN TOWN DEAL PROJECT BUSINESS CASES

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which requested approval to waive procurement standing orders to award a contract to develop the Runcorn Town Deal Project Business Cases.

Halton Borough Council had secured £23.6m to deliver the Runcorn Town Investment Plan, which included seven projects. In order to draw down funding, a robust business case for each project was required against a challenging timetable set by Government for the completion of these. Members were advised that external consultancy support was required to progress the work and it was proposed that the contract for delivering this specialist support be awarded to Amion Consulting Limited.

The report provided some background information in respect of Amion and gave examples of previous Council projects where the Company had provided technical support. It was noted that Amion was knowledgeable of the

area, had already established good working relations with project sponsors and had indepth knowledge of project proposals. It was agreed that this approach offered the Council good value for money as well as an opportunity to commence this work quickly, thereby reducing the risks of business cases not being completed within the required timeframe.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Procurement Standing Orders 3.1 be waived to approve the appointment of Amion Consulting Limited to undertake Town Deal Project Business Cases until August 2022, using the same terms as the original contract. The value of the contract is estimated to be £150k; and
- 2) in accordance with the provisions of Procurement Standing Orders, 1.14.4 and 1.14.5 (ii) Procurement Standing Orders be waived on this occasion.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

EXB60 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2023 - KEY DECISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – People, which requested the approval of the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Schemes, for admission to primary and secondary schools for the 2023/24 academic year.

The Board was advised that in October 2021, the Local Authority issued a statutorily required consultation on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes for the September 2023 intake for primary and secondary schools (attached as appendices 1 and 2 respectively). The primary scheme also included the proposed oversubscription criteria for community and voluntary controlled schools for whom the Local Authority was the admission authority.

The report provided details of the consultation, which ran from 1 October 2021 and 12 November 2021; no responses to the consultation were received. Additionally, no amendments to the oversubscription criteria were suggested, as these worked well and met the requirements of the Department for Education's School Admissions Code.

It was noted that all Halton's secondary schools were

either academies, free schools or voluntary aided and were therefore their own admission authorities, with responsibility for consulting and determining their own admissions criteria and their own Published Admission Number (PAN).

Reason(s) for Decision

The decision was statutorily required.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

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

Implementation Date

The Policy and co-ordinated schemes would apply for the September 2023 academic intake.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the School Admissions Policy, Admission Arrangements and Co-ordinated Schemes, for admission to primary and secondary schools for the 2023/24 academic year.

Strategic Director
- People

EXB61 CAPITAL PROGRAMME – 2022/23 - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which provided a summary of the capital funding received by the Council from central Government to support Schools Capital Programmes for 2022/23.

The Board was advised that the Department for Education (DfE) had not announced the Capital Grant Allocation for 2022/23 however, given the timescales for some of the proposed capital projects, there was a requirement to present this report, so it was compiled using the 2021/22 allocation, which was £903,847.

The report set out details of the indicative funding available to support capital projects across the schools estate and also explained how the School Condition Allocation would be utilised. Members discussed the proposals to create additional teaching space at Cavendish School and the remodelling of two junior classrooms at Fairfield Primary School, details of which were presented in paragraphs 5 and 6 respectively.

Reason(s) for Decision

To deliver and implement the Capital Programmes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

Capital Programmes for 2021/22 would be implemented with effect from 1 April 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

Strategic Director
- People

- 1) notes the position regarding capital funding from the DfE for 2022/23;
- 2) approves the proposals to be funded from the School Condition Capital Allocation;
- 3) agrees that the capital allocations are put forward for inclusion in the budget report to full Council;
- 4) approves the proposal to create additional teaching space at Cavendish School; and
- 5) approves the proposal to remodel two junior classrooms to create more suitable teaching spaces at Fairfield Primary School.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

EXB62 HALTON SELF ADVOCACY SERVICE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which sought approval of a waiver of parts 2 and 3 of Procurement Standing Orders, in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4, to make a Direct Award to Halton Speak Out for the provision of a Self-Advocacy Service.

Halton Speak Out, a registered Charity, currently worked in the Borough with adults and young people with learning disabilities, to deliver person centred planning, self-advocacy support and undertake consultation.

It was noted that the current contract had been extended on a year by year basis since March 2017. Members were presented with a proposal to award a contract for 5 years from April 2022 to March 2027. This

would give the provider financial stability and provide an opportunity for a new service delivery model to be firmly embedded. Details of the requirement for a new service delivery model was outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) approves a direct award to Halton Speak Out for the provision of a Self-Advocacy Service, in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4; and
- 2) notes the change in service delivery model.

Strategic Director
- People

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB63 AUTHORISATION FOR THE USE OF THE SCAPE FRAMEWORK FOR PROCUREMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUNCORN TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN – HIGH STREET CONNECTIVITY SCHEME

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought authorisation for the use of the SCAPE Framework for procurement and development of the Runcorn Town Investment Plan – High Street Connectivity Scheme.

The report provided Members with a summary of the development of the High Street Connectivity project in support of the Runcorn Town Investment Plan. It discussed two schemes in particular – a replacement footbridge crossing the Bridgewater Canal by the Brindley Theatre; and the improvement of a section of High Street to make it more pedestrian and cycling friendly. Approval was sought to utilise the SCAPE Framework for the development of these schemes. A diagram of the SCAPE process was appended to the report for information.

An amendment to recommendation (3) was made to include consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board approve

- 1) the use of the SCAPE Framework for development of the replacement footbridge scheme to Project Order stage;
- 2) the use of the SCAPE Framework for development of the High Street scheme to Project Order stage; and

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

- 3) the delegation of authority to the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal, to authorise the passing of the SCAPE gateways prior to this stage.

MINUTES ISSUED: 25 January 2022

CALL- IN: 1 February 2022 at 5.00 pm

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 1 February 2022.

Meeting ended at 2.15 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 17 February 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Also in attendance: 20 members of the public, one member of the press and Councillors C. and N. Plumpton Walsh

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EXB64 MINUTES</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> <p>CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO</p> <p>EXB65 DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC BUSINESS RATE RELIEF</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented two applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The report outlined details of the applications from NMO Spectrum UK and the Cathie Stankevitch Foundation, in respect of their premises. Appended to the report was the potential annual cost to the Council of granting discretionary rate relief to each organisation.</p>	

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the request for 15% discretionary rate relief from NMO Spectrum UK in respect of premises at D1, 1st Floor Centre Point, Victoria Square, Widnes, from 1 January 2022, be approved; and
- 2) the request for 15% discretionary rate relief from the Cathie Stankevitch Foundation in respect of premises at Unit 2, Ditton Court, Widnes, from 17 June 2021, be approved.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB66 COVID ADDITIONAL BUSINESS RATE RELIEF FUND
2021/22

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which requested approval for a discretionary business rate scheme for the distribution of Government financial support for businesses affected by the Covid pandemic, but were ineligible for existing support linked to business rates.

Members were advised that on 15 December 2021 Government announced that they would provide additional relief to businesses that did not qualify for any previous reliefs announced as part of the response to Covid-19. The new Covid-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) was £1.5 billion and the amount allocated to Halton was £3,087,468. The CARF support would be provided to businesses through rate relief to their 2021/22 business rate accounts, rather than via a grant payment.

Appended to the report was the *Covid Additional Relief Fund Policy*, which outlined the Scheme's scope and eligibility, application process and how award amounts would be calculated.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Discretionary Covid Business Rate Additional Relief Policy included at Appendix A be approved; and
- 2) approval be given to the Operational Director – Finance, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, to amend the Covid Business Rate Additional Relief Policy, to ensure the Council distributes the full amount of Government grant funding allocated for the Scheme.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB67 REVENUE SPENDING AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which reported the Council's overall revenue net spending position as at 31 December 2021 together with a forecast outturn position; and reported the financial impact of Covid-19 which included a summary of Government funding made available to the Council to date.

A summary of spending against the operational revenue budget up to 31 December 2021 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 £2.998m. It was noted that this represented a significantly improved position on the forecast provided in quarter 2, where the forecast outturn was an overspend of up to £5.843m; the report outlined the reasons for the improved position. The revisions to the Capital Programme were listed in the report and the revised Capital Programme was attached at Appendix 3.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) all spending continues to be limited to only absolutely essential items;
- 2) Strategic Directors take urgent action to identify areas where spending could be reduced or suspended for the remainder of the current financial year; and
- 3) Council be requested to approve the revisions to the Capital Programme as set out in paragraph 3.18.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB68 BUDGET 2022/23

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director, Finance, which outlined a recommendation to Council in respect of the Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax for 2022/23.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was approved at the Executive Board meeting on 18 November 2021. It was reported that there were funding gaps of around £12.0m in 2022/23, £4.2m in 2023/24 and £2.6m in 2024/25. 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 2022/23 totalled £113.891m; the departmental analysis of this was shown in Appendix C and the major reasons for change from the current budget were shown in Appendix D. Further to the £1.783m savings approved by Council on 8 December 2021, Appendix B presented further proposed budget savings for 2022/23 of £0.504m.

The Board was advised the final Local Government Finance Settlement figures were awaited, along with confirmation of some 2022/23 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, Parish precepts, Police, Fire and Liverpool City Region Mayor precepts, the Capital Programme, Prudential Code and School Budgets.

It was noted that Members' had received copies of letters from Derek Twigg MP and Mike Amesbury MP, opposing the closure of Runcorn Swimming Pool, as part of the budget savings for 2022/23. Members of the public had also made their objections known to the proposed closure of the pool. Following the Board's consideration of the matter the Leader proposed an amendment to the recommendation. This was seconded and agreed by the Board.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be recommended to adopt the resolution set out in Appendix A, which includes setting the budget at £113.891m, the Council Tax requirement of

Operational
Director - Finance

£57.174m (before Parish, Police, Fire and LCR Combined Authority precepts) and the Band D council Tax for Halton of £1,595.67;

- 2) the recommendations in the report relating to the setting of the 2022/23 budget, set out in Appendix B and Capital Programme set out in Appendix F, be supported and recommended to Full Council for approval, with the exception of the proposal contained therein in relation to the closure of Runcorn Swimming Pool;
- 3) the proposal to close Runcorn Swimming Pool be put on hold for a period, no longer than six months, to allow time to see if an alternative delivery model can be identified by giving the opportunity for a third party to come forward with a costed and sustainable business plan to take over the running of the baths. That opportunity would be widely advertised to attract potential interest;
- 4) any proposal must cover both the capital and revenue costs of running the pool in the future;
- 5) if no such proposal is submitted that meets the above criteria within that six month period then the closure of the pool would proceed at that point; and
- 6) the subsequent gap this causes in the budget currently recommended by officers be met by increasing the amount of reserves and balances being utilised to set a legal budget for 2022/23.

EXB69 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT
2022-23

The Board received the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, (TMSS) which incorporated the Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Strategy for 2022/23.

The TMSS was appended to the report and detailed the expected activities of the treasury function in the forthcoming financial year (2022/23). 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 (AIS), 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 production 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

EXB70 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2022-23

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Finance, on the Council's Capital Strategy for 2022/23.

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 Strategy Statement, included on the same agenda; this detailed the expected activities of the treasury management function and incorporated the Annual Investment Strategy (AIS) and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy for 2022/23. 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 2022/23 Capital Strategy, as presented in the Appendix attached to the report.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB71 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2022-23

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which set out the proposed Calendar of Meetings for the 2022/23 Municipal Year, which was appended to the report for information.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the Calendar of meetings for the 2022/23 Municipal Year, as appended to the report.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

EXB72 HALTON SUPPORT AT HOME SERVICE

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – People, which sought a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 iv of Part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders, to grant a direct award for the delivery of the ‘Halton Support at Home Service’, to be delivered by the British Red Cross, from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025.

Members were advised that the British Red Cross were currently commissioned to provide a Support at Home Service until 31 March 2022, which supported people for a short period of time during the difficult transition from hospital to home, as well as providing support in the community to prevent hospital admission. The service was an important part of the discharge management process, helping to alleviate the pressure on hospital beds as well as offering practical support and emotional support to people when they were at their most vulnerable. A list of services which may be provided to individuals was provided in the report.

The report described the rationale behind the waiver request and the costs involved over the duration of the contract.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

- 1) note the contents of the report; and
- 2) agree to the waiver of Part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders, in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 iv, and approve a direct award to British Red Cross for the provision of a Halton Support at Home Service from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025.

Director of Adult
Social Services

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL, HEALTH AND WELLBEING AND CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIOS

EXB73 DECARBONISING EXISTING HOMES IN HALTON

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which set out the approach for the local delivery of a number of UK Government funding and finance initiatives, to improve the energy efficiency and performance of existing residential properties.

It was reported that based on the evidence of the scale of the challenge and opportunity in Halton, a strategic approach was required to guide the implementation of the programme. This would be achieved through partnership working and would prioritise the least energy efficient homes and those households experiencing or at risk of fuel poverty.

The report described in detail the initiatives and funding schemes available in relation to reducing carbon emissions from UK homes, under the following headings:

- UK Government policy and funding;
- Halton and Liverpool City Region perspective;
- Energy Company Obligation;
- Challenges and opportunities in Halton;
- Delivery in Halton; and
- Strategic approach to delivery.

It was noted that although that these schemes and initiatives dealt with improving the energy performance of existing homes in Halton, the Council were also committed and developing a strategy to improve the energy efficiency of new build housing. This would outline opportunities to accelerate delivery of Net Zero homes within the Borough ahead of UK Government targets and introduction of new Future Homes Standards.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) recognised the progress being made to support the decarbonisation of homes in Halton;
- 2) approves the strategic approach to delivery of decarbonising homes in Halton, as outlined in paragraph 3.26, to guide Council activity;
- 3) provides delegated authority to the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, in

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, to enter the Council into collaboration agreements with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, to deliver housing energy retrofit grant schemes;

- 4) provides delegated authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing and Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, to approve future revisions to ECO Flex criteria for Halton;
- 5) agrees that The Energy Projects Plus are engaged via the existing Service Level Agreement to provide ongoing advice and support to the Council to target delivery of energy retrofit grant schemes and subject to future review; and
- 6) agrees that future targets and monitoring in relation to decarbonising existing homes forms part of the Halton Climate Change Action Plan and Boroughwide Carbon Reduction Strategy.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB74 PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR STREET LIGHTING ENERGY PROCUREMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval for the Council to utilise Dukefield Energy (formerly Utilities Procurement Group UPG), as specialist energy advisor for the Council's un-metered electricity supply contract for street lighting, utilising the 'National Public Sector Energy Framework' in accordance with Procurement Standing Order 1.4.1 and to record that the anticipated expenditure was likely to be over £1m per annum.

The report provided some information in respect of Dukefield, who were energy procurement specialists to the public sector. They had procured energy for the Council since 2002; the companies awarded since then were listed, with SEE Energy being the current provider until 31 March 2022. Approval was sought for Dukefield to invite tenders on the Council's behalf for the supply of energy from April 2022 onwards, for a period of between 12 and 36 months, as recommended.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board endorse the use of the 'National Public Sector Energy Framework' for the purchase of un-metered energy in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.4.1;
- 2) it be recorded that the expenditure was anticipated to be in excess of £1m per annum; and
- 3) Dukefield Energy continue to be used to manage the Council's street lighting energy provision.

Strategic Director
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Resources

CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIO

EXB75 HALTON SMART MICRO GRID

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented proposals for the development of a Smart Micro Grid.

Further to the completion of a 1 MW Solar Farm on the former St Michael's Golf Course, further feasibility work had been undertaken to see if there was scope to extend the Solar Farm and create a Micro Grid connecting the Municipal Building, Lowerhouse Lane Depot and the new Leisure Centre in Moor Lane.

Members were presented with the business case, which included outline budget estimates for the scheme. The report described how this proposal would benefit the Council with its ambitions to decarbonise Council buildings electricity, and heating and transport, via the culmination of several technologies.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board approves a funding allocation of £250,000 to allow a technical consultant to be appointed to support the Project, including seeking a planning permission and to develop the required documentation to allow tenders to be invited for a Design, Build and Maintenance contract.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB76 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether members of the press and public should be

excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following 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.

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

With prior permission from the Leader, Councillors Carol and Norman Plumpton Walsh remained to observe the following item.

EXB77 ACQUISITION OF ST PAUL'S MEWS, RUNCORN

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, requesting approval to the acquisition of the freehold property of 1-4 St Pauls Mews, Runcorn.

Supporting information and financial implications in respect of the proposal were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) approves the acquisition and of the freehold interest in 1-4 St Pauls Mews, Runcorn, as reported in paragraph 3.4;

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

- 2) authorises the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property, to arrange for all required documentation for the transactions to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director for Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services; and
- 3) requests that full Council amend the Capital Programme to accommodate this purchase.

MINUTES ISSUED: 22 February 2022

CALL- IN: 1 March 2022 at 5.00 pm

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 1 March 2022.

Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 19 January 2022 at Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wright (Chair), J. Lowe, T. McInerney, Woolfall and S. Constable, S. Patel, D. Parr, D. Nolan, L. Thompson, P. Jones, W. Longshaw, D. Merrill, I. Onyia, S. Semoff, G. Ferguson, M. Vasic and S. Wallace-Bonner.

Apologies for Absence: C. Lyons, A. Marr and D. Wilson.

Absence declared on Council business: None

Also in attendance: None

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

Action

HWB18 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2021 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

HWB19 PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

The Board received an update on the most recent Covid-19 coronavirus figures for Halton, providing a comparison with the previous January 2021 and how the Halton Outbreak Support Team were collaborating with others to successfully identify and manage local outbreaks. The presentation also outlined the most recent information on testing and vaccination for people in Halton, the vaccination figures for those staff employed at local hospitals and for those employed within Halton Social Services.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the presentation.

HWB20 VERBAL UPDATE - HALTON HEALTHWATCH DENTAL HEALTH PROJECT - KATH PARKER

The Board received an update from Kath Parker, on

behalf of Halton Healthwatch, regarding the recent Dental Health Project. There had been 176 responses to the Dental Health survey and the Board noted the feedback received.

It was noted that there had been a rise in the number of calls from parents who could not access a dentist in Halton for children and concern was expressed at the long term impact this would have. There was also concern that the information available online regarding dentists in Halton appeared to need updating.

Arising from the discussion, it was recognised that there was national problem with the availability of NHS dentists and the service needed investment and improvement.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

HWB21 PRESENTATION ON DENTAL SERVICES IN HALTON

This item was deferred until a future meeting. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to NHS England and NHS Improvement North West (Cheshire and Merseyside) to express the Board's disappointment that a representative did not attend this meeting and also to request that they attend the next Board meeting.

Director of Public Health

HWB22 VACCINATIONS IN CARE HOMES

The Board considered a report of the Director of Social Services, which provided details of the Government legislation published on the need to vaccinate people working or deployed in care homes. As a result of the regulations those staff who were not fully vaccinated or refused to be vaccinated who work within care homes, or were required to visit care homes as part of their role, cannot continue to be employed in that role.

The report outlined to the Board the total percentage number of staff within the Independent Sector and at Council care homes who were either fully vaccinated, received the booster vaccination and the number of those who had either refused the vaccine or were exempt.

Whilst the legislation was expected to reduce the health risk to care home residents and staff, the restrictions on staff redeployment introduced a number of consequential risks which threatened the operation of local health and care systems. The report considered these risk and the immediate actions needed to prepare for reductions that

were expected to arise as a result of the legislation.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the report.

HWB23 UPDATE ON ONE HALTON PLACED BASED PARTNERSHIP

The Board considered a report which provided an update on the One Halton Place Based Partnership development with Cheshire Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) context.

At the previous meeting held in October 2021, the Board had received a comprehensive report which set out the requirements for the formation of the Integrated Care Systems regionally and an Integrated Care Partnership at Place Level. To allow sufficient time for the remaining parliamentary stages, a new target date of 1 July 2022 had been agreed for new statutory arrangements to take effect and ICBs to be legally and operationally established.

It was noted that the ICB (Cheshire and Merseyside), was progressing towards:

- developing a constitution and establish Board memberships;
- working with the nine places within the footprint to disband the CCGs and preparing staff and functions to transfer to the ICB under the new arrangements; and
- recruiting Senior Executive roles.

Whilst prior to One Halton becoming the statutory body for health and care arrangements:

- a self-assessment had been carried out in October 2021 and the outcomes from this were outlined in the report;
- staff appointments had begun to be made to establish a Programme Management Office; and
- an overarching Organisational Development Plan was being developed and in the coming months there would be two LGA facilitated workshops, to which Health and Wellbeing Board Members would be invited.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HWB24 BETTER CARE FUND (BCF) 2020/22 - PLAN AND BCF PLANNING TEMPLATE FOR 2021/22

The Board considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Services, which provided an update on the Better Care Fund Plan (BCFP) 2020/21 and Planning Template for 2021/22, for retrospective approval following its submission in mid-November and successful regional assurance.

The Halton BCFP for 2020/21 was attached as Appendix 1 and set out:

- Engagement with stakeholders;
- Governance arrangements including the new ways of working for One Halton;
- The approach to integration;
- Supporting discharge from hospital;
- Disabled facilities grant and wider services; and
- Equality and health inequalities.

In addition, the BCF planning template for 2021/22 was included in Appendix 2 and encompassed an Expenditure Plan, planned metrics and confirmation of planning requirements.

RESOLVED: That the BCF Plan for 2021 and Planning Template for 2021/22 be approved.

Director of Adult Social Services

HWB25 THE PROCUREMENT OF A NEW INTEGRATED SPECIALIST ADULT COMMUNITY SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE FOR HALTON

The Board received a report of the Director of Public Health, which provided an update on the decision to award a contract to the provider who, through an open procurement exercise had been assessed as being the most economically advantageous and effective organisation to deliver an Integrated Specialist Adult Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton. The successful application was from CGL (Change, Grow, Live) and the Board received a brief update on performance to date.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the outcome of the formal open procurement exercise for the provision of an Integrated Specialist Adult Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton and the award of a contract to CGL be noted; and
- 2) the brief update on the current service performance

be noted.

HWB26 MARMOT WORKSHOP REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which provided an update on the recent Marmot Workshop. The Marmot national team had held a workshop across the nine local areas in Merseyside and Cheshire to identify key areas for combined action to tackle inequalities across local areas and to ensure local perspectives were incorporated into the national review report due to be published in 2022. The Halton workshop was held on 25 November 2021.

It was reported that feedback from the workshop had been themed and linked to work on inequalities and the One Halton Plan, as well as fed into the regional Marmot Community Programme. Two themes had dominated the discussions, Children and Families and the role of employment, whilst sub themes were identified that overlapped or linked to one or both of these themes including poverty, the role of transport, housing, physical activity and mental health. Three other themes identified included alcohol and substance misuse, the role of aspiration and resilience as well as a need to focus on the needs of older adults.

As part of the next steps the Marmot Team would produce a set of indicators and a report which pulled together the outcomes of the workshops across the nine places as well as help shape a regional Marmot Community programme and national review. Whilst in Halton the thematic areas would feed into the One Halton Strategy Transformation Group.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Meeting ended at 3.40 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, 24 January 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Logan (Chair), Abbott, Goodall, Jones, Loftus, Ratcliffe and Aimee Teeling

Apologies for Absence: Councillors C. Plumpton Walsh, Bramwell and V. Hill

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Vasic, A. Jones, J. Farrell and M. West

Also in attendance: T. Dooks – Youth Justice Service

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

Action

CYP22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CYP23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

CYP24 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

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

CYP25 OFSTED FOCUSED VISIT 13TH AND 14TH NOVEMBER 2021

The Board received a presentation from the Strategic Director – People, on the Ofsted focused visit which took place in October 2021 and the subsequent actions taken in response to their findings.

Halton received the focused visit to its Children's

Services Department on 13 and 14 October and inspectors looked at the arrangements for children in need, including those who were subject to a child protection plan. This visit was carried out in line with the Inspection of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) Framework, however the delivery model was adapted to reflect the Covid-19 context. Arrangements were made to deliver the visit effectively whilst working within national and local guidelines for responding to Covid-19.

The Board was advised that the Ofsted findings were published in a letter on 17 November 2021, and gave two Areas for Priority Action (APA's) as well as findings relating to Legal Access Meetings, Public Law Outline, Private Fostering and Homelessness.

The response to the findings in relation to the APA's were outlined to the Board, which included the establishment of a Children in Need Panel and an Improvement Board, the latter to oversee the implementation of the Improvement Plan being put in place, a draft of which had already been submitted to Ofsted.

It was noted that the Improvement Board would be presented with areas of progress; areas of concern; and areas of action. Actions in the Plan would be delivered operationally through the Children and Young People Service Improvement Meeting (CYPSIM).

Following the presentation, Members discussed with officers the following issues/areas:

- The shortage of social workers in Halton and in neighbouring authorities;
- What could be done to attract more social workers and retain the ones we have;
- The competitive nature of the profession, in that other local authorities had the same recruitment and retention difficulties;
- Better marketing and improving the Halton work offer for social workers and making Halton more attractive to potential staff;
- High caseloads of work and lack of skilled clerical support;
- Improving terms and conditions as well as pay;
- The increasing demand on the service;
- Staff evaluations, training and support; and
- Additional funding.

The Board conveyed their thanks and appreciation to

social workers and other staff employed in these services. It was agreed that the completed Improvement Plan would be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the steps that have been taken and the role of the Improvement Board; and
- 2) agrees with the future reporting arrangements to this Board.

Strategic Director
- People

CYP26 HMI INSPECTORATE OF PROBATION REPORT OF CHESHIRE YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE

The Board considered a report which shared the findings of an inspection of the Cheshire Youth Justice Service (CYJS), led by HM Inspectorate of Probation.

Members were advised that the CYJS provided the statutory services for children and young people who were at risk of offending or had committed offences. CYJS is a partnership of Halton, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West Local Authorities (LA); Cheshire Police; Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner; the respective clinical commissioning groups in each LA area; HM Court and Tribunal Service (HMCTS); and the National Probation Service.

The CYJS was subjected to a joint inspection led by HM Probation Inspectorate and supported by Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire Services in July 2021.

Members received the findings of the inspection, the full report was published in December 2021; this was appended to the report. In summary, the overall judgement was that CYJS was good, with three outstanding areas and one area for improvement. An action plan to address four recommendations that were made would be approved by the Youth Justice Management Board in December, who would monitor its progress.

Members' welcomed the inspection report, the good working practice around keeping people safe and joint working with social workers. It was noted that to date, Cheshire YJS had the highest overall rating score nationally for a joint inspection.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Board thanks the staff, partners, children and young people and their families; and volunteers for their contribution.

CYP27 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MONITORING AND BROKERING GRANT CONSULTATION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which shared a summary of the Department for Education (DfE) consultation regarding the DfE proposed changes to the Local Authority School Improvement Monitoring and Brokering Grant (SIMB) funding, and the role of the Local Authority in relation to School Improvement.

The DfE consultation *Reforming how Local Authorities' School Improvement Functions are Funded*, took place between 29 October and 26 November 2021. The areas of the consultation and its rationale were outlined in the report. The report also described the potential impact of this consultation paper on schools and wider LA services across the region.

The plan was to reduce the school improvement monitoring and brokering grant by 50% from 1 April 2022 and then fully remove the funding from 1 April 2023; the LA had opposed this. Members discussed the current grant funding that was available to Halton and the risks that a reduction in funding would pose, especially as Halton had a very high proportion of maintained schools.

It was reported that the outcome from the responses and plans following consultation moving forwards, were due to be published either late December 2021 or early in the New Year 2022. To date the feedback was still being analysed but it was expected soon.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the key risks and issues which may arise from this consultation if plans proposed do evolve; and
- 2) will consider future proposals to new ways of working with schools if this grant was reduced and/or fully removed.

Strategic Director
- People

CYP28 SEND STRATEGY 2021-25

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, advising them of the recently approved local area SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Strategy for 2021-25; this was appended to the report.

It was reported that the SEND Code of Practice 2014 required statutory bodies in local areas to work together to meet the education, health and care needs of children and young people with SEND. The Halton SEND Strategy was a joint strategy under the governance of the Halton Health and Wellbeing Board and the Children’s Trust, so was not the sole responsibility of Halton Borough Council to deliver. The Strategy had been co-produced in partnership with other statutory bodies from education and health, including schools and the CCG, as well as parent/carers and young peoples’ representatives.

One Member challenged the ‘inclusive’ priority contained within the Strategy for children with EHCP’s, stating that not all children coped in mainstream education. In response, it was commented that mainstream education would only be pursued for a child with an EHCP where appropriate. All placements were discussed at length before decided upon and periods of transition were taken into consideration, to ensure the needs of the child were met.

It was noted that the SEND Strategic Partnership had the overall responsibility for improving the outcomes, life chances, services and provision in relation to special educational needs and disabilities. They owned and oversaw the area’s SEND strategy, to ensure that the outcomes were improving and objectives from the Strategy were being met.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report and presentation be received and comments made noted; and
- 2) annual progress updates on the delivery of the SEND Strategy be presented to the Board, to ensure that leaders remained informed and able to enquire and intervene as deemed necessary.

Operational
Director -
Education, Inclusion and
Provision

CYP29 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS - QUARTER 2 2021/22

The Board received the Performance Management reports for quarter 2 of 2021-22 (1 July 2021 to 30 September 2021).

The key priorities for development or improvement in 2021-22 were agreed by Members and included in the Local Authority's Business Plan, for the various functional areas reported to the Board as follows:

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

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

It was noted that the production of these reports was interrupted by a focussed Ofsted inspection causing a delay, so they could not be presented as planned at the last meeting in November. They were emailed to Members on 8 December 2021 after they were completed.

RESOLVED: That the quarter 2 Performance Management reports be received.

Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.

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

At a meeting of the Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 31 January 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Jones (Chair), E. Cargill (Vice-Chair), Begg, Logan, Stretch and Aimee Teeling

Apologies for Absence: Councillor M. Bradshaw, S. Hill, C. Plumpton Walsh and Whitley

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: W. Rourke, A. Jones, S. Saunders, P. Wright, S. Wilson and J. Griffiths

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>ELS17 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 20 September 2021, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>ELS18 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.</p>	
<p>ELS19 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes relating to the Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Portfolio, that were considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of this Board, were attached at appendix 1 for information.</p>	
<p>ELS20 BOROUGH OF CULTURE UPDATE</p> <p>The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an interim review of the Borough of Culture Project; this was supported by a presentation.</p>	

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

Members were advised that the Borough of Culture initiative was non-competitive and rotated around the Boroughs of the LCR. Its overall aim was to stimulate talent, aspiration and promote creativity and economic growth through cultural engagement and activity across the City Region. Each borough was required to weave five key elements into their creative programme – these were presented in the report.

Halton's Borough of Culture year had been delivered under the banner '*Celebrate Halton*' – celebrating Halton's past, present and future, through a diverse programme of activity.

The report and presentation gave details of the Celebrate Halton Programme which included 500 activities 200 artistic/creative events, and described its outputs and outcomes so far. It was announced that the *Celebrating Halton's Heritage* public programme had started this month, focussing on 'trades' in Halton from the 1500's to the present day, and would continue for another 6 months.

Members welcomed the update and positive responses and participation from residents and all partners across the Borough, such as the Catalyst and Norton Priory Museums and many more. Some Members had attended events themselves and agreed that despite the challenges faced by Covid, the events were well attended, successful and enjoyable for the community. The Board also recognised the efforts from staff and volunteers who contributed to the success of the Borough of Culture so far, and it was hoped that events that were cancelled due to the pandemic, would be rescheduled at some time in the future.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments made be noted.

ELS21 HALTON'S WELCOME BACK PROGRAMME

The Board received a presentation and update on the *Welcome Back Programme* and how it had been delivered in Halton.

The Board was advised that the Welcome Back Programme was funding received by Councils to build on the Reopening High Streets Safety Fund (RHSSF) in 2020; Halton's allocation of this was £114,260 and an allocation of £179,260 was made for the Welcome Back Fund (WBF), giving a total budget for Halton of £293,520 to deliver the project.

Members heard how this funding had been used, in line with the grant criteria, to meet various activity strands, such as developing an action plan for the safe reopening of local economies; this and other activity strands were outlined in the report and elaborated on in the presentation.

Further to Members questions, the following information was provided:

- No additional staff were recruited to lead the delivery of the project; which was primarily delivered using existing resources. However a part time existing HBC officer was offered an additional one day per week for 7 months to support the project liaising between partners and HBC Officers;
- Town Centres' were seeing an increase in footfall more recently;
- The project was originally due to end in March 2021 but it was extended to March 2022; and
- There were no further plans to extend the Programme beyond this date but businesses would still have the support of the Council.

The Board recognised the enormity of the task for staff of delivering the Programme and passed on thanks to the Team involved in its success.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the presentation and action points.

ELS22 APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT BY BE MORE UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, that provided an overview on the Apprenticeship Support by the Be More contract, managed by Halton Borough Council on behalf of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) Skills and Apprenticeship Hub (SAH).

Members were advised that the Apprenticeship Support (AS) by the Be More Team was a delivery partner, managed by Halton's Employment, Learning and Skills

Division. The service provided free information, advice and guidance (IAG) about apprenticeships to schools, young people, parents and residents. The contract was currently under a Service Level Agreement from November 2019 to September 2022.

The report discussed the current service delivery outputs in relation to the delivery of promotional events on apprenticeships and one to one support, and advice and guidance interventions provided to residents. It also advised on how the IAG sessions were moved to virtual platforms during the Covid-19 pandemic, to enable the continuation of the service. Additionally, the report outlined forthcoming events and projects planned this year and the progress made in updating the Be More portal. It was hoped that the portal would be relaunched in May 2022.

The Chair advised that unfortunately the accompanying presentation to this report had to be deferred, but would be rescheduled on a future agenda with an update on the Service.

Members agreed that the continuation of funding for Halton for the Apprenticeship Support by the Be More Team was greatly needed in order to make a success of the apprenticeship service and supported continued lobbying for this.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

ELS23 LIBRARY SERVICE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which gave an update on the Library Service.

It was reported during the pandemic all library buildings were closed to the public and staff from 23 March 2020 and activities were moved to digital platforms. Following this an intensive social media campaign was used to engage audiences and highlight digital resources to new and existing customers – there was a 350% increase in new members during the first lockdown. The *Home Library Service* and *Choose and Collect Service* had both proved to be valuable and popular with residents during the pandemic, especially for those who were isolated, vulnerable or shielding.

Since July 2020 Halton's libraries were reopened to the public as restrictions were lessening, and activities were

added in line with Government guidance. An update was provided on the activities within the Library Service since November 2021. Members discussed the challenges and constraints of delivering the Service as it recovered from the impacts of the pandemic. They also noted the positive response from the public and that the library service was still greatly valued in the community. It was also noted that schools had restarted their visits.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair requested that their thanks be conveyed to the Library staff.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

ELS24 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS UPDATE

The Board received a report updating them on a number of employment and skills developments in the Liverpool City Region (LCR).

These in included:

- The Adult Education Budget (AEB) Procurement;
- LCR Skills Show and Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony;
- The Apprenticeship Support by Be More Team; and
- The LCR Insights Tool.

Arising from the update, Members discussed:

- The diverse demographic in Halton considering its small size and the problems people had in more deprived wards in accessing these services because they did not have a car for example;
- Citizens' Advice Bureau and the 'Big Local' were named as organisations who may be able to provide some funds to help people with transport;
- Housing Associations often support residents to access employment and training support;
- Previous outreach events in the community and schools;
- The targeting of schools in promoting the services in future;
- The encouragement of local people to register with local recruitment agencies as opposed to those out of Borough;
- The cessation of the funding for the Apprenticeship Support by the Be More Team in September 2022 and the need for this to be continued; and

- The rescheduled ‘Skills Show’ now moved to 1 and 2 March 2022 – Members were welcome to attend this.

One Member requested data on the gender proportions that applied for different types of apprenticeships, in particular engineering. This information was not at hand but could be obtained from the LCR database, so would be sent following the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the information and comments made be noted.

Operational Director Economy, Enterprise & Property -

ELS25 NEW LEISURE SERVICE DIVISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided an update on the creation of a new Leisure Services Division as part of a restructure that had taken place within the Community and Environment Department.

Members were advised that following the appointment of a new Operational Director, a review was undertaken of the existing structure of the Department. It was considered that the existing structure no longer fitted the way in which the Council organised its portfolios and there were anomalies in terms of reporting.

The Community and Environment Department is one of the largest in the Council and due to this, the restructure would need to be done in phases. Phase one was completed and the new structure for Community and Environment Department was presented in the report, showing the new Leisure Service Division within this. The Leisure Services Division consisted of: Brindley Theatre and Events; Community Centres; Leisure Centres and Sports Development Team; and Libraries.

It was noted that there would be future phases of restructure within this Community and Environment Department in the coming months and the Board would be updated accordingly.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Operational Director Community & Environment -

ELS26 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS - QUARTER 2 OF 2021/22

The Board received the Performance Management reports for Quarter 2 of 2021-22 (1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021) and were requested to consider and raise any

questions or points of clarification in respect of these.

The key priorities for development of improvement in 2021-22 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.

It was noted that due to the cancellation of the November Board meeting, these reports were emailed to Members on 1 November 2021. As the quarter 3 reports would be ready soon, these would be sent in advance of the next Board meeting in June.

RESOLVED: That the second quarter Performance Management reports be received.

Meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.

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HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Health Policy and Performance Board held on Tuesday, 23 November 2021 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Ball, D. Cargill, Dyer, Goodall, Ratcliffe and J. Stockton (In the Chair)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors P. Lloyd Jones and Baker

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Wallace-Bonner, A. Jones, D. Nolan, L Wilson, I. Onyia and S. Johnson Griffiths

Also in attendance: L. Thompson – NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group

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

Action

Due to apologies submitted by the Chair and the Vice-Chair, a motion was made for Councillor J. Stockton to take the role for the meeting. This was seconded and agreed by the Board.

HEA22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 28 September and 12 October having been circulated, were signed as a correct record.

HEA23 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

HEA24 HEALTH AND WELLBEING MINUTES

The minutes from the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 7 July 2021 were attached for the information of the Board.

HEA25 THE STANDARDS FOR EMPLOYERS OF SOCIAL WORKERS AND THE SOCIAL WORK HEALTH CHECK

The Board received a report of the Director of Adult Social Services, which provided information on work that

had taken place within Adult Social Care (ASC) in relation to the *Standards for Employers of Social Workers in England*, which was published by the Local Government Association (LGA).

It was reported that a self-assessment exercise had been undertaken locally to establish Halton's performance in relation to the Standards and staff had also taken part in the Social Work Health Check survey, which was required under one of the employer standards.

The report provided Members with further information on the outcome of the Health Check survey as well as information on the Standards self-assessment exercise. It was noted that the Health Check survey had been co-ordinated at a national level by the LGA with national, regional and local reports being produced. Halton's social workers took part in the survey in December 2020 and the headline local report was received in January 2021 (Appendix A). A more detailed local report was received in May 2021 (Appendix 2).

It was noted that the Health Check survey was being run on an annual basis with the next one due to start in September 2021. Halton had registered interest in taking part and was waiting for further information.

The following further information was provided in response to Members questions:

- There were 22 respondents out of 55 to the survey, which represented 40% of staff;
- Continuous Professional Development (CPD) was good in Halton and improvements to this were always being looked at to encourage staff to stay; and
- Training opportunities had been reduced during the pandemic, however all staff had now been given training opportunities.

RESOLVED: The Board note the contents of the report.

HEA26 PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

The Director of Public Health and Protection provided the Board with an update on the Public Health response to Covid-19 Coronavirus.

The update and accompanying presentation included

the most recent Covid-19 figures and data for Halton; how the Halton Outbreak Support Team (HOST) were working to successfully identify and manage local outbreaks; and gave details of the most recent information on testing and vaccination for people in Halton.

Responses to Members questions were provided and the following additional information was provided:

- The Public Health Team recognised the remoteness of the vaccination centre on Manor Park and although they did not organise the centres, work was underway with NHS England to look for a more central location which would be easier for people to get to;
- Occasionally there were issues with the supplies of the vaccine to pharmacies;
- Communication of the importance of having the vaccine was still being concentrated on, to encourage those who were still resisting this. Public Health staff had also made visits to supermarkets and businesses to promote this;
- Public Health had a dedicated schools based team which held daily meetings where they compiled Covid data from schools;
- The vaccination data relating to NHS staff was reported to NHS England; and
- The vaccination site at the Brindley would close from 1 December 2021.

RESOLVED: That the update be received.

HEA27 ONE HALTON UPDATE

The Board received a paper from the Strategic Director – People (HBC) and the Chief Commissioner – NHS Halton CCG, which provided a position statement for One Halton in relation to the following:

- a) The Cheshire and Merseyside (C&M) Integrated Care Service developments;
- b) The C&M CCG Transition Programme;
- c) The C&M Integrated Care Board (ICB) Constitution consultation; and
- d) The One Halton place self-assessment against the C&M Development Framework.

Members discussed what the proposals meant for the people of Halton and for the staff from the CCG. It was reported that although some large scale projects would need to be carried out across Cheshire and Merseyside, the

public would see some changes to health services locally.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HEA28 SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Board received a report of the Interim Director of Public Health, which provided an update on the suicide prevention agenda.

The report discussed:

- a) Public Health England Prevention and Promotion Mental health funding (£270,000) for mitigation against Covid impacts and outcomes achieved;
- b) Champs and the NO MORE Suicide Strategy and outcomes achieved so far;
- c) Core Local Activity – tackling mental health stigma in men with Halton’s Time to Change Hub and the outcomes achieved to date; and
- d) Mental health teams in schools their outcomes achieved to date.

Members discussed the following:

- Champs funding from the NHS to help with the prevention of suicide amongst children;
- Staff working closely with schools to give psychological support but this had proved difficult due to lack of funding;
- Mental health first aid – what to look for. This was being taught in community venues and to front line staff to educate people to identify the signs of someone suffering with mental health problems; this was supported by social media campaigns; and
- The Multi Partner Implementation Group in relation to schools – this consisted of educational psychologists and staff from the education and the health implementation teams.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the report.

HEA29 UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MANDATORY VACCINATION REGULATIONS IN ADULT CARE HOMES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which gave an update in relation to the risks associated with the recent Government legislation published on the need to vaccinate people working or deployed in care homes.

The implications of implementing the regulations identified in the original report (submitted to the Board on 28.09.21), were that staff who worked within care homes or were required to visit care homes as part of their role who were not fully vaccinated or refused to be vaccinated by 11 November 2021, could not continue to be employed in that role.

Members were provided with an update on the actions taken so far to implement the regulations and monitor and mitigate, where appropriate, the consequential risks associated with possible workforce reductions after 11 November 2021.

It was noted that an updated risk assessment had been carried out against the five risk areas outlined in the report – Employment, Workforce, Commissioning, Continuity of Care and Viability. Members were advised that the Council would continue to review the business contingency plans for Council run care homes and the numbers vaccinated were now being monitored daily. Further, the Council would continue to use all means available to encourage uptake and to ensure that providers continued to accurately and regularly report the vaccination status of their staff.

In response to a query regarding additional precautions being taken by staff who were medically exempt from vaccination but continuing to work in the care homes, it was noted that they were required to take two lateral flow tests per week; one PCR test per week; and wear the required PPE items prior to entering their place of work.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the report.

HEA30 UPDATE ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update on two developments within local mental health services – the current impact of the take-over by MerseyCare NHS Mental Health Trust of the former North West Boroughs (NWB) Mental Health Trust; and the implementation of the national Mental Health Breathing Space Scheme.

It was reported that so far the take-over by MerseyCare NHS Mental Health Trust of the former NWB had made very little impact locally on front line service delivery. A local multi-agency health partnership board was being re-established imminently, which would include

MerseyCare, and would make the transmission of information and service developments easier to maintain through consistent conversation.

Members were advised that the Mental Health Breathing Space (MHBS) scheme was introduced by central Government and implemented in May 2021. It aimed to provide people who were in debt and who qualified for the scheme, with a period of respite during which they could not be pursued by their creditors until their debts had been addressed by a specialist debt adviser. The elements and reasons for the scheme being set up were outlined in the report.

In response to members' questions it was noted that the measure of service delivery impact came from people on the ground, so feedback from front line teams. The Board recognised that financial problems did affect some people's mental health and they required specialist support to get them through this. The numbers of referrals made to date would be provided at a future meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the contents of the report and comments made.

Strategic Director
- People

HEA31 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS, QUARTER 2 2021/22

The Board received the Performance Management Reports for quarter two of 2021/22.

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 two 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 Adult Social Care, Public Health and NHS Services were still being effected by the pandemic so some data was limited.

ASC 13 – the numbers of households living in temporary accommodation was down due to some resources still being used from the start of the pandemic.

ASC 16 – the percentage of existing HBC ASC staff that had received Adult Safeguarding Training in the past 3 years was down – since this data was compiled these numbers had improved, as discussed earlier in item 5 (a).

RESOLVED: That the quarter two Performance Management reports be received.

Meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.

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SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 9 November 2021
at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors V. Hill (Vice-Chair), Begg, Bevan, Bramwell, Carlin, Loftus,
A. McInerney, Ratcliffe and Wall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh and Baker

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Andrews and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: K. Bendon – National Probation Service

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

	<i>Action</i>
SAF13 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<p>The Vice-Chair requested Members to forward topic ideas which they would like to be included for discussion as part of the Board's agenda for next year to either herself or the Lead Officer.</p>	
SAF14 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
SAF15 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was reported that no questions had been received.</p>	
SAF16 PROBATION SERVICE INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT SCHEME NATIONAL REFRESH	
<p>The Board received a presentation from Kerri Bendon, from the National Probation Service, who provided the Board with a presentation on the current arrangements within the Service following a refresh of the Integrated Offender Management Scheme (IOM). IOM was introduced in 2009 to bring a cross-agency response to crime and</p>	

reoffending threats faced by local communities. The aim was for the most prolific and problematic offenders to be prioritised and jointly managed by the police, probation and other partner agencies.

In February 2020, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) joint inspection found that IOM had 'lost its way'. The report highlighted the potential benefits of greater leadership from the centre, including improving clarity around the cohort focus for IOM and the nature of the work that should be involved. To address this, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Home Office (HO) had undertaken work to review current IOM practice, engaging with operational practitioners and reviewing the evidence base.

From June 2021, probation reform and the creation of Regional Probation Directors would facilitate new ways for the police and probation to work together in this space.

The Board was advised on the current arrangements in Halton to support the National Probation IOM scheme and the activity taking place on a PAN-Cheshire footprint.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the information presented.

SAF17 PROBATION SERVICE NORTH WEST UNPAID WORK SCHEME

The Board received a presentation from Kerri Bendon, from the National Probation Service (NPS), who provided the Board with a presentation on the current arrangements in relation to the unpaid work scheme, known as the 'Community Payback Scheme'. The presentation outlined to Members:

- The different strands of activity across Halton and Cheshire, highlighting how the partnership was meeting its responsibilities;
- An overview of the community payback scheme and the core principles which included: credible punishment, visible to the public, rehabilitation, public involvement (community nominations for projects), it should not replace paid employment; and the safety of staff, public and service user was paramount; and
- The type of community payback work undertaken in Cheshire.

Arising from the discussion around nominations for areas where community payback work could take place, it was agreed that any suggestions should be forwarded to Mike Andrews and he would feedback to the NPS.

RESOLVED: That the report and presentation be noted.

SAF18 THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY - NATIONAL PREVENTION PROGRAMME

This report was deferred until the next meeting.

Meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

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ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 17 November 2021 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Ferguson, T. Gibbs, W. Rourke, R Taylor and J. Unsworth

Also in attendance: One Member of the press and M. Land – Liverpool City Region

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EUR19 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2021 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>EUR20 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
<p>EUR21 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>EUR22 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 2 OF 2021/22</p> <p>The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 2</p>	

of 2021/22.

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.

EUR23 PRESENTATION ON MERSEY TIDAL PROJECTS

The Board received a presentation from Martin Land, Liverpool City Region (LCR), on the Mersey Tidal Project. The project complemented the environmental aspects of the Council's projects and was expected to provide the LCR with a clean source of energy generation.

The presentation outlined the project parameters which included details on how much power (electricity) could be generated and the benefits of the project to the Merseyside region. In addition Members were advised on how LCR Officers would engage and listen with stakeholders and also the next steps to secure Government funding for the project.

The Board discussed with Mr Land:

- The need to raise the profile of the scheme and to obtain the support of the river community. Also the support of North West local authorities such as those in Manchester;
- In response to a request for the more information on the environmental slide; the Board was advised on the work with the Wildlife Trust conducting bird surveys around the coast line and sharing data;
- The potential for the scheme to bring employment opportunities to the region;
- The lessons learned from the Swansea scheme and the alternative energy proposals in Cumbria and North Wales; and
- The next stages in the process to obtain Government

funding for the scheme.

On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked Mr Land for his presentation and wished him every success for the future.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the presentation.

EUR24 HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES - VEHICLE ACCESS POLICY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided information in respect of Halton’s Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and requested that the Board endorsed the proposed changes to the current HWRC Vehicle Access Policy and associated Vehicle Permit Scheme.

It was noted that since 13 July 2020, the Vehicle Permit Scheme had been suspended and a HWRC booking system had been developed and put in place to control visits to the sites for a certain vehicle type. An outline of the booking system, which could be made over the phone or by completing an online form via the Council’s website, was presented to Members.

Under the current Policy residents could make unlimited visits in a large van or with a trailer to deposit general waste and recyclable materials. However, since May 2020, visits had been restricted to a maximum of one per week. It was considered that this was sufficient to meet a householders requirements and along with the HWRC booking system, should be formally adopted as part of a replacement for the Vehicle Permit Scheme.

RESOLVED: That

1. the proposals set out within the report be endorsed; and
2. a report be presented to the Executive Board recommending that:
 - i. the HWRC booking system, as currently operating and as detailed within the report, be formally adopted as a replacement for the Vehicle Permit Scheme;
 - ii. the number of visits that can be made to the Council’s HWRCs in a commercial type

Strategic Director
– Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

- vehicle, van or a large trailer be limited to one per week; and
- iii. the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy be amended accordingly to reflect the proposals set out in (i) and (ii).

EUR25 PRESENTATION - RUNCORN TOWN DEAL

The Board received a presentation from the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, on the Runcorn Town Deal award. Members were advised on the proposed projects contained within the Runcorn Town Investment Plan and the next steps in delivering the Plan. The presentation included the timeline for the next stages required to develop business cases for each of the following individual projects as well as emerging work on programme management and communications:

- Runcorn Station Quarter;
- Residential development;
- High street connectivity;
- Digital and creative;
- Brindley development;
- Unlock the locks; and
- Health and education hub.

Arising from the discussion, Members enquired about the deadline for each project to be delivered. The Board were advised that, subject to development cases being signed off with the Government, it was expected that each project would be completed by 2025, although it was anticipated some could be delivered before that.

In addition, a Member commented on the impact of the pandemic on Local Centres and suggested that support could also be provided to help redevelop these areas.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the presentation and proposed next steps.

EUR26 ALTERNATIVE FUEL INFRASTRUCTURE - UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, that provided an update on the following two projects relating to electric vehicles and the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging points:

- i. Project 1 – Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Points; and

ii. Project 2 – Electric Taxi Support Project.

With regard to Project 1, following an extensive consultation with a number of communities. It was proposed that a further bid to The Office of Zero Emissions (OZEV) would be made for a further six electric charging points in each of the following locations:

- Mersey Road, Runcorn;
- Brindley Street Car Park, Runcorn;
- Catalyst Museum Car Park, Widnes;
- Sharp Street, Widnes;
- Crow Wood Place Car Park, Widnes;
- Bechers Hough Green, Widnes; and
- Wharford Lane, Sandymoor, Runcorn.

Members were advised that following feedback from phase one, which was delivered during 2020, it was proposed that a limited number of the bays (1-2) would be marked for EV use only and this would be followed up with a supporting Traffic Order to allow enforcement.

In respect of Project 2, an EV Taxi awareness day was held at the Halton Stadium in September 2021. A dozen vehicles were on display and approximately 70 drivers attended the event. It was noted that feedback showed that most found the event very useful and informative. It was proposed that subject to funding being identified, an incentive scheme would be developed to encourage taxi drivers to convert to electric vehicles. The scheme would be presented to a future Board meeting.

Arising from the discussion on the locations chosen for Project 1, the Board was advised that the areas chosen had provided the biggest response to the consultation exercise and met the criteria. Some areas considered for the scheme that met the criteria however, residents had highlighted concerns regarding the existing demand for parking spaces and the impact removing spaces for electrical vehicles would bring.

In addition, the Board noted that in areas where car parks were owned by social landlords, Officers could look to work with them to apply for grant funding.

RESOLVED: That the Board supports the initiatives outlined in the report.

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CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 25 January 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chair), P. Lloyd Jones, A. Lowe, G. Stockton, Thornton and Wall

Apologies for Absence: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, E. Dawson and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: None

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

	<i>Action</i>
CS26 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes from the meeting held on 2 November 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
CS27 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CS28 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>	
CS29 DISCRETIONARY SUPPORT SCHEME TOPIC GROUP	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which provided details of the work of the Discretionary Support Scheme Topic Group. The Group had met on 15 December 2021 and reviewed the current eligibility criteria for the Discretionary Support Scheme for the following areas:</p>	

- Applicant eligibility criteria;
- Needs which were not covered by the Scheme;
- Applicants not eligible for awards;
- Items currently awarded under the Scheme; and
- Items awarded under the Scheme which had been temporarily relaxed given the availability of Covid Household Support grant funding.

Following a review of the areas, the Topic Group recommended the following changes to the Scheme Policy Document:

- Section 8 – to provide for school meals where a decision was awaited following an application for free school meals; and
- Section 8 to exclude applications for non-emergency home repairs and improvements.

It was also agreed by the Topic Group to continue with claimants not being eligible for awards where benefit claims had been disqualified, disallowed or sanctioned.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Topic Group's review of the Discretionary Support Scheme be noted;
- 2) the criteria used to make awards under the scheme be amended as proposed in the report; and
- 3) the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, be recommended to exercise his delegated authority from Executive Board in liaison with the Executive Board Member – Corporate Services, with regard to recommendation (2).

Meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Audit and Governance Board held on Wednesday, 24 November 2021 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn.

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), A. Lowe (Vice-Chair), E. Cargill, Jones, McDermott, Philbin, Wall and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J. Bradshaw and Whitley

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: S. Nixon – Grant Thornton

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

	<i>Action</i>
BEB16 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
BEB17 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER BIENNIAL UPDATE 2021/22	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the bi-annual update of the Corporate Risk Register for 2021/22.</p> <p>The Board was advised that the Council recognised its responsibility to manage both internal and external risks as a key component of good corporate governance. At Directorate level, arrangements were in place for the high risk mitigation measures on the Directorate Risk Registers to be reviewed and updated at mid-year, in line with Directorate Business Plans. Progress was then reported to Management Team and Policy and Performance Boards.</p> <p>It was reported that the Risk Control Measures had been reviewed and updated in line with current changes within the Authority and as proposed by managers and stakeholders. The risks had been re-prioritised so that people, (the community and staff), took priority. These were set out in the report.</p>	

RESOLVED: That

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

BEB18 PROCUREMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES

The Board was advised that the contract for the provision of the Council's external audit services would expire on 31 March 2023. In 2016 the Council joined a sector-led procurement of external auditors to be undertaken by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA). Over 98% of councils nationally joined the PSAA arrangement. Following the procurement exercise Grant Thornton UK LLP were appointed as the Council's external auditors for five years until 31 March 2023.

It was noted that the procurement of external audit services was a lengthy process and it was therefore necessary to begin the procurement process to secure these services from 1 April 2023 onwards.

The report outlined the following options which were available to the Council as follows:

- i. To opt-in to the national procurement arrangements to be led by PSAA;
- ii. To undertake the procurement of external audit services alone; and
- iii. To undertake the procurement of external audit services with other councils on a regional or other basis.

The Board was advised that options (ii) and (iii) would require considerable resources on the part of the Council, to undertake the procurement process, evaluate the tender bids and subsequently manage and monitor the contract over the five year period. It would also be necessary to establish an Auditor Panel with an independent Chair, to oversee the procurement process. It was also considered unlikely that options (ii) and (iii) would deliver a more cost effective outcome for the Council, as providers would benefit from significant economies of scale under the national arrangement.

For these reasons it was proposed that the Council once again opt-in to the national procurement arrangements

to be operated by PSAA. The decision to opt-in must be approved by Council with the final deadline for opting-in 11 March 2022.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve opting-in to the sector-led procurement by Public Sector Audit Appointments, for the provision of external audit services for the five years commencing 1 April 2023.

BEB19 EXTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

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

- Progress made in delivering their responsibilities as the Council's external auditors; and
- A summary of emerging national issues and developments that could be relevant to the Council and a number of challenge questions in respect of these emerging issues.

Steven Nixon, from external auditors Grant Thornton, attended the meeting to present the report and then dealt with Members' questions.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

BEB20 INFORMING THE EXTERNAL AUDIT RISK ASSESSMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the draft response to the annual letter from Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors, regarding their year-end audit of accounts work. The appendix to the report presented draft responses to a number of questions from Grant Thornton, which would assist with the year-end audit of accounts.

RESOLVED: That the draft responses shown in the Appendix be provided to the Council's external auditors.

BEB21 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.

N.B. Councillor A. Lowe declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as he is a governor of Hallwood Park Primary School.

BEB22 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Board received a report from the Divisional Manager – Audit, Procurement and Operational Finance, updating them on the internal audit activity since the last progress report to the Board on 29 September 2021. It also highlighted any matters that were relevant to the Board's responsibilities as the Council's Audit Committee.

Members were referred to appendix one, which listed all the planned work for the year and the anticipated dates that each audit would be reported to the Board. It was noted that the planning and completion of work was subject to change, but this represented the best estimates at the current time.

Appended to the report were copies of the finalised 16 audit reports since the last progress report to the Board

in September. The report summarised the opinions from the audits covered in this progress report.

In January 2022, work would start to develop the proposed Audit Plan for the 2022/23 financial year. The content would be informed by a review of emerging risk areas and through discussions with senior management. Any work deferred from 2021/22 that was still considered relevant would also be included in the Plan.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Audit Progress Report and comments made be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Tuesday, 7 December 2021 at the Halton Stadium, Widnes

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Abbott and J. Bradshaw

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: 22 Members of the public, Councillors Gilligan and Wall and one member of the press

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

DEV24 MINUTES

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

DEV25 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.

DEV26 21/00166/OUT - OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION, WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED, FOR LABORATORY AND OFFICE SPACE (USE CLASS E(G)(I) AND E(G)(II)) DEVELOPMENT WITH ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING AND LANDSCAPING AT DARESURY LABORATORY, KECKWICK LANE, DARESURY

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

Action

Since the publication of the agenda an updated opinion was received from the Council's retained conservation advisor following the Applicant's submission of a Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), this was presented in the published AB update list. It was noted that the opinion was consistent with the assessment findings of the Committee report. The comments with regards to reserved matters and heritage impacts in the update list were noted.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Winter, who spoke on behalf of the applicant. He commented *inter alia* that the proposal was an outline application on a site in an employment development area; that the landscape officer raised no objections; there would be no heritage impacts; the height of the building would be secured by conditions; and that highway improvements would be secured by a Section 106 Agreement. In conclusion, he stated that the proposal would be of significant benefit to the Borough, providing high quality jobs.

The Committee agreed that the application be approved.

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

- a) a planning obligation and/or other appropriate agreement relating to securing matters as set out in the report;
- b) that if the Section 106 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;
- c) delegated authority be given to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, to determine and agree the terms of all matters to be included in the planning obligation and/or other appropriate agreement and the conditions mentioned below; and
- d) conditions relating to the following:
 1. Outline planning permission conditions setting out time limits and reserved matters (Section 92 of the Act);

2. Condition specifying approved and amended plans (BE1);
3. Condition stipulating maximum build heights as shown on the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment (Ref: 2572A dated: 23.9.21) (BE1);
4. Details requiring submission and agreement of Construction, Management and Environmental Development Plan (BE1);
5. Details regarding electric vehicle charging provision (CS19);
6. As part of a future reserved matters application, the Applicant will be required to submit details of a low carbon and renewable energy strategy (CS19);
7. Applicant to submit a scheme regarding operational lighting phase (BE1 and GE21);
8. Landscape scheme to include details of habitat and protected species mitigation (BE1 and GE21);
9. Condition ensuring no net biodiversity loss (NPPF);
10. Applicant required to undertake a site waste management plan (WM8);
11. Requirement of the applicant to undertake piling risk assessment for controlled waters and underground water resources (PR5);
12. Applicant required to submit details proposing a sustainable drainage system (NPPF);
13. Details requiring verification report demonstrating surface water drainage implemented in accordance with approved details (NPPF);
14. Condition requiring submission and agreement of site levels and finished floor levels (BE1); these shall not exceed the levels demonstrated in the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment; and
15. Applicant required to submit a scheme for the provision of cycle storage.

DEV27 21/00466/FUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A SUPERCOMPUTING CENTRE PROVIDING 3,070SQM OF FLOOR SPACE (USE CLASS E1) WITH FORMATION OF NEW ACCESS, LANDSCAPING AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE AT DARESBUURY LABORATORY, KECKWICK LANE, DARESBUURY

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

Since the publication of the agenda, an ecology update had been provided as outlined in the published AB

update list. It was noted that the recommendation for an increased level of compensatory tree planting was agreed by the applicant and would be secured by a suitably worded landscape condition.

One Member wished to note the significance of this proposal for Halton in that it would be only the second one of its kind in the country and could impact on future Government investment in the area.

The Committee agreed that the application be approved.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the list of conditions below:

1. Condition setting our standard time limits (Section 92 of the Act);
2. Development to be carried out in accordance with approved plans (BE1);
3. Details regarding a construction and environmental management plan detailing the following:
 - Protection measures for the woodland areas to the east (Daresbury Firs LNR/LWS) and north-east, and any associated buffer habitats located at the eastern site boundary.
 - Protection measure for the Bridgewater Canal to the west, to include a minimum buffer along the watercourse of 5 metres.
 - Pollution control measures to prevent runoff and other potential pollutants entering the woodland area to the east or the canal to the west.
 - Avoidance measures for protected/priority species including badger and hedgehog.
 - Timing restrictions in respect of clearance of potential bird nesting habitat.
 - Invasive species control method statements (Himalayan balsam).
4. Requirement concerning a verification report demonstrating the approved surface water drainage scheme has been implemented (NPPF);
5. Details concerning external plant equipment noise protections (PR2);
6. The development hereby permitted shall not be occupied until details of bird boxes to include number, type and location on an appropriately scaled plan as well as timing of installation, has been provided for approval and implemented in accordance with those details (BE1 and GE21);
7. Details concerning the submission of a construction

waste audit (WM8);

8. Details requiring the installation of a lighting scheme to prevent excessive light from affecting the canal corridor and Daresbury Firs (BE1 and GE21);
9. Details for a scheme demonstrating the number and location of bat boxes (BE1 and GE21);
10. Condition requiring the installation of any boundary treatment the Applicant shall submit details concerning measures to implement a hedgehog highway (BE1 and GE21);
11. A Landscape and Ecology Maintenance Plan shall be submitted and agreed in writing. It shall address the following points:
 - Creation, establishment and management of wildflower areas;
 - Planting, establishment and management of hedgerows;
 - Tree management;
 - Pond Management;
 - Management of areas containing bluebell;
 - Locations of hedgehog highways in boundary fences;
 - Bat and bird box types and locations – this should be informed by the updated bat activity and breeding bird surveys completed in 2021; and
12. Details requiring submission and agreement of site levels and finished floor levels (BE1).

DEV28 21/00471/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 233 DWELLINGS, RECONFIGURATION OF GOLF COURSE, DEMOLITION OF EXISTING CLUB HOUSE AND ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS AND ERECTION OF NEW CLUB HOUSE AND GREEN KEEPERS STORE, CREATION OF NEW VEHICULAR ACCESSES, ROADS, CAR PARKING, GREEN FOOTPATH LINK AND 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.

It was noted that this report was being presented to Committee as the applicant had appealed this second application to the Planning Inspectorate, rather than await a Council decision.

The Committee was addressed by Councillor Wall, who spoke on behalf of neighbouring residents to the Golf Course and her Highfield Ward colleagues Councillors

Nolan and Gilligan.

Councillor Wall made the following comments *inter alia*:

- The Planning Inspectorate had found the Local Plan to be sound where the Golf Course was designated as a green space;
- The second application is similar to the one refused – she presented an email from the applicant dated 10 November stating that a public inquiry would begin on 6 December for the first application and it was their intention that the second application would also be appealed, at the same time;
- This greenspace must be protected for the people of Widnes and for future generations;
- Greenspace were important for wellbeing, good physical health and mental health;
- There had been hundreds of objections against this application from the whole Town and Derek Twigg MP had offered his support in objection;
- She paid tribute to the residents of Widnes who had worked together to campaign against the proposals in these difficult times; and had fought off tactics by the developer to defeat hope amongst them;
- It was important to protect an integral part of the landscape which was the heart of the community and housed wildlife and trees that have TPO's on them;
- This development would increase traffic capacity at road junctions (she named the roads in question) and further increase demand for local school places;
- The application was contrary to Halton's planning policies; and
- The Applicant sought to profit from the development by investing in a neighbouring authority.

In conclusion Councillor Wall, also on behalf of Ward colleagues, urged the Committee to support the case for refusal and support the Council's position to defend refusal at appeal.

It was confirmed that the Applicant did have an opportunity to address the Committee today but had not responded to communication in this regard.

The Committee agreed the content of the report and supported the Council's case for refusal at appeal.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Committee agrees the content of the report;
2. the Committee supports the case for refusal; and
3. Officers make submissions on the appeal and defend the Council's position for refusal.

Meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Tuesday, 18 January 2022 at the 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, P. Peak, K. Thompson and R. Cooper

Also in attendance: 32 members of the public, Councillors A. McInerney and V. Hill and one member of the press

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

Action

DEV29 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2021, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV30 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.

DEV31 19/00391/WST - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF WASTE TRANSFER BUILDING, CHANGE OF USE TO COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE TRANSFER STATION AND ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT AT ASH WASTE LTD, MACDERMOTT ROAD, WIDNES

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

Local Ward Councillor Wallace, requested her statement against the application be read out to Members, as she was unable to attend the meeting.

In response to her comments regarding odours, Officers advised that there was a specific condition added (top of page 20 of the report), which would restrict the type of waste being received and minimise the risk of odour from the site.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Hassle, the Agent acting on behalf of the Applicant. He provided some background information in respect of the Applicants, who were a family run business. He stated that:

- The company worked with local businesses, charities and local authorities;
- They employed 250 people and hoped to create 15-20 new jobs with this proposal, which would also secure 25 existing jobs;
- The company was a Band A site operator and ran the top 5% sites in the Country;
- No objections had been received;
- The waste collected would not include food waste;
- They would be regulated by the Environment Agency;
- All planning policies regarding waste had been met;
- New waste sites were needed in line with the Climate Change agenda; and
- The proposal did not affect the businesses in the surrounding area and no changes to the roads were required.

Members discussed the concentration of waste transfer sites in the West Bank area, the odour problems, accidental contamination from food waste and their compliance. It was noted following queries that waste companies were regulated by the Environment Agency, not the local authority. Officers also confirmed that the Applicant would be applying for a bespoke Environmental Permit (as discussed on page 18), as this was required by law.

The Committee agreed to approve the application, subject to the conditions listed below.

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

1. Standard 3 year timescale for commencement of development;
2. Specifying approved and amended plans;
3. Requiring submission and agreement of a

- Construction Environmental Management Plan to include wheel wash and construction hours;
4. Materials condition(s), requiring submission and agreement of building external finishing materials (BE2);
 5. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties / commencement of use (BE1);
 6. Requiring submission and agreement of cycle parking details (TP6);
 7. Condition restricting waste throughput to 75,000 tonnes per annum;
 8. Condition(s) restricting waste types accepted / processed;
 9. Condition(s) restricting external storage processing;
 10. Condition(s) requiring waste to be delivered / exported in sealed / covered wagons (BE1);
 11. Protecting nesting birds (GE21);
 12. Restricting penetrative / piled foundations (PR25);
 13. Submission and agreement of solar panel details (BE1/2);
 14. Condition relating to contamination / ground investigation / remediation (PR14/15);
 15. Conditions relating to / requiring submission and agreement of detailed surface water / highway drainage scheme including attenuation / interceptors (BE1/PR5); and
 16. Submission and agreement of Site Waste Management Plan (WM8).

In order to avoid any allegation of bias, Councillor Thompson took no part in the debate and did not vote on following item as he had made earlier objections in the media on the dereliction of this site.

DEV32 21/00161/FUL - PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING VACANT OFFICE BUILDING AND THE ERECTION OF APARTMENT BLOCK AND TOWNHOUSES TOTALLING 153 NO. DWELLINGS (USE CLASS C3) A 66 NO. BEDROOM CARE HOME (USE CLASS C2) AND AN 85 NO. BEDROOM HOTEL (USE CLASS C1) WITH ASSOCIATED HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING AND PARKING AT EAST LANE HOUSE, EAST LANE, RUNCORN, WA7 2UR

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

Since the publication of the report one additional objection had been received, this was read out to the

Committee. The applicant had confirmed that the off-site payment relating to open space and affordable housing was accepted by them. It was noted that Natural England (NE) had been notified of the Applicant's agreement to the obligation and a response was awaited. Therefore, delegated authority was requested to issue the decision following confirmation that NE has no objections to the proposal.

The Committee was addressed by Ms Goff, the Agent representing the Applicant, who spoke of the benefits to the proposal. These included *inter alia*:

- the site had been vacant for 12 years and had a detrimental impact on the area;
- the proposal provided an opportunity to develop high quality dwellings which would contribute to the housing targets in the Borough;
- the proposal included a 25% affordable housing ratio;
- a Section 106 contribution would be made for open space improvements;
- no objections were received from statutory consultees;
- positive feedback had been received from publicity given to the application; and
- the scheme would have economic, social and environmental benefits, providing employment and attracting investment and economic growth in the Borough.

Clarification was provided for Members over condition (c). The Committee agreed that the application be approved subject to the response from Natural England.

RESOLVED: The Committee agreed that the application be approved subject to the conditions listed below and receipt of confirmation of no objections from Natural England.

- a) a Legal or other appropriate agreement relating to securing financial contributions to open space;
- b) conditions relating to the following:
 1. Time limit – full permission;
 2. Approved plans;
 3. Restriction of use;
 4. Submission of Proposed Site Levels (BE1);
 5. Submission of Facing Materials (BE1 and BE2);

6. Submission of Soft Landscaping Scheme and subsequent maintenance (BE1);
7. Implementation of Submitted Boundary Treatments Scheme and subsequent maintenance (BE1);
8. Breeding Birds Protection (GE21 and CS20);
9. Submission of Bird Boxes Scheme (GE21 and CS20);
10. Lighting Scheme to protect ecology and to consider safety (GE21 and CS20);
11. Hours of construction (BE1);
12. Electric Vehicle Charging Points Scheme (CS19);
13. Noise condition in respect of implementing recommendations in the report (PR8);
14. Implementation of Remediation Strategy and submission of Validation Report (PR14 and CS23);
15. Implementation of off site highway works (BE1);
16. Provision and retention of parking and servicing including Electric Vehicle spaces (BE1 and TP12);
17. Cycle parking scheme to be implemented (BE1 and TP6);
18. Implementation of travel plan (TP16);
19. Implementation of a Drainage Strategy, including SUDS and verification report (PR16 and CS23);
20. Found and surface water on a separate system (PR16 and CS23);
21. Waste audit (WM8);
22. Requiring the climate change standards to be met;
23. Resident information pack in relation to impacts on protected sites;
24. Provision of the appropriate bat licence;
25. Submission of CCTV scheme;
26. Provision and implementation of car club;
27. Implementation of a car parking management plan; and
28. Construction phase management plan.

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.

DEV33 21/00408/FUL - PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE FROM CARE HOME (C2) TO 3 NO. SELF-CONTAINED HMO'S (SUI GENERIS) WITH ASSOCIATED INFILL EXTENSION,

LAYOUT OF CAR PARK AND LANDSCAPING AT 61
DERBY ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 9LG

This item was deferred by Development Management Committee Members at the November 2021 Committee meeting to allow for a site meeting to be carried out by Committee Members; this took place on 29 November 2021.

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

The Chair advised Members that the representations made by all parties verbally at the last meeting still stood for consideration today.

Since the publication of the agenda, an additional representation had been received from the residents of the neighbouring property and a brief statement received from the Applicant; these were all forwarded to Members via email in advance of the meeting. In addition, it was confirmed by the Applicant that the landowner was not the Applicant and the correct certificate has now been served. It was noted that due to this any decision by the Committee could not be issued for 21 days from service of this notice.

Members referred to their site visit and discussed the application, raising concerns over insufficient parking on the site, difficulties with access and egress for the site, existing congestion in the area and along Derby Road, neighbouring residents rights to privacy and access to amenities, inappropriate assumptions of car ownership and impacts on road safety.

One Member moved a motion to refuse the application on highway safety grounds and insufficient parking provision. This was seconded and the Committee voted to refuse the application.

RESOLVED: That the application is refused due to:

1. the proposed change of use to 3 separate Homes of Multiple Occupation (HMO) would impact negatively on highway safety and congestion in the vicinity of the site, due to the lack of off street parking provision. This under provision would lead to further antisocial parking in an area that was already congested and would result in an unacceptable impact on highway safety;

2. the use of the side door to gain main access to the (HMO) and impact of the extension that is adjacent to No. 59 Derby Road is considered to be detrimental to the amenity of the occupiers of neighbouring properties; and
3. as a result the proposal conflicts with the saved Policies BE1 'General Requirements for Development', and the Design of Residential Development Supplementary Planning Document and Paragraph 111 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

DEV34 21/00498/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF INDUSTRIAL / STORAGE BUILDING FOR USE CLASS B2 / B8 PURPOSES, PARKING AND SERVICING AREAS, BUNDS, FENCING, LANDSCAPING, ANCILLARY WORKS AND RETROSPECTIVE PERMISSION FOR THE RETENTION OF PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED BUNDS AT BOWMAN WORKS, GORSEY LANE, WIDNES, WA8 0YZ

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.

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

1. Standard time limits condition (BE1);
2. Plans condition listing approved drawings (BE1);
3. External facing materials (BE1 and BE2);
4. Conditions covering ground investigation report and remediation strategy, implementation and validation (PR14 and CS23);
5. Detailed access design drawings (BE1);
6. Parking, access and servicing provision (BE1);
7. Electric Vehicle Charging Points Scheme (CS19);
8. Cycle parking (TP6);
9. Existing and proposed site and finished floor levels (BE1);
10. Conditions for the submission and agreement of drainage scheme, implementation and validation (PR16 and CS23);
11. Foul and surface water on a separate system (PR16 and CS23);
12. Protection of nesting birds (GE21, CS20);
13. Provision of insect boxes (GE21, CS20);

14. Site waste management (WM8);
15. Details of piling and foundation designs (PR14 and CS23); and
16. No drainage systems for the infiltration of surface water (PR14 and CS23).

Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Monday, 24 January 2022 at the Karalius Suite - Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), J. Bradshaw, Dennett, McDermott, Nolan and Ratcliffe

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Gurrell, R. Rout and G. Bishop (North West Employers)

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>APC5 MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2021, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and agreed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>APC6 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985</p> <p>The Board considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 1 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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

APC7 SELECTION INTERVIEWS FOR THE POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Following a long-listing recruitment process and the drawing up of a shortlist, the Committee considered candidates for the post of Chief Executive.

RESOLVED: That Mr Stephen Young be recommended to the Full Council for appointment to the post of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service.

Meeting ended at 4.25 p.m.

TAXI LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee Tuesday, 11 January 2022 at the Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott and Loftus

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: N. Wheeler, K. Hesketh, K. Thompson and L. Wilson-Lagan

Also in attendance: None

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

Action

TLF1 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 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 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

TLF2 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

Case No 731

RESOLVED: That the Restricted Private Hire Drivers Licence can be granted with a written warning that would remain on file.

Meeting ended at 12.15 p.m.