

# **Minutes**

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

**Wednesday, 13 July 2022**

# Minutes

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**COUNCIL**

*At a meeting of the Council on Friday, 20 May 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Hutchinson, Leck, Philbin and Thompson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, S. Young and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: Twenty-five invited guests and members of the public

	<i>Action</i>
<p>COU1 ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR</p> <p>Moved by Councillor J Lowe and seconded by Councillor Abbott:-</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Mark Dennett be elected Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2022/23.</p> <p>Moved by Councillor Polhill and seconded by Councillor A McInerney:-</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Councillor Valerie Hill be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2022/23.</p> <p><b>THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR DENNETT IN THE CHAIR</b></p>	
<p>COU2 COUNCIL MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 2 March 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	

COU3 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcement:-

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

- Runcorn Carers Centre; and
- Widnes and Runcorn Cancer Support

COU4 LEADER'S REPORT

This was Ian Leivesley's, Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, last full Council meeting. Ian would be retiring on 31 May 2022, after 43 years in Local Government, of which 32 were at Halton Council. On behalf of the Council the Leader thanked Ian for his outstanding contribution moving the Borough forward and wished Ian a very happy retirement, Ian had been a great friend to everyone and would greatly be missed.

COU5 MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS 2022/23

Details of the Borough Council elections held on 5 May 2022 were submitted for information.

RESOLVED: That the election results be noted.

COU6 EXECUTIVE BOARD (SELECTION COMMITTEE) 17 MAY 2022

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

COU7 LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mike Wharton be appointed Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2022/23 and Councillor Dave Thompson be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

COU8 BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND PANELS

RESOLVED: That the Boards, Committees and Appeals Panel be constituted with the membership as shown for the Municipal Year 2022/23:-

**Executive Board (9)**

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

**Health & Wellbeing Board**

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

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

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

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

Councillors P. Lloyd Jones (Chair), Baker (Vice Chair), Ball, Bevan, J. Bradshaw, D. Cargill, Dourley, Goodall, Leck, McDermott and L. Nolan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Development Management Committee (11)**

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

**Audit and Governance Board (11)**

Councillors Polhill (Chair), A. Lowe (Vice Chair), J. Bradshaw, E. Cargill, Garner, Harris, Jones, McDermott, L. Nolan, Philbin and Wallace.

**Regulatory Committee (11)**

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

**Mayoral Committee (5)**

Councillors Dennett, Gilligan, Philbin, Rowe and Wright.

**Appointments Committee (6)**

Councillors Wharton (Leader), Thompson (Deputy Leader), P. Nolan (or another portfolio holder as selected by Leader), McDermott (or a Chair of a PPB, selected by Leader) Ratcliffe and J. Bradshaw.

COU9 APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tony McDermott be appointed Scrutiny Co-ordinator for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

COU10 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEE

RESOLVED: That Mr David Wilson be re-appointed as the Healthwatch Halton representative and non-voting Co-optee to the Health Policy and Performance Board for the Municipal Year 2022/23.

COU11 APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE BODIES

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

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

COU12 EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIOS

The Leader confirmed that the Executive Board would consist of the following Portfolio holders for the Municipal Year 2022/23:-

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

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

Councillor T. McInerney - Children and Young People  
Councillor J. Lowe - Adult Social Care  
Councillor Wright - Health and Wellbeing  
Councillor M. Lloyd Jones - Community Safety  
Councillor Nelson - Environmental & Urban Renewal  
Councillor P. Nolan - Employment, Learning & Skills and  
Community  
Councillor Harris - Climate Change

RESOLVED: That the Portfolios be noted.

#### COU13 ELECTORAL MATTERS

Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, which sought approval that the statutory duties in relation to Electoral Administration and of the Returning Officer in relation to all Elections and Referenda be assigned to the Chief Executive. The report was brought before Members in light of the forthcoming retirement of Ian Leivesley, who was the Council's Electoral Registration Officer and Proper Officer for electoral purposes, and also the recent appointment of Stephen Young as Chief Executive.

RESOLVED: That Council appoint the Chief Executive Stephen Young to carry out the Electoral Registration Officer Functions for the registration of Parliamentary and Local Government Electors and the Returning Officer Functions for Parliamentary, Local, Parish, Combined Authority Mayoral, Police & Crime Commissioner Elections and Referenda under all relevant legislation and to act as the Proper Officer for all related functions and relevant legislation with immediate effect.

#### COU14 UPDATES TO COUNCIL CONSTITUTION 2022 (MINUTE EXB 94 REFERS)

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

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

#### COU15 REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS (MINUTE AGB25 REFERS)

Audit and Governance Board had considered a report of the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED: That the revised Code of Conduct for Members attached to the report as Appendix 1 be adopted.

COU16 CIVIC SUNDAY

The Mayor announced his intention to attend a Civic Service at St Michael's & All Angels Church, Greenway Road, Runcorn, WA7 5BS, on Sunday 17th July 2022, at 10am.

*Meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.*



**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Nolan

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: D. Parr, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, S. Wallace-Bonner, A. Jones and M. Allen

Also in attendance: None

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

EXB78 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

EXB79 PENSIONS DISCRETIONS STATEMENT 2022/23

The Board received the annual Pensions Discretions Statement for 2022-23 for Halton Borough Council.

The Council was required to publish a Pension Discretion Statement annually, to advise the discretions it intended to exercise under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) – this was appended to the report.

It was reported that the Pensions Discretion Statement for 2022-23 was based upon the statement for 2021-22, which was approved by Executive Board in February 2021. It was noted that no new discretions had been added and one discretion had been removed for 2022-23 as described in the report.

*Action*

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,

RESOLVED: That the Board approve the Pensions Discretions Statement for 2022-23.

Community and Resources

EXB80 MOOR LANE BUS DEPOT

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which advised of two offers that had been received for the former bus depot on Moor Lane.

Members were advised that in November 2020, the Council commissioned Thornber and Walker, a quantity surveyor consultancy to carry out a high level feasibility study to ascertain the potential costs of refurbishing the Moor Lane Bus Depot to provide commercial space. They estimated that the cost of refurbishment would be in the region of £5m. Since the report was commissioned however, construction costs had increased and the building had been designated a Grade 2 listing by Historic England.

It was noted that the listing would have a bearing on any future use of the building, because the listing also related to the interior of the building. The Board was presented with four potential options for the future use of the building. They were also advised of two offers that had been made from local businesses (referred to as X and Y) and the recommendations from officers following these.

RESOLVED: That the Board authorise officers to progress more detailed discussions with Company Y, which would culminate in Company Y being granted a lease for the building.

Strategic Director - Enterprise, Community and Resources

EXB81 REVIEW OF COUNCIL WIDE FEES AND CHARGES

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the proposed fees and charges for 2022-23, for services provided by both of the Council's Directorates.

The review of fees and charges had been carried out as part of the budget preparations for 2022-23; these were presented in the schedules shown in Appendix A, B and C appended to the report.

The general aim in setting fees and charges was to ensure that the Council fully recovered the cost incurred in providing the service. In a number of cases this was achieved by breaking down the cost of providing a service on a unit basis, but given the volume of services the Council

provided, it was not always feasible on a case by case basis. Estimated costs would be reviewed at individual service level and budgeted income targets set to ensure the Council fully recovered the cost of providing that service. It was noted that recovery of the full costs of services throughout the year was dependent on a number of other factors outside the agreed charge, such as demand, competition and statutory elements.

RESOLVED: That the proposed fees and charges for 2022-23, as set out in Appendix A and for 2023-24 as set out in Appendices B and C, be approved.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB82 HOMELESSNESS FUNDING GRANT ALLOCATION - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which described the various grants that had been issued by Central Government to support rough sleepers and people who were, or were likely to become, homeless. It also made proposal for the allocation of these grants.

Government confirmed the allocation of a key element of the overall investment of £315.8m in funding through the Homelessness Prevention Grant, which was available to local authorities in 2022-23 to support and deliver services to prevent and tackle homelessness. Members were advised that from this funding Halton had been allocated £344,829 for 2022-23, with an additional £11,338 for domestic abuse burdens. It was noted that the funding grant allocation would be ring fenced to ensure the Local Authority had the resources to take action to prevent homelessness and utilise the funding to continue to implement the Homelessness Reduction Act.

The report discussed the proposed funding allocations, rough sleepers initiative funding and winter funding enhancement for 2021-22. The proposals for the allocation of the Homelessness Prevention Grant were presented in Appendix 1 and the proposals for the allocation of the Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant were presented in Appendix 2. The Board was advised of an error in Appendix 1 – Support Officer ‘Columba’, should read Support Officer ‘Next Steps Accommodation Project (NSAP)’.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

Strategic Director  
- People

- 1) note and consider the contents of this report; and
- 2) approve the recommendations for expenditure against the grants, as described in Appendices 1 and 2.

EXB83 ADULT SOCIAL CARE ANNUAL REPORT (LOCAL ACCOUNT) 2020-21

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, requesting agreement of the Adult Social Care Annual Report (Local Account) for 2020-21, which was appended to the report.

The Adult Social Care Annual Report was now an embedded part of the reporting cycle for Halton Borough Council and whilst not a mandatory requirement, it remained supported as good practice by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).

The Board was advised that the format of the report for Halton was refreshed a couple of years ago in both its look and focus, making it more straightforward and therefore more accessible. The report included information on the successes and achievements across Adult Social Care, details of progress against performance metrics, some of the challenges faced, how we responded to community needs and details of future activities to be further developed.

It was also noted that the Annual Report, also known as the ‘Local Account’, served as a review mechanism for Adult Social Care to consider as part of ongoing continuous service improvement measures.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) agree for the Adult Social Care Annual Report 2020-21 to be published and shared with partners and stakeholder organisations; and
- 2) acknowledges the achievements across Adult Social Care during the height of the pandemic.

Strategic Director  
- People

**EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO**

EXB84 VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING – GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2022/23 - KEY DECISION

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – People, which presented the Voluntary Sector funding

Grant allocations for 2022/23.

Halton Borough Council had been awarding direct grants to local voluntary and charitable organisations for a number of years. The opportunity to receive a grant was advertised on the Council website and applications were invited. Applications were then assessed against key criteria, as set out in the report. Recommendations were agreed by a panel consisting of the Executive Board Member with Portfolio responsibility for the Voluntary Sector and Officers from the People Directorate.

Following the panel's assessment, the recommendations for allocations were presented in paragraph 4.1, from an available budget of £226,640.

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

Strategic Director  
- People

## **ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB85 HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES - VEHICULAR 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 approval of the proposed changes to the current HWRC Access Policy and associated Vehicle Permit Scheme.

The proposed changes to the current scheme were considered by the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on 17 November 2021. It was resolved by them that a report be presented to the Executive Board recommending the approval of a number of changes to the current policy.

The report outlined the reasons for the proposals being made and the revised Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy was set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre booking system, as currently operating and as detailed within the report, be adopted as a replacement for the Vehicle Permit Scheme;

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

- 2) the number of visits that can be made to the council's Household Waste Recycling Centres in a commercial type vehicle, van or a large trailer be limited to one per week; and
- 3) the revised Household Waste Recycling Centre Access Policy, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.

EXB86 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.

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

EXB87 CARE PROVIDER CONTRACT UPLIFT 2022/23

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director -

People, informing of the proposed annual uplift for domiciliary care, direct payments, supported living and care home providers within Halton for 2022/23.

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

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board note the contents of the report; and
- 2) approve the recommended uplift in fees for 2022/23.

Strategic Director  
- People

#### **CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

EXB88 WOODEND, FORMER UNIT 10 CATALYST TRADING ESTATE, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director - Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval to lease Woodend, Former Unit 10 at Catalyst Trading Estate, Widnes.

The report provided the Board with background information in relation to the site and presented three options for its future use, as recommended by the Council's external consultants.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) authorises the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property to arrange for all required documentation for the lease to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services;
- 2) approves the lease on the terms reported in paragraph 3.6; and
- 3) Council be recommended to include the required funding for the scheme in the Capital Programme, as

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

outlined in paragraph 3.8.

**MINUTES ISSUED: 22 March 2022**

**CALL- IN: 29 March 2022 at 5.00 pm**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 29 March 2022.**

*Meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.*



**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 14 April 2022 in the Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Dennett and J. Lowe

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, S. Young, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, E. Dawson, S. Wallace-Bonner, A. Jones and W. Rourke

Also in attendance: None

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EXB89 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> <p><b>LEADER'S PORTFOLIO</b></p> <p>EXB90 URGENT DECISIONS</p> <p>The Executive Board received a report from the Chief Executive, which provided information on the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Board and during the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p> <p>It was noted that the Council's Constitution gave authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Operational Director Finance and/or the Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services, where necessary.</p> <p>One urgent decision had been made since the last meeting of the Board and full details were published on the Council's website.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the urgent decision taken since the last meeting of the Executive Board be noted.</p>	

## DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

### EXB91 RUNCORN OLD TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which updated Members on the different stages of the Runcorn Old Town Investment Plan (ROTIP) and the approvals required going forward.

Runcorn was one of 101 towns invited by Government to develop proposals for a 'Town Deal' and following submission of the Town Investment Plan, had been offered an award of up to £23.6m. The objective of the Towns Fund Programme was to drive the sustainable economic regeneration of towns to support long term economic and productivity growth. A Town Deal was a three way agreement in principle between Government, the Local Authority and the Town Deal Board.

The report set out the next steps required to progress and implement the Town Deal for Runcorn and authority was sought to progress the Town Deal in the Council's capacity as the 'Accountable Body' to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and as part of the Council's role on the Town Deal Board. Attached to the report was Appendix 1 – Heads of Terms for the Town Deal offered by Government, which included the list of projects, and Appendix 2 – the Local Assurance Framework document for the Runcorn Town Deal for which approval was sought, so that the business cases could be developed and signed off.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) approves the Local Assurance Framework for the development and signing off on project business cases;
- 2) delegates authority to the Operational Director for Resources (Section 151 Officer) in consultation with the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property and Portfolio Holders for Major Projects and Corporate Services, to approve the Town Deal Business Cases in the Council's capacity as the Accountable Body, to be developed and submitted to Government by 4 August 2022;
- 3) in consultation with the Town Deal Board and Deputy

Strategic Director  
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Resources

Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, and Section 151 Officer, to authorise the expenditure of the 5% Towns Fund advance in line with the agreed Towns Fund priorities; and

- 4) delegate authority to the Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property and Section 151 Officer, to agree and complete Funding Agreements with partners that will deliver Town Deal projects on behalf of the Council, as the Accountable body for the Towns Fund Programme.

### **CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB92 SEN SCHOOL NAYLOR ROAD, INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL CONTRACT WAIVER REQUEST**

The Board received a report requesting approval for a waiver of Part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders (non-emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000) by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v). The request was to enable the Council to enter into an 'enabling contract' with Bowmer and Kirkland, the contractor who would be delivering the new Special Educational Needs (SEN) School, Raise Academy.

The Department for Education (DfE) were leading on the delivery of the new SEN Free School, to serve both Halton and St Helens Councils; the site selected is on Naylor Road, Widnes. The report described the investigation works carried out on the site where the invasive species Horsetail was discovered. The enabling contract would consist of the removal of the invasive species Horsetail from the site, in advance of the commencement of building works.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board approves the waiver of Part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders (non-emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000) by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v) and the contract be awarded directly to Bowmer and Kirkland, to carry out an enablement contract consisting of the removal from site of the invasive species, Horsetail.

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Community and  
Resources

#### **EXB93 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION FREEPORT**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which

sought approval for Halton to become part of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Freeport. This would include Tax and Customs Sites within the Borough; the administration of the Business Rates Relief and Tax Increment Financing (TIF) opportunities as they arose; and the identification of a series of projects that could be funded through the Business Rates income.

The LCR Freeport Management Board would be submitting a final Business case to Government in April 2022 to establish a LCR Freeport. If successful, it would be one of eight new Freeports set up by Government. Three Tax sites were permitted within each Freeport area along with an unlimited number of custom sites. The LCR Freeport Tax Sites proposed were Parkside in St Helens, Wirral Waters and the 3MG in Halton. Members were advised that Halton had proposed two customs sites, one at 3MG (Stobart Rail Terminal) and one at the Port of Weston.

If the LCR Freeport bid was approved, the Tax Sites would enable new businesses operating within the sites to access tax measures; these were described in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) approves the Council entering into a Memorandum of Understanding to become part of the LCR Freeport;
- 2) gives delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, to take all reasonable steps to participate in the LCR Freeport; and
- 3) authorises the Operational Director – Finance, to set up the required processes to facilitate the Business Rates and TIF associated with the Freeport operations.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

#### EXB94 ANNUAL REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION 2022

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought the approval of Council to a small number of changes to the Constitution.

The revised version of the Constitution picked up the changes to the Council's working arrangements that had taken place during the year, as well as other changes which were intended to assist the Council to operate more effectively.

Members were referred to Appendix one where the proposed amendments were listed; these had been considered by the Chief Executive and the Executive Board Member for Corporate Services, in accordance with Article 15.02.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board recommends Council to approve the changes to the Constitution including the matters set out in Appendix one.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

**EXB95 ENERGY BILLS REBATE SCHEME**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Economy and Resources, which provided details of the proposed implementation of the Government’s Energy Bills Rebate Scheme and sought approval for proposed eligibility criteria to be applied for awards under the discretionary part of the Energy Bills Rebate Scheme.

On 3 February 2022, Government announced a package of support known as the Energy Bills Rebate Scheme to help households with rising energy bills. This included a £150 non-repayable grant payment for households in council tax bands A to D – known as the Council Tax Rebate Grant; and £144m of discretionary funding for billing authorities to support households who were in need but were not eligible for the Council Tax Rebate Grant – known as the Discretionary Fund.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the proposals for implementation of the Energy Bills Rebate Scheme set out in the report be approved; and
- 2) the proposed eligibility criteria for awards under the discretionary part of the Scheme, as set out in Section 5 of the report, be approved.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO**

**EXB96 SERVICES FOR MISSING FROM HOME AND CARE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ACROSS CHESHIRE FOR HALTON, CHESHIRE EAST, CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER AND WARRINGTON: REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF STANDING ORDERS**

The Board received a request for a waiver of Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders (non-

emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000) by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v), to allow the continuation of a contract with ‘We are With You’ to deliver, on behalf of the Council, the Pan Cheshire Missing from Home and Care Service, for a period of one year from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

We are With You had been commissioned to deliver this service in July 2018. It worked across all of the four local authority areas with clear links to Cheshire Constabulary’s missing from home co-ordinators. The rationale for the waiver request was provided in the report together with the value of the contract extension and the agreed funding commitments from each of the participants – Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council, Cheshire East Council, Warrington Council and Halton.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the waiver of Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders (non-emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000) by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v) and the contract with ‘We are With You’ be extended for a further 12 months.

Strategic Director  
- People

EXB97 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE’S SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY: WAIVER REQUEST

The Board considered a request to waive Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders, by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (iv), to extend the contract for Children and Young People’s Speech and Language Therapy for a period of 11.5 months.

Members were advised that the waiver request was to allow a comprehensive review and reshaping of the provision to be undertaken, which would focus upon current and emerging needs and demands on the service, particularly regarding the impact of Covid-19 on children’s development and learning.

The report discussed the contract value relating to the waiver and gave further details on the requirement for a review of the provision. The contract was jointly commissioned by Halton Borough Council and Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (HCCG) and both partners were in support of the waiver request.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the waiver of Parts 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (iv), to extend the

Strategic Director  
- People

contract for Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy, for a period of 11.5 months.

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

EXB98 COMMUNITY MEALS: DIRECT AWARD OF CONTRACT TO APETITO

The Board considered a waiver request of Part 3 Procurement Standing Orders by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v), to grant a direct award to 'Apetito' for the supply of pre-prepared meals for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

The Community Meals Service was provided to eligible adults within Halton who were unable to shop or prepare a meal for themselves due to age, illness or disability. Following an internal audit of the Service a number of recommendations were made, one of them being to award an interim contract with the existing supplier, so consideration could be given to alternative community meals service delivery options, supply of the meals and charging levels.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the waiver of Part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v), for the direct award of a contract to 'Apetito', for a period of 12 months.

Strategic Director  
- People

**ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

EXB99 HIGHWAYS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT TERM CONTRACT TENDER

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, informing of the commencement of a procurement process for the provision of a Term Maintenance Contract, for the implementation of works and projects to deliver reactive, routine and planned highway works across the Borough.

It was noted that given the value of the contract, the Council's Constitution required that the Executive Board be informed at the beginning that such a tendering process is about to commence. The tendering of the contract would allow Halton Borough Council, as the Highway Authority, to deliver its current and future revenue and capital highway maintenance works from May 2023, when the current contract ends.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the intention to undertake a procurement exercise via The Chest with the purpose of securing an NEC4 Term Services Contract for the delivery of routine, reactive and planned highway improvement works across the Borough.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

## CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIO

### EXB100 CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of a Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the Council's operations and activities.

Further to the Executive Board meeting on 9 December 2021, the Board agreed that the Council sets a target to be carbon neutral by 2040 and that an Action Plan be developed to support the objective of becoming carbon neutral by 2040. Members were presented with the Action Plan, appended to the report.

It was noted that there were two key considerations with regards to the Action Plan – having the necessary resources and the development of technologies to help deliver it, further detail was outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the attached Strategy and Action Plan be approved; and
- 2) further reports be brought to the Board as and when funding decisions arose to finance the actions identified.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

### EXB101 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.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB102 FOUNDRY LANE RESIDENTIAL**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which gave an update on the progress of the regeneration project for residential development at Foundry Lane, Widnes.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be asked to include the Foundry Lane regeneration project in the Capital Programme, to be funded as outlined in sections 3.2 and 5.0 of the report; and
- 2) the Board subsequently authorises the Operational Director for Economy, Enterprise and Property, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal, to finalise the Development Agreement discussions.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

### **EXB103 ASTMOOR REGENERATION PROGRAMME**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which gave an update on the progress of the Astmoor Regeneration Project and sought approval to formally

appoint a Joint Venture partner following a full, open and competitive procurement procedure, in order to implement the Astmoor Regeneration Masterplan.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the formal appointment of the Council's Joint Venture partner, as part of the wider Astmoor Regeneration Project.

Strategic Director  
- Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

**MINUTES ISSUED: 19 April 2022**

**CALL- IN: 26 April 2022 at 5.00 pm**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 26 April 2022.**

*Meeting ended at 2.35 p.m.*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Tuesday, 17 May 2022 in the Boardroom -  
Municipal Building, Widnes*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Harris, T. McInerney and Thompson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney and A. Jones

Also in attendance: None

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

*Action*

EXB104 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2022  
were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

EXB105 APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER  
OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to  
appoint Councillor Mike Wharton as the Leader and  
Councillor Dave Thompson as the Deputy Leader of the  
Council for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

EXB106 APPOINTMENT TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND  
SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR AND THE APPOINTMENT  
OF HEALTH PPB CO-OPTEE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic  
Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, regarding  
appointments to the Council's Boards, Committees and  
Scrutiny Co-ordinator post, and the re-appointment of a non-  
voting co-optee to the Health Policy and Performance  
Board, for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

A list of Committee and Board memberships was tabled at the meeting.

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

- 1) to the Council's Boards, Committees and Scrutiny Co-ordinator post, for the 2022/23 Municipal Year; and
- 2) Mr David Wilson be re-appointed as Healthwatch Halton non voting Co-optee to the Health Policy and Performance Board, for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

*Meeting ended at 2.10 p.m.*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 16 June 2022 in the Boardroom -  
Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), 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, S. Young, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson,  
S. Wallace-Bonner and A. Jones

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

		<i>Action</i>
EXB1	MINUTES	
	<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
	<b>LEADER'S PORTFOLIO</b>	
EXB2	URGENT DECISIONS	
	<p>The Executive Board received a report from the Chief Executive, which provided information on the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Board.</p> <p>It was noted that the Council's Constitution gave authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Operational Director Finance and/or the Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services, where necessary.</p> <p>Two urgent decisions had been made since the last meeting of the Board and full details were published on the Council's website.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Executive Board be noted.</p>	

EXB3 DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF APPLICATIONS

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented three applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief, under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, for consideration.

It was noted that under the amended provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the Council was able to grant discretionary rate relief to any business ratepayer. This relief had previously only been available to organisations that were a registered charity, a community amateur sports club or a not for profit organisation.

The report outlined details of the applications from Feeding Britain, Halton Citizens Advice Bureau and Power in Partnership, in relation to their respective addresses. Appended to the report was the potential annual cost to the Council of granting the discretionary rate relief.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the application for discretionary rate relief for Feeding Britain, in relation to 21 Queens Avenue, Widnes, WA8 8HR, be approved at 15%;
- 2) the application for discretionary rate relief for Halton Citizens Advice Bureau, in relation to units 1-2 Runcorn Shopping Centre, Runcorn, WA7 2BS, be approved at 15%; and
- 3) the application for discretionary rate relief for Power in Partnership, in relation to 5 Queens Avenue, Widnes, WA8 8HR and 108a Royal Avenue, Widnes, WA8 8HN, be approved at 90%.

Operational  
Director - Finance

EXB4 2021/22 REVENUE AND CAPITAL FINANCIAL OUTTURN

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, advising of the Council's overall revenue and capital net spending outturn position for the year 2021/22.

It was reported that the final accounts for 2021/22 were nearing completion. The revenue spending position for each Department was shown in Appendix one; which presented a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget and costs relating to Covid; Appendix two provided detailed figures for each individual Department. In

overall terms, the outturn position for the year showed that operational net spend was over the approved budget by £1.195m; this excluded unfunded Covid cost of £1.118m, the costs of which had been met directly from earmarked reserves. Appendix 3 contained the Capital Programme for each Directorate as at 31 March 2022.

The outturn position was a significant improvement on the forecast overspend of £2.998m reported at the end of quarter 3. There were a number of reasons for the improved financial position; these were detailed in the report. The key budget variances for the quarter were outlined for the Board, from the following Departments:

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

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

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB5 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORTS FOR Q4 2021/22

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Policy, People, Performance and Efficiency, on progress against key objectives/milestones and performance targets for the fourth quarter period to 31 March 2022, for the People Directorate (Children and Young People; and Adult Social Care and Health); and the Enterprise, Community and Resources Directorate.

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

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

### **ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB6 REFURBISHMENT OF HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL CARE HOMES - KEY DECISION**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which gave details of a proposed refurbishment programme to Halton Borough Council's four care homes.

Halton Council was now the largest care home provider in the Borough for older people, following the acquisitions of Millbrow, St Luke's, St Patrick's and Madeline McKenna Care Homes. The Council was now presented with an opportunity to lead the sector, however to be able to ensure that a high level and quality of care continued to be provided, further significant investment was required.

The report set out the rationale behind the proposals, and their initial costings and funding proposals were set out in paragraph 6.1.

#### Reason for Decision

A decision was required, as the outcome would result in the Local Authority incurring expenditure. The expenditure will provide valuable services to Halton residents and enhance the care homes estate.

#### Alternative options considered and rejected

No alternative options were available to support the improvement required to Council owned care homes.

#### Implementation date

None agreed, subject to procurement procedures.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the proposed refurbishment programme for the Council's four care homes, as outlined in the report, be approved;
- 2) Council be recommended to include the proposed scheme within the capital programme, with a total estimated cost of £4.2m over three years, to be

Strategic Director  
- People



funded as outlined in paragraph 6.1; and

- 3) a further report be presented to the Board, to provide details of the proposed refurbishment works, once the scheme has been developed.

EXB7 DEMENTIA FRIENDLY HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (HBC)

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – People, which presented the draft Dementia Friendly Halton Borough Council (HBC) Action Plan for approval.

The report outlined details of the Dementia Friendly Communities Programme from the National Alzheimer’s Society that encouraged everyone to share responsibility for ensuring that people with dementia felt understood, valued and able to contribute to their community.

Approval was given in 2020 to develop a dementia friendly HBC approach and an initial draft Action Plan was presented to Management Team in late 2021. A number of achievable actions had been identified and formed the Dementia Friendly HBC Action Plan. The three Priority Actions identified were:

- Organisational support and infrastructure to support development of a Dementia Friendly HBC;
- Raising Dementia Awareness across the Council and beyond; and
- Service Area Specific Actions.

The Action Plan, appended to the report, gave the context, rationale and details on how the actions would be delivered.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the contents of the report and appendix be noted; and
- 2) the Action Plan be approved.

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO**

EXB8 UPDATE ON ONE HALTON PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP

The Board considered a report which provided an update on One Halton Place Based Partnership development with Cheshire Merseyside Integrated Care

Strategic Director  
- People

System (ICS) context.

The Health Policy and Performance Board received reports in November 2021 and February 2022 setting out the requirements for the formation of Integrated Care Systems regionally. This consists of an Integrated Care Board (ICB) and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), along with at Place level, a Place Based Partnership (PBP). Locally, this was the One Halton Place Based Partnership – these arrangements were set out in NHS Reforms White Paper, Integration and Innovation, published in February 2021.

It was noted that these were the most significant changes to health arrangements in a decade which aimed to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities. The report provided the Board with some context, an overview of progress and the current position.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the report.

#### **COMMUNITY SAFETY PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB9 WHOLE FAMILY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC ABUSE SUPPORT AND SERVICE PROVISION**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – People, which gave an overview of a revised approach to delivering specialist domestic abuse support and services in Halton that aligned with the local whole picture approach.

The Halton Domestic Abuse Partnership Strategy 2022-24 adopted the SafeLives Whole Picture approach, which was considered to be best practice when developing effective domestic abuse service models that responded to the needs of the individual, the family, the community and the wider society.

The report outlined these proposals, which over a two year period presented savings for the Council and would bring some service elements into the remit of the Local Authority.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) agree to take forward the proposal outlined in the report to ensure a full service offer for victims, children and perpetrators of domestic abuse that is more fit for purpose and would deliver a saving of £39,605, over a two year period;

Strategic Director  
- People

- 2) approve the commencement of a procurement exercise for two separate commissions, firstly the Halton Domestic Abuse Specialist Accommodation Service and secondly, a separate Specialist Children and Young Peoples Domestic Abuse Service;
- 3) approve Community Support provision being brought in house; and
- 4) agree that contracts are offered on a two year fixed basis and note that TUPE may apply to all aspects of future service provision.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB10 AMENDMENT TO CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Community and Environment, which provided information on planned landscape and public open space improvement schemes to be undertaken and to ask Members to approve a capital budget allocation and expenditure in order to complete these works.

There were several major landscape improvement schemes planned over the next 2-3 years – the report provided details of these projects, the costings for each, and how they would be funded.

**RESOLVED:** That the Executive Board approves

- 1) the sum of £1,988,342.71, received from Mersey Link for the reinstatement of Mersey Gateway temporary works areas, be added to the Capital Programme;
- 2) that £1m of capital borrowing be added to the Capital Programme to be used as match funding towards the Brindley Green element of Runcorn Town Centre Investment Plan;
- 3) the annual revenue cost of £57k to service the £1m capital borrowing to be funded from the Contingency budget; and
- 4) the Council’s Environment Services Division prepare remedial works plans for the former Mersey Gateway temporary works areas and appoint any necessary consultants and contractors to carry out these works.

Operational  
Director -  
Community &  
Environment

EXB11 EAST RUNCORN CONNECTIVITY SCHEME

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, which sought approval for further feasibility work (Year 2) on the business case for the East Runcorn Connectivity (ERC) Scheme (this follows the Year 1 programme approved by the Board in June 2021).

The full ERC scheme comprised four elements:

- A558 dualling from Pitts Heath Lane to Innovation Way;
- A56 Major Maintenance – Keckwick Lane to M56 junction 11;
- Potential loop road M56 junction 11 to A533; and
- A suite of active and sustainable travel interventions.

Further details of the four elements were discussed in the report, and Appendix one presented the Year 2 outline of programme activity for the ERC for Members approval. It was noted that a Year 2 proposal had been submitted to the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and Halton was now in receipt of an offer letter to support Year 2 with pre-development funding.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

- 1) approve the further development of the East Runcorn Connectivity business case;
- 2) approve the Year 2 programme as set out in Appendix 1;
- 3) approve the amendment of the Council's Capital Programme to incorporate the Year 2 sum of £2.71m;
- 4) approve the principle of commissioning Mott MacDonald as external consultant for the project via the Merseytravel Consultancy Framework to 2025; and
- 5) delegate power to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal, to implement the Year 2 works on the East Runcorn Connectivity Scheme, within funding deadlines.

Operational  
Director - Policy,  
Planning and  
Transportation

EXB12 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.

**ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

EXB13 HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT CONTRACT AWARD

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, which made a recommendation for the award of a contract for capital funded highway improvement works.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the award of the ‘Highway Improvement Contract’ as recommended in the report, to commence on 6 August 2022, for three years initially, with a one-year extension option.

Operational  
Director - Policy,  
Planning and  
Transportation

**MINUTES ISSUED: 21 June 2022**

**CALL- IN: 28 June 2022 at 5.00 pm**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 28 June 2022.**

*Meeting ended at 2.40 p.m.*

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 23 March 2022 at Bridge Suite - Halton Stadium, Widnes*

Present: Councillors J. Lowe, T. McInerney, Woolfall and Wright (Chair) and L. Gardner, K. Hannay, S. Johnson Griffiths, T. Knight, D. Nolan, Dr I Onyia, K. Parker, S. Patel, S. Semoff, M. Vasic and D. Wilson.

Apologies for Absence: S. Constable, R. Foster, N. Goodwin, P. Jones, C. Lyons, D. Merrill and S Yeoman.

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

*Action*

**HWB27 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2022 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

**HWB28 PRESENTATION ON DENTAL SERVICES IN HALTON**

The Board received a presentation from Tom Knight NHS England, which provided an update on dental services in the Borough. Tom outlined the difficulties and challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic which have resulted in long waiting times for the public in accessing dental services.

At the start of the pandemic, dentists closed down in line with National guidance. In June 2021, they were asked to open back up. However, due to infection prevention control guidelines, dentists were only allowed to see 10 patients a day, instead of the usual 40 patients a day and this was why there are long waiting lists for appointments.

Tom also gave some examples of the good work that was ongoing in Halton. There was a commissioning team that had worked with looked after children, the care homes and vulnerable people. Also additional resources had been added to a triage helpline.

A number of Councillors expressed their concerns about the issues their constituents were facing in accessing NHS dentists. Tom noted these concerns and provided reassurance that every efforts were being made to find a resolution.

Councillor Lowe expressed her thanks for the work undertaken in the care homes.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the presentation.

## HWB29 LIVING WITH COVID IN HALTON

The Board received an update on the current situation regarding the COVID pandemic and the future managing recovery from and life beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

The report outlined the next steps and how we learn to live with COVID safely. There had been guidance related to the management of COVID-19 and from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, the Government would update guidance setting out the ongoing steps that people with COVID-19 should take to minimise contact with other people. This would align with the changes to testing.

Halton's Public Health Team would continue to protect the public using a variety of tools including, expert help and advice, outbreak management, commissioning of appropriate services, provision of infection, prevention and control services and providing community outreach and support at a variety of levels.

It was noted that vaccinations remained a high priority and were still available to:

- anyone eligible for any of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or booster dose;
- 12-15 year olds; and
- 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> boosters for people over 75 years (or those significantly immunocompromised), and the 1<sup>st</sup> dose for 5-11 year olds, both from April.

There were significant pockets of vaccine hesitancy within Halton and those that had not yet received a vaccine would be contacted shortly and support would be provided.

The Chair, Councillor Marie Wright, thanked the Public Health Team for their continued work and support.



RESOLVED: The Board noted the report.

HWB30 UPDATE ON ONE HALTON PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP & FEEDBACK ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION WORK WITH THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD WITH FORWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board received an update on the One Place Based Partnership development with Cheshire Merseyside Integrated Care Board and Integrated Care Partnership Board. The report also set out some recommendations to the Board following the work with the Local Government Association.

The Board agreed:

- i) the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Board;
- ii) the frequency and format of meetings;
- iii) that a thematic area would be agreed at the next meeting.
- iv) the proposal for an induction process for all new members of the Board;
- v) the suggestion of periodic Borough tours or visits to ensure the Board is familiar with the locality;
- vi) the establishment of an action plan;
- vii) that the HBC Partnership Officer would support to facilitate and co-ordinate the re-focussing of an agreed action plan and would provide continuous co-ordination support.

In addition, the Board was advised that a White Paper was published on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 called "Joining up Care for People, Places and Communities". The paper built on the integrated approaches set out in the integrated care systems and place based partnerships.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the report and agreed the recommendations outlined above.

HWB31 JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Board received a report from the Director of

Public Health, regarding the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which outlined the priority areas for 2022/23.

The JSNA is a statutory responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board and its main purpose is to support local efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce inequalities for all ages. The core aim was to develop local evidence based priorities for commission which would improve the public health and reduce inequalities.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the report and subsequently agreed the following recommendations:

1. the Board to oversee the Annual Joint Strategic Needs Assessment work plan and support the development of a work plan for 2022/23;
2. contribute to the production of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to ensure all partners are working collectively in Halton using the same intelligence to support joint decision making; and
3. that their preferred approach to the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and governance arrangements for its delivery was via a Steering Group.

#### HWB32 SOCIAL CARE ANNUAL REPORT (LOCAL ACCOUNT) 2020-21

The Board received the Adult Social Care Annual Report (Local Account) for 2020-21. The report included information on the successes and achievements across Adult Social Care, details of progress against performance metrics, some of the challenges faced, how the Council responded to community needs and details of future activities to be further developed.

It was also noted that the Annual Report, also known as the 'Local Account', served as a review mechanism for Adult Social Care to consider as part of ongoing continuous service improvement measures.

The Board acknowledged, praised and thanked the work and achievements of Adult Social Care staff during the pandemic. Thanks were also extended to everyone who worked during the pandemic including across the Council, NHS, pharmacies, care homes, vaccination centres and

other services.

RESOLVED: The Board noted the report.

HWB33 SUSTAINING THE DISCHARGE TO ASSESS/HOME FIRST MODEL

The Board considered a report of the Director of Adult Social Services, which summarised how the Council had developed the Discharge to Assess/Home First Model in Halton and the issues associated with sustaining that model/approach.

One of the key pieces of guidance issued during the pandemic was the National Introduction of the COVID-19 Hospital Discharge Service Requirements. This guidance provided a renewed focus on the Discharge to Assess Model.

This new approach demonstrably improved the outcome for vulnerable adults, significantly older people whilst reducing the need for long-term services and hospital utilisation.

It was noted that the changes made across the Intermediate Care and Discharge to Assess/Home First Model, alongside the impact of hospital pressures resulted in a shift in financial spend. Due to the flexibility of the joint working arrangements, budgets against services were appropriate and were able to be realigned. However, it was noted that whilst this was a temporary solution to an increasingly pressured budget, it was expected that these pressures would continue throughout the coming financial year and beyond and would need to be addressed.

The Board extended their thanks and best wishes to David Parr - Chief Executive, who was due to retire from Halton Borough Council on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

RESOLVED: The Board noted the report.

HWB34 FUTURE MEETING DATES

6<sup>th</sup> July 2022  
12<sup>th</sup> October 2022  
18<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
22<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

*Meeting ended at 4.00 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, 13 June 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Logan (Chair), Abbott, M. Bradshaw, Carlin, Goodall, V. Hill, Jones, Loftus and Aimee Teeling

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Bramwell

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, L. Davenport and A. Leach

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

	<i>Action</i>
CYP1 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
CYP2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CYP3 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
<p>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.</p>	
CYP4 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE UPDATE	
<p>The Board received a presentation, which gave an update of the work undertaken to date, following the Ofsted focused visit and the subsequent actions taken in response to their findings.</p>	

Halton received the focused visit to its Children's Services Department in October 2021 and inspectors looked at the arrangements for Children in Need (CIN), including those who were subject to a Child Protection Plan. Since the findings of the inspectors, steps had been taken to make improvements to the service, including the establishment of an Improvement Board.

The presentation outlined the progress made within leadership and management, areas of concern and the next steps to be taken; and progress made with the quality of practice, areas of concern and next steps to be taken. It also gave information on progress of quality assurance and performance and the activities carried out by the Operational Group.

Following the presentation, Members' queried the following:

Where was the structure of the management team currently – Principle Managers were operating a level down to cover the absence of practice managers. The aim was to have a visible leadership team to support social workers, however recruitment was difficult at all levels and there was a reliance on agency workers to fill management posts, as well as social worker and practice lead posts.

There was a high turnover of agency staff – yes, a snapshot of the workforce as of May 2022 was given. The Duty and Assessment Team (DAT) was brought via from agency staff and was making a positive difference. Reasons such as pay, distance from home, bridge tolls and lack of administration support were given as why workers left (agency and permanent). Recruitment and retention of staff was a priority and a workforce strategy had been launched and staff development forum had been created to help support this.

Why was Eclipse unpopular – social workers did not favour Eclipse as it could be time consuming to work with. It was being developed as much as possible to remove barriers to the system that would improve or reduce data input for workers. Eclipse was not like the previous system, Care First, whereby social workers could choose when to start a recording pathway. Eclipse follows the child's journey completely via the mandatory pathways and process re filling of forms and social workers have to follow the required steps to comply with the process and procedures that completes this journey.

Was there support for adopters following a successful adoption – yes a post adoption support team was in place available at any time for adopting parents to contact.

How was the increase in the numbers of unaccompanied child asylum seekers affecting the service – this has impacted on caseloads for social workers, budgets and sufficiency, as they either required foster care or accommodation. The Council has a statutory duty of care and other responsibilities in relation to asylum seekers.

It was commented by a Member that resell of the organisation was required to encourage the recruitment and retention of staff, in particular social workers.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the steps that had been taken and the role of the Improvement Board.

#### CYP5 HALTON LOCAL AREA SEND STRATEGY 2021-25

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which provided update in relation to the progress of the local area Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy 2021-25.

The report also outlined some of the pressures on the SEND provision and support service. It gave the position in relation to applications for Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) assessments, in that these had continued to be received at a high rate since Covid restrictions were eased in Schools over summer 2021, with 20% of applications being made by parents. Further, it was reported that the completion rate of applications to within 20 weeks had dropped to 62.5%; the report discussed the three factors contributing to this decline.

The Board was also presented with information on the following strategic developments:

- The Working Better Together sub-group of the SEND Partnership;
- The development of a Halton Co-production Charter;
- The DFE's Delivering Better Values Programme; and
- The development of a new SEND Sufficiency Strategy.

Was the Co-production Charter a living document – no it would stay the same. It had been co-produced by parents

and the Council and allows parents to hold the partnership to account. The document was new to Halton but was in place in many other local authorities who also developed them independently. It was acknowledged that there may be risks associated with raising parents expectations, however it was commented that it was a worthwhile to have the Charter.

Would the SEND Sufficiency Strategy be ready for Autumn – yes, the implementation timeline for the Sufficiency Strategy is that it would be in place over summer 2022.

Can we have an idea of costs of Out of Borough placements – these were broad in range depending on the child's needs, but can range from £30k to £90k per year per child/young person. Transport costs would be on top on this.

What was the furthest distance travelled to for Out of Borough placements – Precise information was not to hand but there were some Key Stage 3 and 4 students travelling to Bolton, Ormskirk and Stockport.

More about funding packages please – placements were quoted on an individual basis, depending on the needs of the child. Each provider had their own pricing structure and it was recognised that there were differences between different authorities' charges. Costs of placements were challenged regularly.

Further to discussion it was also noted that there were 7.4% of children in Halton with and EHCP, so the population of SEND was above the national average. The Free School, Raise Academy, had been delayed and was causing pressures on SEND provision; it was now due to open in September 2023 and would mainly address autism and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

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

CYP6 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR QUARTER 3 &4 2021/22

The Board received the Performance Management reports for quarters 3 and 4 of 2021-22 (1 October to 31 December 2021 and 1 January to 31 March 2022).

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.

Members queried:

Virtual School PEP's, had they improved – this information was not to hand but a response would be sought from the relevant officer following the meeting. It was noted that the Annual Report of the virtual school was expected in the Autumn.

Was there an action plan in place to improve the attendance at the PRU – a response would be sought from the relevant officer.

RESOLVED: That the quarter 3 and 4 performance management reports be received.

Operational  
Director -  
Education,  
Inclusion and  
Provision

*Meeting ended at 8.05 p.m.*

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

*At a meeting of the Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 20 June 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Dourley and C. Plumpton Walsh

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: W. Rourke, A. Jones, S. Saunders, P. Corner, F. Edwards and S. Lowrie

Also in attendance: None

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

		<i>Action</i>
ELS1	MINUTES	
	The Minutes from the meeting held on 31 January 2022, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
ELS2	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
	The Board was advised that no public question had been received.	
ELS3	THE EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING & SKILLS AND COMMUNITY POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22	
	The Board received the Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board's Annual Report for 2021/22.	
	The Chair conveyed his thanks to all Members of the Board and Officers for their support throughout the year.	
	RESOLVED: That the Annual Report for 2021-22 be received.	

ELS4 APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT BY BE MORE UPDATE

The Board received a report and presentation on the 'Apprenticeship Support by Be More' service, which provided an update from the paper submitted at the last meeting in January 2022.

The Apprenticeship Support by Be More Team was managed by Halton Borough Council and funded by the European Social Fund (ES) and the Strategic Investment Fund (SIF). It delivered career inspiration and guidance to Liverpool City Region (LCR) residents and promoted the take up of apprenticeships, vocational training and employment vacancies. Since the last report on the service in January 2022 the Team had delivered the LCR Skills Show (1 and 2 March 2022) to 2568 individuals, held career events, an educational theatre play and made 212 interventions.

Following Members' questions, the following was noted:

- The LCR now managed the Apprenticeship Support by Be More website; it was commented that the website lacked signposting for those with SEND, this would be fed back to them. The Team had recently targeted Young people with SEND in a separate campaign (Learn Live);
- An apprenticeship is a job and generally apprentices were offered permanent employment upon completion of an apprenticeship;
- There was a drop in 16-18 year olds applying for apprenticeships during Covid-19 pandemic, these were now increasing;
- Schools from Runcorn and Widnes did take part in the LCR Skills Show in March; more detailed information was available and would be sent to Members following the meeting; and
- Officers had held meetings with the LCR regarding the cessation of the service and had lobbied for a replacement service.

Members welcomed and praised the work carried out by the Be More Team but were disappointed that the service would cease in December of this year. No information was being provided from the LCR on what would replace this service and what opportunities would be made available to those six staff who delivered the service and currently faced losing their jobs. The Board objected to the cessation of the service and it was agreed that officers would contact the

LCR for more information on a substitute service going forward.

Operational  
Director  
Economy,  
Enterprise  
& Property

-  
&

RESOLVED: That the Board received the information and presentation.

#### ELS5 SPORT AND RECREATION TEAM

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Community and Environment, which provided information on the Council's Sport and Recreation Service, and Leisure Centre and Sports Development Services for the financial year 2021/22.

The report outlined what the service had delivered during the last 12 months, following the emergence from the pandemic. The Leisure Centre Service (LCS) reopened in April 2021 after the third national lockdown. It was reported that the service continued to actively work with partner organisations, to facilitate development through a better understanding of local issues and a sharing of resources to achieve success; without which much of the work highlighted in the report would not have been possible.

The Sport and Recreation Team has two distinct areas, Sports Development Team and Management of the Council's 3 Leisure Centres – Kingsway Leisure Centre, Brookvale Leisure Centre and Runcorn Swimming Pool. The report outlined the projects delivered in both of these areas in detail, which included participation data and partnership and collaboration work.

Following the presentation, the following information was provided or clarified:

- The figure of 248,000 related to number of activity visits made to leisure centres, not the number of people;
- The use of grass pitches was back to capacity, specifically Widnes;
- Following the Covid-19 pandemic, older clients were slowly returning to classes;
- Brookvale pool was not open to the general public during the day, except early mornings and two lunchtimes, but the gym was;
- Some lifeguards were swimming instructors as well, so did both jobs;
- There was a waiting list for swimming classes; unfortunately, due to resources the waiting list is currently suspended. If there is a space a customer

can be enrolled, if not they would be asked to call back. Once resources permit, the waiting lists will recommence; and

- There was a review of the Aquatics service currently underway which was looking at stabilising the model.

Members discussed their concerns over the poor retention of lifeguards and swimming instructors in the Council, which was adversely affecting the services provided in leisure centres, due to not having enough qualified staff to operate fully. Arising from the discussion and responses were the following points:

- Three lifeguards were needed to open a swimming pool to enable the operation of a “two on – one off” rotation; the “off” rotation staff member did other jobs during this period of time;
- Examples of other jobs carried out by the lifeguards were given;
- Swimming instructors were considered to be low paid, in comparison with these jobs in the private sector;
- Lifeguards and swimming instructors were employed on HBC contracts; in addition a large number of casual workers were employed that the service relied on for holiday cover/vacancies;
- Out of 36 lifeguards trained during 2021, 17 had found work at other sites;
- Four lifeguard positions were currently in the recruitment line with HR waiting to be advertised;
- Low pay was the main reason for recruitment difficulties for swimming instructors due to competition with the private sector;
- Despite the closure of Runcorn swimming pool and staff shortages, there were no capacity issues for customers using the pools during general swim sessions;
- A review of the swimming timetable would take place to see if a new Aqua class could be put on to accommodate the participants who attended Runcorn Pool;
- A subsidy for lifeguard training courses was to be considered; and
- Consideration to increase the pay for lifeguards and swimming instructors was suggested.

It was noted that with regards to the consideration of increasing pay to attract staff, a paper was being submitted to the Corporate Policy and Performance Board this year, on this matter. The Board would be kept updated.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the report and comments made; and
- 2) welcomes the progress being made in encouraging and supporting residents to be active.

Operational  
Director -  
Community &  
Environment

#### ELS6 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS UPDATE

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, which provided a number of employment and skills developments in the Liverpool City Region (LCR).

The LCR Combined Authority led on a number of employment and skills initiatives as follows:

- Adult Education Budget (AEB) Procurement;
- LCR Skills Show;
- Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPS) and Strategic Development Fund (SDF); and
- Skills Bootcamps for the Workforce.

The report outlined the most recent information in relation to the above initiatives. With regards to the LCR Skills Show, Members requested a list of participants/providers and details of the schools that were in attendance from Halton – these would be sent following the meeting and emailed to Members.

It was also noted that the LCR Combined Authority (CA) did have trade union representatives on relevant Boards. The situation with the funding for the Apprenticeship Support by Be More Team was highlighted, as referred to in minute number ELS4.

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

#### ELS7 SHARED PROSPERITY FUND UPDATE

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, which provided an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and set out how this may impact on Halton.

It was reported that the UKSPF was a major regeneration fund which aimed to contribute to the Government's *Levelling Up* agenda by providing financial

assistance to capital and revenue projects which boosted productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in deprived areas, as well as growing a sense of community, local pride and belonging. It was noted that this was designed to be less bureaucratic than the European funding scheme it had been designed to replace – details of this were set out in the report.

The report outlined the funding commitments already made which included what the UKSPF would provide to the Combined Authority as a whole and what Halton would receive from this. It also provided information on the impact this funding would have for Halton and its priorities.

It was noted that since the report had been written further details were emerging in regard to how the fund would be delivered and the priorities for funding. A briefing note was being prepared which would provide more details. It was recognised that going forward there were less resources available than with previous programmes and that working with partners to maximise resources would be required.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the report.

Operational  
Director -  
Economy,  
Enterprise &  
Property

ELS8 LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP (LEP) TRANSITION REPORT

The Board considered a report which provided an update on transition from a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Growth Platform, to a more integrated organisation as part of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority, against a backdrop of a Central Government review.

The report listed the activities to be carried out locally as part of the Government review and gave the timeframe for the drafting of the Transition Plan before it is submitted to Government on 29 July 2022.

It was noted that the review is open to the public and private companies and will provide the opportunity to ensure local views were heard. Further, the LEP Board and sub-boards and other private sector stakeholders would be thoroughly consulted for individual and collective input during this process over the coming weeks, as would this Board.

Officers' would submit a further update to the Board in 6 months.

Operational  
Director -  
Economy,  
Enterprise &



RESOLVED: That the Board notes the update.

Property

ELS9 UPDATE ON EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING, SKILLS AND COMMUNITY POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD SCRUTINY TOPICS

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, which provided an update on the Scrutiny Topic Group themes agreed by Members for the Municipal Year 2021/22.

Two Topics were agreed last June – ‘*Health and Employment*’ and ‘*The Provision of Business Support in the Borough*’. Both Topic Groups had now met and a summary of the key points were set out in the report, which included any emerging issues and future actions to be taken.

A visit to Riverside College was proposed between 11 – 22 September; suggested dates would be sent to the Board for agreement. Furthermore, a visit to a local business was being arranged. Consideration was also being given to providing employers with advice on the work of the Public Health Team, via the Chamber of Commerce’s First Tuesday Breakfast Meetings.

Operational Director -  
Economy, Enterprise &  
Property

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the report.

ELS10 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS - Q4 2021-22

The Board received the performance management reports for quarter 4 of 2021-22 (1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022) and were requested to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of these.

It was noted that the key priorities for development or 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.

Further to queries, it was noted that the restructure of the Employment, Learning and Skills Division was completed. Also, that some KPI information on employment,

learning and skills was not recorded due to information not being available.

RESOLVED: That the quarter 4 2021-22 performance management reports be received.

*Meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.*

## HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Health Policy and Performance Board held on Tuesday, 15 February 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors P. Lloyd Jones (Chair), Baker (Vice-Chair), Ball, Bevan, D. Cargill, Dourley, Leck and Ratcliffe, and D. Wilson (Healthwatch Co-optee)

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Goodall and J. Stockton

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Wallace-Bonner, M. Vasic, A. Jones, D. Nolan, L Wilson, I. Onyia and D. Tierney

Also in attendance: L. Gardner – Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS FT, Dr D. Wilson – Grove Partnership, D. Roberts – Deputy Chief Nurse NHS Halton CCG and Councillor J. Lowe (in accordance with Standing Order 33)

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

	<i>Action</i>
HEA32 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2021 were signed as a correct record, subject to noting that Councillor Bevan had submitted her apologies prior to the meeting.</p>	
HEA33 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
HEA34 HEALTH AND WELLBEING MINUTES	
<p>The minutes from the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 6 October 2021, were attached for the information of the Board.</p>	
HEA35 BREAST SCREENING SERVICES	
<p>The Board considered a report from the Clinical Chief Officer – NHS Halton and NHS Warrington CCGs and the Director of Strategy and Partnerships – Warrington and</p>	

Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Lucy Gardner in attendance), notifying them of the proposal to consolidate and expand Breast Screening Services at Bath Street, Warrington, by relocating Breast Screening Services from the Kendrick Wing at Warrington Hospital.

The report provided some general data relating to patient numbers on the service provided across the four Boroughs – Warrington, Halton, St Helen’s and Knowsley. The Board was advised that Phase 1 of the Breast Service reconfiguration was complete and the Breast Assessment and Symptomatic Clinics had been relocated from Warrington Hospital to Halton Hospital’s Captain Sir Tom Moore Building, where a new £2.1m Breast Centre had been created on the ground floor.

Phase 2 was now in progress and Lucy Gardner described to the Board the public consultation process that was required for the consolidation of the Warrington Breast Screening Service at Bath Street. A methodology plan was appended to the report for Members information, which included the timescales involved.

The following was noted after Members’ questions:

- Attendance at a breast screening clinic was purely voluntary – not all patients who were invited attended their appointment;
- Halton was still on a 3 year cycle of appointments and these were currently on track; and
- The consultation would be shared with Healthwatch.

Members queries relating to comparisons with local and national attendance figures and a breakdown of the makeup of the 36 patients attending the Kendrick Wing would be sent following the meeting, as the information was not at hand.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) notes the report; and
- 2) supports the deployment of the consultation plan, as described.

Director of Adult  
Social Services

#### HEA36 IMPROVING ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE SERVICES

The Board considered a report from the Chief Commissioner for Halton, which provided an update of Primary Care Services in the Borough and the improvement

plans in place.

The Board welcomed Dr David Wilson from Grove House Partnership and Denise Roberts, Deputy Chief Nurse: NHS Halton CCG, who gave a presentation in support of the report, which showed some general practice and out of hours access data. This included the total number of consultations (face to face, on the telephone and e-consultations); data relating to NHS 111 calls passed to the GP Out of Hours service; and activity at the Urgent Treatment Centres, between August 2019 and December 2021.

It was reported that the NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) had provided additional Winter Access Funding (WAF) to support a local Primary Care Winter Access Plan. The local plan includes four elements (below) and these were outlined in the report:

- Expansion of General Practice appointments;
- Consistent offer across all Halton Practices for urgent/same day appointments;
- Data validation and improvement plans; and
- Community pharmacy consultation scheme.

Further to the information presented, the following comments/queries were made:

- Some Members felt the information given did not reflect what they were hearing in the community from constituents, for example experiencing long waiting times on the telephone when trying to get through to a surgery to make a doctor's appointment;
- The above scenario often forced patients to use A&E and others just gave up, meaning a diagnosis could be missed;
- Not all patients needed to see a GP and were triaged to other services; the resources were in place but it was difficult to change peoples' mind-set that they must see a GP;
- There were concerns that some clinicians and other hospital staff would leave their professions or reduce their hours due to demands made upon them over the past couple of years resulting from the impacts of Covid-19;
- All surgeries were contractually obligated to offer e-consultations – links to these were available on practice websites and the NHS App also leads the user to the e-consultation link.

RESOLVED: That the Board receives and notes the update provided.

HEA37 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 given and the following additional information was provided:

- It was accepted that not all people who tested positive reported this to the NHS but took it upon themselves to isolate and do the right thing;
- Eventually the virus would move to an endemic stage and testing would cease for those without symptoms;
- A booster vaccination was needed in order to prolong the protection period of two vaccinations and reduce the risk of serious illness and/or hospitalisation;
- There was a plan to vaccinate vulnerable 5 to 11 year olds before the general population;
- Deaths caused by the virus in Halton totalled 375 – a comparison with other boroughs' would be included in a report at a future meeting; and
- When the Government do eventually cease all restrictions, schools would be supported as they were now and be encouraged to continue with Covid learned behaviours and the use of PPE.

RESOLVED: That the update be received.

HEA38 UPDATE ON ONE HALTON PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP

The Board received an update from the Strategic Director – People, HBC and the Chief Commissioner, NHS Halton CCG, on the One Halton Place Based Partnership development with Cheshire Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Integrated Care Partnership (ICP).

Further to the report to the Board in November 2021

where the requirements for the formation of Integrated Care Systems regionally and an Integrated Care Partnership at Place level was discussed, these were detailed in NHS Reforms and now set out in the White Paper *Integration and Innovation*, published in February 2021, and would build on the NHS long term plan.

Appended to the report was a Development Advisory Group briefing, dated 5 January 2022, which gave details of the new target date of 1 July 2022 for the statutory arrangements to take effect and ICBs to be legally and operationally established.

The briefing also contained information on recruitment to senior roles, a Covid-19 update and responses to key questions that had been raised. A response was provided to the Chair's query regarding funding arrangements and whether they would be pooled or aligned, as discussed in paragraph 3.7.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### HEA39 SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update on safeguarding in Halton.

The report outlined the impacts of Covid-19 on individuals, families, communities and wider society and how it had touched every part of people's lives and that many of the existing protective factors in the lives of adults at risk of abuse and harm had been temporarily absent or limited.

The impact of the Pandemic on care homes and domiciliary care sectors was discussed, for both residents and staff, as well as the potential for compassion fatigue, and emotional and physical stresses amongst those continuing to provide support.

It was also reported that the implementation of the *Liberty Protection Safeguards* (LPS), the replacement for Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), had been delayed further. Members were advised that since writing the report, a new date for its implementation had been scheduled for April 2023.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

#### HEA40 HOMELESSNESS UPDATE

The Board received an update on the Homelessness Service provision and activity during the Covid-19 pandemic. This included future service development, highlighting agency engagement and activity towards reducing homelessness within the Borough.

As with the previous update it was announced that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLGH) issued guidance to all Local Authorities, designed to ensure that everyone known to be rough sleeping, or those deemed to be at imminent risk of rough sleeping, would be offered accommodation. Its purpose was to protect vulnerable clients from the risk of contracting Covid-19, with additional funding made available to support the response; Halton was allocated a total of £6,000.

The report outlined Halton's response to the pandemic and the Housing Solutions Team's robust approach to tackling homelessness and meeting the needs of vulnerable homeless clients. Data relating to the usage of commissioned provision and numbers of clients was also presented.

In relation to future activity, information was provided on rough sleepers, domestic abuse, armed forces personnel, prison release clients, the refugee resettlement programme, agency support, substance misuse support service and Government funding.

In response to Member's questions, Officers provided the process a person should follow if they were at risk of eviction and the steps the Council would take to assist and provide advice to them.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

#### HEA41 SCRUTINY TOPIC FOR 2022/23 REVIEW

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – People, which presented proposals for scrutiny topic areas for the 2022-23 review.

It was noted that the 2021-22 scrutiny review: *North West Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (NWADASS) Elected Member Commission: The Impact of Covid-19 on People with Care and Support Needs, their Families, Carers and Communities*, was still underway. The final recommendations from this had been delayed due to



pandemic related issues, but the final report would be included on the June agenda.

It was agreed that despite this delay a topic group for 2022-23 should still be identified, so the necessary arrangements could be put in place. As part of Member involvement in the current business planning process, a range of topic ideas had been identified for consideration:

- 1) Approaches to Adult Social Care Workforce Planning;
- 2) Provision of Learning Disability Services in Halton; and
- 3) Skills and Training Opportunities for Social Care Provider Staff.

Members discussed these proposals and a suggestion was made to link numbers one and three together, this was agreed. An outline brief for the topic areas would be brought to the next Board meeting in June for final approval.

RESOLVED: That the Board agrees

- 1) '*Approaches to Adult Social Care Workforce Planning*' and '*Skills and Training Opportunities for Social Care Provider Staff*' be selected as the topic group for the year 2022-23; and
- 2) all Members of the Board were invited to join the membership of the topic group.

Director of Adult  
Social Services

#### HEA42 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS - QUARTER 3 OF 2021-22

The Board received the Performance Management Reports for quarter three 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 three of 2021-22. 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 commented that due to some data no longer being required and some being reported annually, the format of the reports required changing; this would be looked at for future reports.

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

Director of Adult  
Social Services

*Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.*

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

*At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 16 February 2022 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: 3 Members of the public and Councillor Wall

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

EUR27 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

EUR28 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with Standing Order No.34 (9), the following public questions were submitted to the Board by email:

**QUESTION 1 - Mr Millea – Minute No 30**

Why was the temporary cremator allowed to run unattended overnight on Monday 31 January 2022 during gale force winds which could have resulted in catastrophic incident and what was the result of the incident investigation as my complaint re this has not yet been addressed by the Council.

**RESPONSE:**

The temporary crematory was not knowing left active during the night/early hours of Monday 31 January and Tuesday 1 February.

*Action*

The fact that it was active was only discovered by Council staff at 07:30am on Tuesday 1 February when they arrived on site and discovered that the unit had not shut down correctly and was running in idle.

We have put measures in place to ensure that this does not happen again.

The cremator software has been updated so that it will automatically shut down after one hour of being in idle mode.

As a further safeguard, the gas is shut off at the end of each day.

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION:**

When and on what date is the “temporary” cremator going to be removed, and if no firm date is available – why not It should be an agenda item on this committee meeting until the temp cremator is removed?

Why the temporary cremator is sited less than 50 metres from the local housing which is in breach of the Government regulations for siting and positioning of 182 metres minimum *17. The Cremation Act 1902 (Section 5) provides that no crematorium shall be constructed nearer to any dwelling house than 200 yards (182.880m)\*, except with the consent in writing of the owner, lessee and occupier of such house, nor within 50 yards (45.720m) of any public highway, nor in the consecrated part of a burial ground.*

**RESPONSE:**

The installation of the new replacement cremator is scheduled to take place in June 2022 and after it is installed and fully commissioned, we will be in a position to consider its removal.

Due to factors beyond our control, we are not currently in a position to advise how long the installation and commissioning period may be.

Arising from the discussion, it was agreed that an update report would be provided to the next Board meeting if the temporary cremator had not been removed.

**QUESTION 2 – Mr Ferguson – Minute No 32**

With reference to the Annual Road Traffic Collision and

Casualty report, section 4.3 Halton's 2021 Programme.

I applaud the Council's efforts in working with Cheshire Police to improve the safety of pedestrians, particularly around schools. The 'Show you care, park elsewhere' scheme is especially welcomed.

However, as noted in the Halton 2000 Traffic Collisions Review, poor driver behaviour and the difficulty in educating drivers remains a serious concern.

The Halton Castle Ward includes 5 Primary schools, serving over 700 children. St Mary's Primary feels the need to install parking buddies to remind drivers to park safely, and Halton Castle Police regularly have to take enforcement action around St Mary's, The Brow and Bridgewater Park Primary Schools. Local residents close to Astmoor and St Augustine's Primary schools have also raised concerns to me about dangerous parking around those schools.

No home in Halton Castle is more than 10 minutes-walk from the nearest Primary school, and over a third of our residents do not have access to a car. This combined with the safety concerns noted earlier, indicate that Halton Castle would be the perfect place to use as a testing ground for School Streets.

The School Streets programme brings a collective approach to road safety around schools. It brings together the school, parents and children, local residents, the Police and the Local Authority, to develop practical and local solutions that reduce or eliminate road traffic around schools at the start and end of the day. As well as road safety benefits, headteachers report that children are much more alert and their learning experience improves when they walk, scoot or ride to school.

Will the Council consider implementing School Streets in Halton Castle, using this as a testing ground for the possible wider implementation across the Borough, if the benefits can be demonstrated?

**RESPONSE:**

Regarding the possibility of trialling a School Street initiative in the Halton Castle Ward.

Firstly, the possibility of installing a School Street at a Primary School in Halton was explored recently and was discounted for a number of reasons. Halton Borough

Council, unlike the overwhelming majority of Local Authorities, does not operate Civil Parking Enforcement and we are totally reliant on Cheshire Police to undertake all enforcement action. As such, we do not operate residents' only parking schemes anywhere in the Borough (Cheshire Police are unwilling to enforce these restrictions) and given that some form of residents' permit is a requirement of any new Traffic Management Order, it is difficult to envisage how such a scheme could operate in Halton.

We are also constrained by a lack of resources and from a financial perspective, the use of rising bollards and ANPR cameras is not something we could fund from existing budgets. We also don't have sufficient staff to deploy at School Street sites to install temporary signage and barriers. Likewise, the school where this type of initiative was explored indicated that they do not have enough staff available to put out and take in temporary traffic barriers, or space to store them. I imagine that this would be a similar picture at other schools.

Looking at the collision statistics for the five Primary Schools in Halton Castle, there have been no recorded injury collisions on the approach roads to four of the schools in the previous five years. There has been one recorded injury collision (a slight) on Kingshead Close, adjacent to Astmoor Primary School. This collision occurred in January 2017, at 12:49pm and not during the school run.

#### EUR29 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

#### EUR30 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 3 OF 2021/22

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 3 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.

Arising from the discussion it was agreed that a report on the impact of lockdown measures on local centres would be brought to a future meeting.

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

EUR31 RECEIPT OF PETITION - TO AMALGAMATE BUS STOPS ON HALE ROAD, HALE BANK

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Community and Resources, which advised on a petition received from the residents of Halebank, requesting the amalgamation of bus stops in the Halebank area with a view to removing two bus stops located on Hale Road. The petition had been signed by 152 residents.

The petition suggested that by removing two bus stops and the 82a service calling at an alternative bus stop at Pickerings Road terminus would be more beneficial for passengers and improve traffic flow in the area. However, removing the bus stops would increase the number of road crossings for passengers. In addition the bus operator had also expressed concern that removing the bus stops would increase the turning manoeuvres accessing and egressing the proposed alternative bus stop at Pickerings Road. There was also concern that journeys may be delayed especially in the peak periods. The operator had indicated that they had not experienced any issues whilst observing the two bus stops and would be opposed to the removal. Also if the operator chose not to service the proposed alternative bus stop in the petition this would result in passengers having to walk a greater distance to the bus stops at Foundary Lane.

It was noted that the bus stops had been in place in the current location for a significant number of years with no incidents or issues reported.

The Board also considered a statement from Mr Maxwell on behalf of Halebank Parish Council, in support of the petition. The statement had been emailed to Board members prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the petition be noted;
- 2) following consideration of the request in the petition to remove the two bus stops on Hale Road and also consideration of the concerns of the bus operator and that the operator is opposed to their removal, the Board agreed that the bus stops should remain in place and operational; and
- 3) the local Ward members be informed of the outcome of the Board's consideration of the petition.

EUR32 ANNUAL ROAD TRAFFIC COLLISION & CASUALTY REPORT

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

The Board was advised that Appendix A to the report set out full details of the numbers of traffic collisions and casualties in the year 2020, and compared these figures with those from previous years. There was a considerable reduction in the number of people slightly injured as compared to 2019 with the number of those killed or seriously injured also decreasing by a similar margin.

Of those killed or seriously injured, the number of adults decreased by 11. However, due to the low numbers recorded annually in Halton, this number did fluctuate from year to year.

Overall, given that the country was in lockdown for large parts of 2020, the number of road traffic collisions was always going to fall, as traffic on roads fell to levels not seen for many decades. However when comparing Halton's 2020 road traffic collision record with neighbouring authorities in Cheshire or the Liverpool City Region, the reduction in casualty numbers compared favourably.

In addition, the report highlighted the 2021 programme of work which would cover road traffic collision reduction schemes, road safety education, training and publicity and included an outline of the work of the Road Safety Team.

RESOLVED: That



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

*Meeting ended at 7.45 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, 22 June 2022 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Woolfall (Chair), Fry (Vice-Chair), Ball, Davidson, Gilligan, Logan, McDermott and Stretch

Apologies for Absence: Councillor S. Hill and Thornton

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: None

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

*Action*

EUR1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2022 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

EUR2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with Standing Order No.34 (9), the following public questions were submitted to the Board by email:

**QUESTION 1 - Mr Millea – (Minute No 7 refers)**

Can you guarantee that The Temporary cremator will be removed in July? In recent weeks it has been in use frequently for up to 8 hours a day not necessarily every day, but still a disturbing noise to contend with some days we have had to leave our house just to get away from the continuous droning noise which can be heard both inside and outside our home.

**RESPONSE:**

Whilst, due to reasons beyond the control of the Council, the procurement exercise for a new cremator had taken longer

than anticipated, and the Council had to keep the temporary facility in place for longer than expected, Members were advised that the installation and commissioning of the new cremator was on schedule for completion by mid-July. It was therefore anticipated that the temporary cremator would be removed by the end of July 2022.

### **Supplementary Question**

Why in over 2 years having known about the problem have none of our Birchfield Ward Councillors ever been to visit any of the affected residents?

### **RESPONSE:**

The three Birchfield Ward Councillors were in attendance at the meeting. Councillor Woolfall gave an outline of the contact he had made with Mr Millea and another resident, which included numerous emails, visits to the cemetery he had made and meetings that had taken place with Officers to discuss the issues raised.

#### EUR3 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

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

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

#### EUR4 DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

The Board considered a copy of the Annual Report from the Chair of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board 2021/22.

The full Board met on four occasions during the year and the report set out the work carried out and recommendations made throughout the Municipal Year April 2021 to March 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report be accepted.

#### EUR5 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR Q4 2021/22

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 4 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 fourth quarter performance monitoring reports be received and noted.

EUR6 RECEIPT OF PETITION - TO REPLACE EXISTING BUS SHELTER WITH CONVENTIONAL TYPE SHELTER

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, which provided information on the petition received from residents of Norton requesting that the existing bus shelter located at the Gooseberry Lane bus stop on the Busway be replaced with a more conventional style bus shelter. The petition was signed by 26 bus users. The existing shelter offered limited protection due to its design.

Following complaints of anti-social behaviour from residents in close proximity to the bus stop, the existing shelter replaced a conventional type shelter in approximately 2010. However, it was noted that the most recent figures (April 21 to March 22) show anti-social behaviour to be at an average level of 5.9 incidents per month across the Norton North Ward. In addition, the corresponding bus stop on the opposite side of the road had a conventional type bus shelter installed with no reports of anti-social behaviour taking place.

Councillor Logan addressed the Board in support of the petitioners.

RESOLVED: That

1. the petition be noted;
2. the request to remove the existing shelter and replace with a new conventional type be approved; and

3. the local Ward members be informed of the outcome of the Board's consideration of the petition.

EUR7 UPDATE ON CREMATOR PROVISION AT WIDNES CEMETERY

The Board considered an update on progress with the installation of a new cremator at Widnes Cemetery and the removal of the temporary cremator. At the previous meeting of the Board a number of public questions were submitted (Minute 28 refers). It was agreed that a report would be submitted to the June meeting to provide an update and this report provided Members with a sequence of events and timeline surrounding these matters.

Members were advised that the installation and commissioning of the new cremator was on schedule for completion by mid-July. It was therefore anticipated that the temporary cremator would be removed by the end of July 2022.

RESOLVED: That the update report be noted.

*(N.B. Councillor Davidson declared a disclosable other interest in the following item of business as she was an employee of an Academy in the borough)*

EUR8 CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, which contained a copy of the adopted Climate Change Action Plan. The Plan provided a clear direction for the Council and a commitment to reducing its carbon footprint, particularly as there were numerous sources of external funding becoming available to support such initiatives. The Plan also set a target to be carbon neutral by 2040 and provided an initial focus on buildings, vehicles and the Borough's blue/green infrastructure.

RESOLVED: That the Board records its continued support for the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan.

EUR9 LOCAL CENTRE TRADE SURVEY 2022 UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, that presented the initial findings from the updated survey of local centres undertaken by the Planning Service in 2022. A copy of the completed survey was attached as appendix A.

It was noted that the surveys took the form of a 'facial survey', where each centre was visited and the following information recorded:

- Trader mix;
- Type of goods/services sold;
- Floor space; and
- Quality of shopfronts and buildings.

The results of the survey extended the time series that would be used to inform a future review of the Local Plan.

Councillor McDermott requested that a report be brought to a future meeting on the impact since the Covid pandemic on local centres. This should include a synopsis of the facilities within each ward area that had closed and what facilities were still available.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### EUR10 DELIVERY AND ALLOCATIONS LOCAL PLAN - PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director - Policy, Planning and Transport, that presented the initial findings from the annual monitoring of housing and employment development against Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP) targets.

The Plan sets out a number of development targets for the provision of housing and the supply of land for employment and retail development including:

- Housing = 8,050 net dwelling gain at an average of 350 per annum; and
- Employment = 180 hectares to be made available.

The annual monitoring of granted planning permissions and construction starts and completions (April-March) had been completed and this report presented some of the interim findings together with some updated demographic projections (Appendix A).

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### EUR11 WORKING PARTY REVIEW OF COPPICING WORKS

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Community and Environment, which provided

Members with an update on progress with work of the Working Party that was established to review the Council's coppicing works programme. The first meeting of the Working Party would take place on 12 July 2022. This meeting would establish the scope of the review and a further progress report on the work of the Working Party would be presented to Members at the next meeting of the Board in September.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

*Meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.*



**CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 7 June 2022  
in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chair), P. Lloyd Jones, A. Lowe,  
N. Plumpton Walsh, G. Stockton, Angela Teeling, Thornton and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Philbin, Hutchinson and Wall

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, E. Dawson, G. Ferguson, P. Garnett, C. Hill and  
W. Rourke

Also in attendance: None

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

*Action*

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

**CS1 MINUTES**

The Minutes from the meeting held on 25 January  
2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**CS2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

**CS3 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES**

The Board was presented with the Minutes relating to  
the Corporate Services Portfolio which had been considered  
by the Executive Board since the last meeting of this Board.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.

**CS4 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT GROUP NOTES**

The Board considered the minutes of the Member

Development Group meeting held on 14 October 2021. On behalf of the Board the Chair thanked Councillor J Stockton, who had recently retired as a Councillor, for his work on Member Development.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CS5 EXTERNAL FUNDING TEAM UPDATE

The Board considered an update report from the Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the work of the External Funding Team in securing external funding resources into Halton. The Team focussed on the following funding resources: Government, European, National Lottery, Landfill Funding, Trusts and Foundations. The report covered the following issues:

- An update on the team's key activities and priorities;
- Emerging issues in external funding; and
- Funding statistics for the period 2021-22.

A Member raised concern regarding the future loss of European monies and queried how the Council would move forward. In response, Members were advised that it was anticipated any future funding would be considerably less and there would be a need to strongly lobby Government to secure any future monies that would be available to replace European monies.

Arising from the discussion, Councillor A Lowe thanked the Team for the improvement works that had taken place around Halton Lea.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

CS6 HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND 2022/23

The Board was advised that on 23 March 2022, the Government announced an extension to the Household Support Fund, which previously operated from October 2021 to March 2022. The Fund was intended to support vulnerable households particularly those including children and pensioners.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) had issued guidance and grant allocations for councils, with the grant funding covering the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022. Halton's allocation of grant funding was £1,297,880 of which 5% was permitted to provide for the costs of administering the grant. A spending plan had been

prepared, as set out in the Appendix, regarding how the grant funding might be utilised via a combination of Council departments and voluntary sector partners, to deliver help and assistance to vulnerable households over the six month period. The plan would also provide a basis for monitoring spending against the grant, as required by the DWP and ensure that it was fully utilised in accordance with the grant guidance by 30 September 2022.

In order to ensure at least one third was allocated for vulnerable households with children, free school meal vouchers of £12 per week would once again be provided to approximately 7,500 eligible pupils at an estimated cost of £630,000 (summer half term holidays and summer school holidays). To support vulnerable pensioner households with at least one third of funding, all 4,303 pensioners currently receiving Council Tax Reduction would be provided with an award of £120. It was estimated that this would deliver approximately £516,360. The remaining grant (up to a third) would be used to assist other vulnerable households.

A progress report regarding delivery of the Household Support Fund would be presented to the Board on 6 September 2022.

RESOLVED: That

1. progress with delivery of the Household Support Fund, as outlined in the report, be noted; and
2. a further progress report be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

Operational  
Director - Finance

CS7 ANNUAL REPORT

The Board considered a copy of the Annual Report from the Chair of the Corporate Services Board for 2021/22. The Board met four times during the year and the report set out the work carried out and the recommendations throughout the Municipal Year April 2021 to March 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report be noted.

CS8 CORPORATE ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT 1.4.21-31.3.22

The Board was provided with a report from the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented details of health and safety management within the Authority from 1 April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

The report highlighted health and safety incidents that had taken place over the past twelve months and as a result of those incidents proposed actions for the future. In addition the report included information around the number of actual near misses, accidents that had resulted over 7 day absences, together with significant accidents. It also included Covid employee figures.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted including the recommendations and actions for 2021/22.

CS9 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 4 OF 2021/2

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director - Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the Performance Monitoring Report for Quarter 4 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:

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

The Board discussed issues around recruitment within the Council, including the current delays being experience by new employees prior to their employment. It was agreed that a report would be brought to a future meeting on the current problems the Council was experiencing with recruitment of staff, comparison with other authorities within Liverpool City Region and the numbers and cost of agency staff.

RESOLVED: That the Quarter 4 Performance Monitoring reports be received and noted.

Operational  
Director – Policy,  
Performance,  
People &  
Efficiency

*Meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.*

**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Audit and Governance Board held on Wednesday, 23 March 2022 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), A. Lowe (Vice-Chair), J. Bradshaw, Jones, McDermott, Philbin, J. Stockton and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillors E. Cargill, Wall and Whitley

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Dawson, M. Murphy, S. Baker and M. Reaney

Also in attendance: Michael Green and Stephen Nixon of Grant Thornton

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

	<i>Action</i>
BEB23 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
BEB24 STANDARDS UPDATE	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer, which provided an update on Standards issues for the Municipal Year 2021/22. The update included information on national and local developments of interest, and a verbal update on the complaints received in Halton during the past year.</p> <p>It was proposed that the report would be forwarded to Council for information along with the minutes in place of the previous Standards Committee Annual Report.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>	
BEB25 REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, on the</p>	

revised Members Code of Conduct (the model code).

It was reported that the Local Government Association (LGA) had published some minor changes to the model Code of Conduct for Members. However, a significant change had been made to the prejudicial interest test, which in the Merseyside Model Code and original LGA Model Code was applied to 'your interests'. The revised drafting properly expanded the scope of the test to include other interests and those of family and associates in accordance with the Principles of Public Life.

The Merseyside Model Code was based on the December 2020 version of the LGA Model Code and the 17 May 2021 version had only recently been made available to Liverpool City Region Monitoring Officers, whilst the 19 January 2021 version was not provided. As such, additional amendments may be subsequently required to incorporate into the Merseyside Code of Conduct any further relevant changes and/or to provide for other local arrangements. Monitoring Officers across the LCR would continue to work together in an attempt to align amendments to the Merseyside Model Code across their respective authorities.

The Model Code was attached at Appendix A for Members consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Board recommends Council to adopt the revised Code of Conduct for Members attached to the report as Appendix 1.

Strategic Director  
Enterprise,  
Community and  
Resources

BEB26 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval of the final 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

The 2020/21 AGS was originally presented to the Board on 7 July 2021. It was important that the AGS was up to date when the statement of accounts were approved. As such, the document was presented again for the Board to review.

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

RESOLVED: That the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 be approved.

BEB27 2020/21 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, AUDIT FINDINGS, REPORT AND LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, which sought approval for the Council's 2020/21 Statement of Accounts (the latest version of which was enclosed with the Agenda), and the report of the Audit Findings of the External Auditor (Grant Thornton) on the 2020/21 financial statements. The report also sought approval of the Council's Letter of Representation.

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

The External Auditor presented the Audit Findings report which summarised the findings from 2020/21 external audit. Section 2 of the Audit Finding report presented the findings of the External Auditor in respect of matters and risks identified at the planning stage of the audit and additional and significant matters that arose during the course of their work.

It was explained that the audit work was substantially complete, except for undertaking additional work relating to infrastructure assets which had recently been required following a sector-wide issue relating to component accounting. It was not anticipated that any matters would arise from this additional work, however, it must be undertaken in order for the External Auditor to provide their Audit Opinion.

In addition the Council was required to provide the External Auditor with a Letter of Representation relating to the financial statements, as shown in Appendix 1. The letter was required to be signed by the Chair of the Board on behalf of the Council.

It was noted that on 1 April 2020 the National Audit Office had introduced a new Code of Audit Practice which came into effect from audit year 2020/21. The Code introduced a revised approach to the audit of Value for Money (VFM). Work on VFM arrangements was ongoing but the External Auditor had not identified any significant weakness during planned work to date.

RESOLVED: That

1. the draft Letter of Representation in Appendix 1 be approved and any subsequent additions or amendments be approved by the Operational Director - Finance, in liaison with the Chair of the Board;
2. the External Auditor's draft 2020/21 Audit Findings Report in Appendix 2 and any subsequent additions or amendments be approved by Operational Director - Finance, in liaison with the Chair of the Board; and
3. the Council's draft 2020/21 Statement of Accounts in Appendix 3 be approved and any subsequent additions or amendments be approved by the Operational Director - Finance, in liaison with the Chair of the Board.

#### BEB28 2022/23 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Divisional Manager, Audit, Procurement and Operational Finance, which sought approval for the planned programme of internal audit work for 2022/23.

A risk based Audit Plan had been prepared, designed to enable internal audit to deliver an overall opinion on the Council's risk management and control and governance arrangements. A copy of the draft Audit Plan for 2022/23 was attached as an appendix to the report.

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

For the past two years the pandemic had had a significant impact on the work of internal audit and it was possible that would continue, at least in the short term. As such, a general provision had been made in the audit plan for continuing work in relation to the pandemic.

Performance against the Audit Plan would be kept under review throughout the year and regular progress reports would be provided to the Board. Internal Audit would work closely with the Council's external auditor, Grant Thornton, to minimise duplication and to ensure efficient and effective deployment of the overall audit resource.

**RESOLVED:** That the Board approves the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23.



BEB29 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.

BEB30 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Divisional Manager, Audit, Procurement and Operational Finance, which provided Members with a summary of internal audit work completed since the last progress report on 24 November 2021. The report also highlighted matters relevant to the Board's responsibilities as the Council's Audit Committee.

Appendix 1 provided a list of the planned work for the year and showed the current status of each audit. It also highlighted those audits that had not started and had therefore been included in the 2022/23 Audit Plan as they

were still considered relevant. Details of a further 13 audit reports that had been finalised since the last progress report to the Board were also outlined.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

*Meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.*

**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Tuesday, 1 March 2022 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: One member of the press

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

DEV35 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

*The Divisional Manager explained that the Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP) was to be adopted at the full Council meeting the following night. Therefore, if the Plan was adopted then those policies of that Plan would apply to the applications being considered. It was explained how this would affect the consideration of the applications before the Committee tonight.*

DEV36 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

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

*To avoid any allegation of bias, Councillor Bradshaw did not vote on the following item as he addressed the Committee representing local residents in his capacity as Ward Councillor for Sandymoor.*

*Action*

DEV37 21/00316/FUL - PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF A FUME HOOD AND FOUR EXTRACTION ARMS IN THE APPLICANT'S LABORATORY TOGETHER WITH EXTERNAL EXTRACTION DUCTING, AT METROHM UK LIMITED, METROHM HOUSE, EVENWOOD CLOSE, RUNCORN WA7 1LZ

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

Officers advised members of a correction to the report, at paragraph 2 on page 15, which should read *'industries that have the potential to cause noise, smell, dust, noxious omissions, nuisance or unacceptable loss of amenity to surrounding uses were unlikely to be acceptable within or adjacent to residential areas or within business parks or near recreational areas'*.

Dr Willet, Vice Chairman of Sandymoor Parish Council, addressed the Committee. Although he agreed with the Environmental Health response regarding noise, he raised concerns over the proximity of the site, at just 100m, to a nearby nursery with 50 children and other businesses, and to the Evenwood Pub, which sees between 50 to 100 customers per day at busy times. He stated that neither of these were raised in the consultation response provided by Environmental Health. He also raised concerns about the measuring of emissions from the site and how these would be controlled to ensure they were not exceeded, suggesting a commitment was needed from the applicant in this regard.

The Committee was then addressed by Mr Wilkinson the applicant. He provided some background information on Metrohm and what they did, stating that the Company did not make anything on site, they provided instruments to UK and Ireland customers. He added:

- They had a small lab with two members of staff and had no plans to expand the operation;
- The company had been operating for 12 years in the present location;
- They did not carry out tests all the time;
- The lab used water based chemistry so chemicals were in liquid form, which limits the emission of gas;
- Testing was done in sealed containers, for the wellbeing of staff and these were correctly stored and disposed of afterwards; and
- there were dozens of other labs in the region with similar extraction methods in place, eg at Daresbury

Science Park.

Councillor Bradshaw then addressed the Committee, as local Ward Councillor for Sandymoor, raising concerns over the lack of control over the amounts of gas being emitted at any one time. He stated that there were no amounts given in the report on the levels of gas, other than they would be small amounts and there were no controls on these either. He suggested that the application be deferred until the limitations were specified by the applicant.

The Environmental Health Officer answered Members' questions. In response to concerns over gas being emitted, it was reported that because the quantities involved with this application were so low, there was no requirement for the applicant to be monitored by Environmental Health. It was noted that the regulations regarding this issue were set by Government, and the applicant was compliant with these. The level of emissions therefore were acceptable.

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

1. Standard 3 year permission;
2. Condition specifying plans; and
3. Environmental Protection suggested condition.

DEV38 21/00613/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 5 NO. 3 STOREY RESIDENTIAL BLOCKS CONTAINING 33 NO. USE CLASS C3 - 1 AND 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS WITH ACCESS, PARKING, LANDSCAPING AND ASSOCIATED WORKS AT FORMER SITE OF EXPRESS DAIRIES, PERRY STREET/SEWELL STREET, RUNCORN

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

Since the publication of the report Officers advised that the final comments from the Highways Officer and the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) had been received, as outlined in the published AB update list. Further, there were no objections from the Council's Contaminated Land Officer. One additional condition was suggested for offsite highways works to Sewell/Perry Street, also mentioned on the update list.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Dacre, a

representative of the applicant. He advised that this scheme consisted of 100% affordable housing and its architecture was in keeping with the wider historical area of the Town, as the Client had requested. The scheme, which had been in development since 2020, was fully compliant with planning policies and was of a high design quality.

The Committee agreed that the application be approved subject to the additional condition above being included.

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

- a) entering into a legal or other agreement relating to securing financial contributions in lieu of on-site open space provision and affordable housing (this could be secured by way of either a condition or the legal agreement).
- b) conditions relating to the following:
  1. Standard time limits condition (BE1);
  2. Approved plans condition (BE1 and TP17);
  3. Securing pre construction management plan (BE1);
  4. External facing materials (BE1 and BE2);
  5. Conditions for landscaping, planting, management and maintenance (BE1 and BE22);
  6. Breeding birds protection (GE21 and CS20);
  7. Bird nesting boxes scheme (GE21 and CS20);
  8. Information leaflet for Mersey Estuary (GE21 and CS20);
  9. Method statement for invasive species (GE21 and CS20);
  10. Electric vehicle charging points scheme (CS19);
  11. Parking, access and servicing provision (BE1, TP6, TP7, TP12, TP15 and TP17);
  12. Submission of ground investigation report, mitigation measures and validation (PR14 and CS23);
  13. Securing report mitigation measures (PR8);
  14. Drainage strategy and verification conditions (PR16 and CS23);
  15. Foul and surface water on a separate system (PR16 and CS23);
  16. Use class restriction to C3 (BE1); and
  17. Offsite highways works to Sewell/Perry Street (BE1).

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 Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Committee, to refuse the application.

*To avoid any allegation of bias, Councillor Thompson did not take part in the vote on the following item, as he was a supporter of the Viking Park in his capacity as Portfolio Holder on Executive Board.*

DEV39 21/00657/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF A STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION BUILDING (USE CLASS B8) INCLUDING ANCILLARY (INTEGRAL) OFFICES, CREATION OF A SERVICE YARD AND PARKING AREAS FOR CARS AND HGVS, WITH ASSOCIATED ACCESS AND SERVICING INCLUDING A NEW VEHICLE ACCESS POINT FROM MATHIESON ROAD, NEW LANDSCAPING AND OTHER WORKS AT LAND AT VIKING PARK (PLOT 2), MATHIESON ROAD, WIDNES

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

Since the publication of the agenda updated site plans had been received, with an amendment made in line with comments from the Highways Officer, to include a tactile crossing, which removed the need for Condition 9 – Highways off-site connection works. Officers requested however that this condition be reinstated, but be amended to require that such works, now included within the application boundary, be implemented prior to occupation of the building.

Mr Harvey, the applicant addressed the Committee in support of the application. He stated that the proposal was part of the 3MG site, a regeneration area, and would contribute towards the economy of Halton and create up to 200 jobs for local people. Further, the site was suitable for this development as it was well located with good transport links and fitted into the industrial nature of the surrounding area. No objections had been received from the public.

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

1. Standard 3 year permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Site levels;
4. Materials;
5. Landscape scheme;
6. Boundary details;
7. Electric vehicle charging provision;
8. Cycle storage;
9. Highways/pedestrian connection works;
10. Travel plan;
11. Contaminated land remediation strategy;
12. Contaminated land verification report;
13. Piling risk assessment;
14. Environment Agency unidentified contamination;
15. Drainage strategy;
16. SUDS verification report;
17. Waste audit or a similar mechanism (eg. a site waste management plan);
18. MEAS – Construction Environmental Management Plan to include Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs);
19. Mitigation of habitat loss and enhancement as in approved report (section 6);
20. Ecology lighting scheme;
21. Breeding birds;
22. Hours of construction; and
23. Access, service and parking areas.

*Meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.*



**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Monday, 9 May 2022 at the Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors S. Hill (Chair), Carlin, Hutchinson, A. Lowe, Philbin, Polhill 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, L. Wilson-Lagan, K. Thompson and I. Dignall

Also in attendance: Councillors Woolfall, Fry, Goodall and Bevan and 38 members of the public

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

DEV40 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV41 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.

DEV42 20/00164/WST - PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE OF LAND TO WASTE TRANSFER STATION INCLUDING OFFICE BUILDING, WEIGHBRIDGE, MATERIALS BAY AND FENCING ON SITE B, JOHNSONS LANE, WIDNES, WA8 0SJ

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 additional

*Action*

condition was recommended on the clarification of use and types of materials to be used. Clarity was provided to Members over drainage for the site – conditions relating to this were included.

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

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Hours of operation (GR2);
4. External facing materials (GR1);
5. Sustainable Urban Drainage Scheme (S23 and HE9);
6. Sustainable Drainage Management and Maintenance Plan (CS23 and HE9);
7. Foul and surface water shall be drained on separate systems (CS23 and HE9);
8. Off-site highway works (C1);
9. Parking and servicing provision (C1 and C2);
10. Cycle parking (C2);
11. Electric vehicle charging point scheme (C2);
12. Construction Environmental Management Plan (C1, HE1 and GR2);
13. Boundary treatments scheme (GR2 and GR3);
14. Utilisation of broadband / white noise reversing alarms (GR2);
15. Implementation of Dust Management Plan (GR2);
16. Provision of an adequate water supply (GR2);
17. Crusher and screener shall not operate without the water supply referenced in condition number 16 (GR2);
18. Installation of a windsock to guide operations undertaken on site (GR2);
19. Maintenance procedures for stockpiles (GR2);
20. Breeding bird protection (CS(R) 20 and HE1);
21. Bird boxes scheme (CS(R)20 and HE1);
22. Protection of swale/pond/wildlife corridor during construction period (CS(R)20 and HE1);
23. Lighting scheme to protect ecology (CS(R)20 and HE1);
24. Reasonable avoidance measures – amphibians (CS(R)20 and HE1);
25. Reasonable avoidance measures – hedgehogs (CS(R)20 and HE1);
26. Implementation and maintenance of wildflower meadow (CS(R)20 and HE1); and
27. 10m height restriction on any stockpiles (GR1).

ERECTION OF TWO SEMI-DETACHED DWELLINGS AND FOUR DETACHED DWELLINGS ON THE EXISTING CHURCH FIELD AND THE RETENTION OF THE EXISTING SCHOOL HUT AT HOUGH GREEN SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP HALL AND CHURCH FIELD, HALL AVENUE, WIDNES

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

Mr Walker addressed the Committee, as an objector to the proposal on behalf of local residents. He argued *inter alia*, that:

- This site was part of the community and used for recreational purposes, as well as craft fairs, military style events, fates and so on, contradicting the claim that it was surplus to requirements and infrequently used;
- It is a designated Asset of Community Value used throughout the year and to sell it would be letting down future generations;
- Under the new Local Plan the land is designated as green space and not for development;
- A dangerous precedent would be set if this application was approved;
- Traffic volume and parking issues would be increased; and
- 244 objections to the proposals had been received.

Ms Eren was invited to address the Committee, speaking in support of the application on behalf of local residents. She stated *inter alia* that:

- St Michael's Church was much more than a Church; it was an important community resource that welcomed and supported people of all faiths;
- The Church was well used and supported, with much of the work of the Vicar going unnoticed;
- Foodbank parcels were prepared there and distributed within the community;
- Christmas and Easter activities were provided for the community;
- Other groups such as the LGBT group and the childhood bereavement group met at the Church;
- If refused young people in the community would not have access to the support she had received; and
- St Michael's was the very best example of a community Church in Widnes and to refuse this

application would mean the end of the Church.

The Committee was then addressed by Ms Paul, who spoke on behalf of the applicant. She started by saying that this application was all about the survival of the Church. She advised that:

- The Diocese had advised them that the Church had to pay its way or close, so they needed funding to pay expenses;
- Despite fundraising, the Church was struggling to pay its expenses due to rising costs;
- One of the Church's only assets is the Church field bought in 1925;
- They wanted to do the best for the community and local groups who used the facilities – to lose the Church would have a significant impact on the local community;
- Halton has seen a 27% increase in the number of older people in the population and the Church was an important meeting place for them;
- The Church held large scale community events and has strong links with local schools – examples were given of community work carried out; and
- This type of outreach could not continue if the field cannot be sold.

After hearing the speakers' arguments Members discussed the application, taking into consideration the comments made by them and Officer's responses to queries raised by the Committee. Some Members of the Committee were unfamiliar with the site, so requested a deferral so that a site visit could be conducted before making a decision. A motion for a deferral was proposed and seconded, so the motion for a deferral was carried.

RESOLVED: That the application be deferred to enable Committee Members to make a site visit.

DEV44 21/00102/FUL - PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EXISTING FACILITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CLUBHOUSE INCORPORATING CHANGING FACILITIES, GYM, SOCIAL AREAS AND GROUND FLOOR BOAT AND CANOE STORAGE AT THE BOAT HOUSE, CHOLMONDELEY ROAD, RUNCORN, WA7 4XT

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

As reported in the published AB Update List, Members attention was drawn to the text from paragraph 5.16 of the Planning for Risk SPD and officers' commentary regarding this.

The Committee agreed that the application be approved.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to it not being called in by the Secretary of State following referral to the Health and Safety Executive; and the following conditions:

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Submission of existing and proposed site levels (GR1);
4. Submission of external facing materials (CS(R)18 and GR1);
5. Submission of landscaping scheme and subsequent maintenance (GR1);
6. Breeding birds protection (CS(R)20);
7. Submission of bird boxes scheme (CS(R)20);
8. Lighting scheme to protect ecology (CS(R)20);
9. Construction Environmental Management Plan (CS(R)20);
10. Electric vehicle charging points scheme (C2);
11. Ground contamination (CS23 and HE8);
12. Parking and servicing provision (C1 and C2);
13. Submission of a Cycle Parking Scheme (C2);
14. Flood resilience measures (CS23 and HE9);
15. Submission of a sustainable urban drainage scheme (CS23 and HE9);
16. Verification of the sustainable urban drainage scheme (CS23 and HE9);
17. Submission of a package treatment plant scheme (PR16 and CS23);
18. Sustainable development and climate change scheme (CS(R)19); and
19. Waste audit (WM8).

DEV45 21/00629/COU - PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE FROM DWELLING (USE CLASS C3) TO DENTAL PRACTICE (USE CLASS E (E)) WITH ONSITE PARKING PROVISION FOR 8 VEHICLES AT 34 CRONTON LANE, WIDNES, WA8 5AJ

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

Ms Ray, the applicant, addressed the Committee. She commented that there was a need for a private dentistry service in the area as there were none currently. She advised that by nature private dental practice saw reduced numbers of patients throughout the day due to appointments generally taking between 30-45 minutes each. She also advised Members of a new NHS service that would offer advanced dentistry practice, with referrals being made to the private sector, so they would be available for local patients referred in this way. She had worked closely with planners and the proposal was policy compliant.

Councillor Woolfall addressed the Committee in his capacity as local Ward Councillor for Birchfield, objecting to the proposal.

He questioned whether Halton needed another private dentist at this time. He circulated a newspaper article to the Committee where it stated that Halton was the eighth worst Borough in the Country for shortage of dentists. He argued that:

- The property was in a small residential area where 100 objections to the proposal had been received;
- Private dentists earned double that of NHS ones;
- A bungalow dwelling would be taken out of use which were highly sought after in the Borough;
- Out of 8 parking bays four of these would be used by staff;
- The property was on a busy junction and cars would have to reverse out onto the road to exit;
- There were parking issues already with Cronton College students parking on the road due to Hillcrest Hotel now charging for parking; and
- The proposal was contrary to Article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998.

In conclusion he stated that Halton needed NHS dentists but in the right locations and that the applicant did not have a contract with the NHS. He urged the Committee to refuse the application due to insufficient parking and highway safety issues.

Members debated the proposal and raised concerns over residential properties being turned into businesses and the impact this has on nearby residents. Officers responded to questions over the potential for breaches of Human Rights and the loss of a bungalow dwelling, in relation to appealing.

Concerns were also raised in relation to highway safety and the potential for increased on-street parking and congestion around the junction at Cronton Lane and Hill View. Members also noted the comments made by Cheshire Police in relation to parking complaints already being received around the shops. Questions were also raised over the number of parking spaces and the fact that at least four of these would be used by staff and therefore occupied throughout the day.

Officers advised that the Council's Highway's Officer had conducted surveys at different times of the day and concluded that traffic did fluctuate at peak times but was not congested.

One Member proposed a motion to refuse the application based on highway safety concerns and insufficient parking as described above. This was seconded and the motion to refuse was carried.

RESOLVED: That the application is refused as the proposed development would not provide sufficient parking provision. This would result in on-street parking that would be detrimental to highway safety and pose a danger to pedestrians, particularly with on-street parking close to the junction of Hill View and Cronton Lane and on-street parking in Tynwald Crescent.

*Councillor Philbin declared an Other Registerable Interest in the following item as there was potential for a relative to be employed at the proposed School. Councillor Polhill declared an Other Registerable Interest in the following item as he had previously met with the applicant and the objectors. Both Members left the room prior to the start of the item and did not participate in the debate or vote.*

DEV46 22/00004/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A TWO STOREY SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY SCHOOL (SEND) (USE CLASS F), AS WELL AS HARD AND SOFT LANDSCAPING, MULTI-USE GAMES AREA (MUGA) AND SPORTS PITCHES, CREATION OF ON-SITE CAR PARKING AND CREATION OF NEW VEHICULAR ACCESS ON LAND AT NAYLOR ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 0BS

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

Since the publication of the agenda the applicant had provided updated plans that showed minor alterations

around the site entrance on Naylor Road, as described in the published AB list. It was noted that the sports/recreational facilities were to be designed to the Department for Education's standards, rather than Sports England's requirements, as these would need to be designed to meet the requirements of a SEND school.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Doyle, who spoke on behalf of the local community. He stated that the community were not objecting to the School itself but the location of it. He also advised the Committee that:

- The local community had been ignored by the applicant and they were left bemused by the poor conduct of them, having no regard for local residents and their requests for meetings;
- He claimed that the applicant displayed a lack of respect and regard for the planning process and this Committee, as they had already set up a website and recruited staff for the School, thus predetermining the decision of the Committee;
- Development of this land would result in the loss of green space and the loss of a field used by local communities;
- Councillor Wall had made objections; he quoted these;
- The application was contrary to planning policies;
- No consideration has been given to alternative Council owned land sites such as the St John Fisher School field;
- Road safety would be impacted; and
- The access to the nursery car park would be affected.

He requested that the Committee ask for the application plans and traffic plans be reviewed before making a decision.

Members were addressed by Mr Spencer from Nexus Planning Ltd, the agents for the Department for Education. He emphasised the need for an educational facility for children with special needs in the area. He stated that:

- The School would offer 64 places and a range of facilities including a games/sports hall;
- No objections had been received during the consultation period;
- NPPF added great weight to the need to create schools;
- This application was policy compliant and all technical considerations had been met;



- Although the land was currently left open it was private land;
- There were other nearby parks for communities to use; and
- The environmental management plan ensured that the School building position was set back from residents' properties and the playing fields were at the rear of the site.

Clarity was provided to Members on the potential for revision of plans and traffic capacity within the area. It was commented that the boundaries for the proposal were fixed and the Local Development Plan allocated this site for educational purposes. Highway safety was looked at in detail, taking into consideration how a SEND school would operate; officers provided details.

After debating the application, hearing speakers' comments and officers' responses to questions, the Committee agreed that the application be approved.

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

1. Standard 3 year permission;
2. Condition specifying plans (GR1 and GR2);
3. Bird nesting boxes scheme (CS(R)20 and HE1);
4. CEMP and additional reasonable avoidance measures (GR2, CS(R)20 and HE1);
5. Lighting scheme (GR2, CS(R)20 and HE1);
6. Implementation of cycle parking provision (C1 and C2);
7. Electric vehicle charging points scheme (C1 and C2);
8. Vehicle access and parking to be constructed prior to commencement of use (C1 and C2);
9. Method statement for invasive species (CS(R)20 and HE1);
10. Tree report and tree protection measures (CS(R)20 and HE1);
11. Foul and surface water on a separate system (HE9);
12. Drainage condition(s) to include culvert survey, final drainage strategy and validation (HE9);
13. Levels (GR1);
14. Landscaping condition(s) including replacement tree planting (GR1); and
15. Waste audit (WM8).

*Meeting ended at 8.30 p.m.*

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**DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Monday, 6 June 2022 at Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Hutchinson and Philbin

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: 22 Members of the public and one member of the press

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

		<i>Action</i>
DEV1	MINUTES  The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
DEV2	PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE  The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.	
DEV3	21/00016/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION, WITH ALL MATTERS OTHER THAN ACCESS RESERVED FOR THE ERECTION OF TWO SEMI-DETACHED DWELLINGS AND FOUR DETACHED DWELLINGS ON THE EXISTING CHURCH FIELD AND THE RETENTION OF THE EXISTING SCOUT HUT AT HOUGH GREEN SCOUT AND GUIDE GROUP HALL AND CHURCH FIELD, HALL AVENUE, WIDNES  The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.	

*This application was deferred at the Development Management Committee meeting on 9 May 2022, to allow for a site visit.*

The Committee was addressed by local resident Bernard Carr, who spoke in objection to the proposal; he referred to the previous objections made by Mr Walker at the last meeting. He argued the following *inter alia*:

- The field has been used over the past 50 years until it was stopped by the applicant;
- Section 6 of the report should be scrutinised to see why the application should not be approved;
- The boundary of the proposal now included land that the scout hut was in;
- The application is not in accordance with the development plan;
- This green space had an important role in the community and is recognised as an asset of community value;
- The site was not surplus to requirements as claimed;
- He quoted planning policies HE4 and CS21 and said the application was contrary to these, so urged the Committee to refuse the application.

The Committee was addressed by Ms Eren, who spoke in support of the application. In response to comments made at the last meeting regarding monetary worth of the Church of England, she provided the monetary worth of the Scouts, stating that these facts aside, each Parish was an organisation in its own right. She also argued *inter alia*:

- The Church had owned the field for the past 90 years;
- The Scouts had only used the field since the 1950's;
- She clarified that the number of houses on the site was 6, not 10;
- The field would not be used going forward, regardless of the outcome tonight.

Members were then addressed by Janet Paul, who spoke in support of the application on behalf of the applicant. She clarified some issues regarding the background to the application, which was originally submitted in 2019 when the site was designated for residential development in the then UDP. She also stated:

- The plans were amended to retain the Scout hut, following recommendations from planning officers;
- She contradicted the comments that the field was

- used for recreational purposes;
- Only part of the field is used, and this was not throughout the year;
- The 204 objections received related to the first application submitted – this had now been amended and would have satisfied the objectors and their concerns; and
- They would use the proceeds from the sale for specific needs within the community.

She urged the Committee to consider the facts before making a decision.

In response to some of the comments made, Officers explained that the amendment to the plans was so that the existing Scout hut building would be retained; this would be secured by condition. It was also explained that although the application was made prior to the adoption of the new Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP), it must be considered under the new DALP, not the previous Unitary Development Plan (UDP).

Members discussed the application and comments made by speakers and raised concerns over the fact that the application was a departure from the DALP. The proposed development would result in the loss of Greenspace as designated by the Halton Delivery and Allocations Local Plan (DALP) Policies Map. This Greenspace has a Specific Greenspace Category of Amenity Greenspace. The Halton Open Space Study 2020 Quantitative Update is an evidence-based document to accompany the recently adopted DALP. This considered the supply of such sites on the basis of the Area Forum Areas which encompassed the former wards of Broadheath, Ditton, Hale and Hough Green rather than the community area affected by the proposals.

It was commented that there was not a significant concentration of Amenity Greenspace in this area and to the South of the major artery, which is Liverpool Road; the only other amenity greenspace sites were at Brackenwood Drive and Derwent Road. The site is considered to be multifunctional having been used ancillary to a longstanding community building (also located on the site) as well as being a satellite site to Hough Green Park and supporting biodiversity.

It was noted that the protected trees on the boundary of the site would remain, however this does not mitigate for the loss of the Amenity Greenspace. This site whilst not being publicly accessible was considered to have an

important visual and structural role to play particularly for the streetscene in this locality. The loss of the Amenity Greenspace would therefore have a detrimental impact on the visual amenity of this predominantly residential locality.

In conclusion, the Committee agreed that there is not considered to be a surplus of Amenity Greenspace in the recently created Bankfield Ward in which the site is located and to allow the proposal would be contrary to the provisions of Policies HE4, CS(R)18, CS(R)21 and GR2 of the DALP.

After taking into account these considerations the Committee agreed that the harm that would be caused with the loss of Amenity Greenspace in the area outweighed the need for the development. One Member moved a refusal, this was seconded and the Committee voted to refuse the application.

RESOLVED: That the application be refused, due to it being contrary to the provisions of Planning Policies HE4, CS(R)18, CS(R)21 and GR2 of the DALP.

*Councillor Polhill declared an Other Registerable Interest in the following item as he had previously met with the applicant and the objectors. He did not participate in the debate or vote on the item.*

DEV4 22/000020/FUL - PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE TO USE CLASS C2, EXTENSIONS AND ADAPTATIONS OF FORMER PUBLIC HOUSE TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION COMPRISING 5 NO. HOUSES, 5 NO. APARTMENTS AND 3 NO. STUDIOS AND WELFARE FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES AT THE CASTLE, 194 WARRINGTON ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 0AP

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

Members were referred to the published AB update list, which advised that an updated bat report had been received and observations from the Council's Ecological Advisor on this updated bat report were awaited.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Keirnan, who was a resident of Castle Street and spoke in objection to the proposal. He stated that:

- Work had already started on the site;
- Only the top four houses in the street received letters of consultation;

- He was concerned about the purpose of the building and who the occupants would be and wanted clarification on this;
- He was concerned that the occupants would contribute to anti-social behaviour and have mental health problems; and
- Parking was a concern as it was a one way street near a primary school and restaurants and was a very busy.

It was noted that the persons that would be residing in the properties was not material to the proposal's consideration.

In response to some of the comments, it was confirmed that the application was a proposed change of use to Use Class 2 and although this application was for dwellings providing temporary accommodation for families and individuals, other uses fell within this category. In relation to anti-social behaviour, there was no evidence that a certain 'type' of occupant was responsible for this. In relation to parking, as the building was previously a public house, it can be assumed that this generated a certain amount of traffic in the area. It was confirmed that the consultation letters were delivered in accordance with the regulations and that any works currently in progress on site were not known to the Council.

Members agreed that determination of the application be delegated to the Operational Director as described below and if approved, it be subject to the conditions listed.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Planning, Policy and Transportation, to determine the application in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee, following the satisfactory consideration of ecology issues including adding any additional conditions required to those listed below.

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Restriction on use;
4. Construction hours (GR2);
5. Implementation of external facing materials (CS(R)18 and GR1);
6. Submission of landscaping scheme and subsequent maintenance (GR1);
7. Information packs for residents (HE1 and CS(R)20);
8. Breeding birds protection (HE1 and CS(R)20);
9. Electric vehicle charging points scheme (C2);

10. Parking and servicing provision (C1 and C2);
11. Off-site highway works (C1);
12. Implementation of cycle parking scheme (C2);
13. Implementation of drainage strategy (CS23 and HE9);
14. Sustainable development and climate change scheme (CS(R)19);
15. On site waste management scheme (WM9); and
16. Site waste management plan (WM8).

*Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.*



**TAXI LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee on Wednesday, 2 March 2022 at Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott and Fry

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**

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EXB3 MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 January 2022 having been circulated will be signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>EXB4 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985</p> <p>The Committee considered:</p> <p>(1) Whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following 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</p> <p>(2) Whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions</p>	

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

EXB5 TAXI MATTER

Case No. 732

RESOLVED: That the Single Status Drivers Licence can be granted with a written warning that would remain on file.

*Meeting ended at 12.10 p.m.*

**TAXI LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee on Monday, 28 March 2022 at Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair) and Abbott

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: None

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

*Action*

EXB6 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 2 March 2022 having been circulated will be signed as a correct record.

EXB7 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.

EXB8 TAXI MATTER

Case No. 733

RESOLVED: That the application to renew the Single Status Drivers Licence be refused

*Meeting ended at 1.31 p.m.*

**TAXI LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee on Monday, 9 May 2022 at Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Loftus and A. McInerney

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: None

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

*Action*

EXB9 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 28 March 2022 having been circulated will be signed as a correct record.

EXB10 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.

EXB11 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

Case No. 734

RESOLVED: That the application for a grant of a Single Status Drivers Licence to be refused.

*Meeting ended at 4.01 p.m.*