

Minutes

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

Wednesday, 19 October 2022

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COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 13 July 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, Dennett, Dourley, Fry, Garner, Gilligan, Goodall, Harris, S. Hill, V. Hill, Hutchinson, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, McDermott, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Nolan, Philbin, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Ratcliffe, Rowe, Stockton, Aimee Teeling, Angela Teeling, Thornton, Wainwright, Wall, Wallace, Woolfall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Davidson, Stretch, Thompson and Wharton

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Polhill

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

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

Action

COU17 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 20 May 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU18 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made the following announcements:-

- a Civic Service would be held at St Michael's & All Angels Church, Greenway Road, Runcorn, WA7 5BS, on Sunday 17th July 2022, at 10am; and
- an update on forthcoming Mayor's charity fund raising activities and recent invitations he had received.

COU19 LEADER'S REPORT

There was no Leader's Report for this meeting due to sickness absence.

COU20 URGENT DECISIONS

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

RESOLVED: That Council note the report.

COU21 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings on 17 March, 14 April, 17 May and 16 June 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU22 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 23 March 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU23 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

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

COU24 PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2022 – 2023

The Council considered the attached Pay Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2022/23.

RESOLVED: That Council adopts this Pay Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2022/23.

COU25 STRATEGIC DIRECTOR ENTERPRISE, COMMUNITY AND RESOURCES DELEGATIONS

The Council was asked to consider the attached report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the allocations to the individuals identified in this report be approved; and
- 2) these allocations be reviewed following any future restructuring undertaken by the Chief Executive.

COU26 ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHESHIRE & MERSEYSIDE INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Council considered a report on the proposed arrangements for Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care System Joint Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED:

That Council approve

- 1) the establishment of a Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System Joint Health Scrutiny Committee;
- 2) the amended "Protocol for the establishment of Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements in Cheshire and Merseyside" be adopted; and
- 3) that Councillors Dourley and P. Lloyd Jones be nominated to sit on the new Committee for 2022/23.

COU27 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD

The Council considered the reports of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of Council on 2 March 2022:-

- Children, Young People and Families;
- Employment, Learning and Skills and Community
- Health;
- Environment and Urban Renewal;
- Corporate Services; and
- Audit & Governance Board.

COU28 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 2 March 2022:-

- Development Management; and
- Taxi Licensing Sub Committee

COU29 NOTICE OF MOTION - SPRINKLERS SAVE LIVES AND PROPERTY FROM FIRE

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

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Nelson and seconded by Councillor Harris:-

This Council commends the Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service in its continuing efforts to save lives and believes it to be an exemplar in driving policy that requires the installation of all buildings to have sprinklers, whether they be in new built or retrospective fitting.

Sprinklers are proven to provide an effective first response to fire in buildings and play a vital role in saving lives. There have been no recorded fire deaths in a building fitted with correctly installed and maintained residential sprinklers.

Halton Council takes the view that legislative change is required to national planning and building policy in order to ensure that the installation of sprinklers is undertaken in every new premises, and in high-risk premises that would benefit from retrofitting sprinklers. We oppose current moves that would weaken the requirement to have sprinkler provision in schools (Building Bulletin 100).

This Council resolves:

To explore local policy options for Halton to promote and ensure sprinkler inclusion locally in all new build premises, whether they be Council owned or not, and to explore options to retrofit systems where possible.

To write to the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and local Members of Parliament to promote changes to the law to require sprinklers in all new built premises. Furthermore, Council seeks that local authorities be awarded grant funding to support the retrofitting of sprinklers in all public buildings.

To write to the Secretary of State for the Department for Education, to strongly condemn the proposed removal of sprinkler provisions from the revision of the design guide for fire safety in schools (Building Bulletin 100) and to request that the requirement for sprinklers in all schools are strengthened rather than removed.

RESOLVED: That the motion be approved.

COU30 NOTICE OF MOTION - HILLSBOROUGH

Council considered a Notice of Motion submitted in

accordance with Standing Order No. 6.

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Wainwright and seconded by Councillor Fry:-

Halton Council commends survivors and the families of the ninety-seven fans who lost their lives as a result of the Hillsborough disaster for their three-decade campaign for justice.

The Council also notes that Kevin Sampson's recent drama for ITV, *Anne* - considered a masterpiece by many - has highlighted once again the fact that, despite the ninety-seven having been unlawfully killed, to date no individuals or organisations have been held accountable for their deaths.

The Council further notes that the impact of the campaign of lies, smears and propaganda orchestrated by South Yorkshire Police in 1989 and promoted by willing politicians and media continues to this day, with far too many members of the public even now parroting discredited lies about the behaviour of Liverpool fans in attendance at Hillsborough on 15 April 1989.

It is not surprising to Council that many families of the ninety-seven and Hillsborough survivors have expressed despair at this continuation of lies about Hillsborough.

Halton Council therefore undertakes to support the 'Real Truth Legacy Project' led by Ian Byrne in conjunction with many Hillsborough families and survivors. This is a campaign which seeks to ensure that current and future generations learn the truth about Hillsborough and aims to ensure that school children in Liverpool and the wider Liverpool City Region initially have access to a definitive account of the disaster and the subsequent cover-up.

The Council hereby notes its support for a key element of The Real Truth Legacy Project which is to have education about Hillsborough added to the National Curriculum, including a dedicated "Hillsborough Day" in Liverpool and the wider Liverpool City Region, to take place on the nearest day suitable to the anniversary of the tragedy on 15 April each year.

The Hillsborough Day would see every Halton and Liverpool City Region primary and secondary school taking part in a special assembly to mark the anniversary and to learn more about the disaster, the cover-up and the fight for justice through dedicated teaching resource packs made available

to every school in the city region by local education leads.

For the sake of past and future generations, this is something Halton Council feels it must get behind and calls on all councils in the Liverpool City Region and beyond to add their support to the Real Truth Legacy Project.

RESOLVED: That the motion be approved.

Meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Wharton and Thompson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Young, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson and A. Jones

Also in attendance: None

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

Action

The Leader and Deputy Leader submitted apologies, so it was moved, seconded and resolved that Councillor Harris takes the Chair for the meeting.

EXB14 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB15 DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented an application 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.

The report outlined details of the application for 15% Discretionary Rate Relief from Widnes Gymnastics Academy, which was a registered Charity. Members were provided with information on the work carried out by them

within the community. Appended to the report was the potential annual cost to the Council of granting the discretionary rate relief for 2022-23.

RESOLVED: That the application for 15% Discretionary Rate Relief for Widnes Gymnastics Academy from 21 June 2021, be approved.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB16 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented the Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22.

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

Information was provided on the economic outlook, interest rate forecast, borrowing and investments, budget monitoring, policy guidelines and treasury management indicators. The Council's approved *Treasury and Prudential Indicators for 2021-22* were set out in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and was attached as Appendix one.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB17 2022/23 TO 2024/25 CAPITAL PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which advised of new capital grant allocations and slippage to capital projects for 2021/22, that had been rolled forward to 2022/23. All the separate elements were presented together and details of the Council's total planned capital programme expenditure and associated funding over the next three years was given.

Table 1 presented the planned Capital Programme for 2022-23 onwards for both Directorates, based on current information for approved schemes, funding available and slippage of scheme expenditure from 2021-22. Table 2 summarised how the capital programme would be funded and Table 3 showed the expected balance of capital receipts over the next 3 years.

It was noted that the capital programme was subject to continuous change as new resources and projects were identified and would be updated throughout the year as revisions were approved by Council.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) Council be recommended to approve the updated Capital Programme for 2022-25, including forecast spend and funding, as set out in Table 1 and Table 2; and
- 2) the Operational Director – Finance, in liaison with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Urban Renewal, finalise the detailed implementation programme of Highways and Transportation schemes to be delivered in 2022-23.

Operational
Director - Finance

DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB18 MOOR LANE BUS DEPOT

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, which provided an update on negotiations regarding the Moor Lane Bus Depot and sought approval to negotiate a long-term lease.

Two proposals from local businesses were presented to Executive Board in March 2022, where it was agreed that negotiations should progress with Company Y. Further discussions had since taken place with Company Y who have stated they would favour a long-term lease (minimum 30 years) to enable them to secure funds to undertake improvements and invest in the building and to provide certainty for them in the future.

It was noted that granting a long-term lease to Company Y would prevent the Council from exploring alternative uses and options, as outlined in the report to Executive Board in March 2022. However, it was recognised that there were advantages to this arrangement; the building would be utilised for the purpose for which it was intended and it was unlikely to impact on its Listed Building status or planning requirements.

RESOLVED: That the Board authorises officers to progress a long-term lease agreement with Company Y.

Operational
Director -
Economy,
Enterprise &
Property

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

EXB19 CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH CHESHIRE & MERSEYSIDE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM AND; PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON ONE HALTON

PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director – People, which requested approval of an amendment to contractual arrangements with the dissolution of Halton Clinical Commissioning Group and the transfer of arrangements to the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board.

The Health and Care Act 2022 required the dissolution of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and the implementation of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), as of 1 July 2022. An ICS consisted of an Integrated Care Board (ICB) and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). An ICB was a statutory organisation that brought the NHS together locally to improve population health and establish shared strategic priorities.

Each local authority area within the Cheshire and Merseyside ICS was required to establish its own Place Based Partnership (PBP), locally this was *One Halton*. The report provided an update on the development of the One Halton PBP in its context with the Cheshire and Merseyside ICS.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the update on One Halton; and
- 2) approves the amendment to contractual arrangements as set out in the report.

Strategic Director
- People

EXB20 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the

public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

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

DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB21 DISPOSAL OF LAND REAR OF FERALCO, DITTON ROAD, WIDNES

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property which sought approval to the disposal of land rear of Feralco, Ditton Road, Widnes.

The report outlined details of the proposal and terms of sale.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) approves the disposal and of the freehold interest in land rear of Feralco, Ditton Road, Widnes, on the terms reported in paragraph 3.5; and
- 2) authorises the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, to arrange for all required documentation for the transactions to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

Operational Director -
Economy, Enterprise &
Property

MINUTES ISSUED: 19 July 2022

CALL- IN: 26 July 2022 at 5.00 pm

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

Meeting ended at 2.15 p.m.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 6 July 2022 at Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors J. Lowe, Woolfall and Wright (Chair), S. Ashcroft, R. Foster, L. Garner, N. Goodwin, T. Leo, W. Longshaw, C. Lyons, D. Nolan, I. Onyia, S. Patel, S Semoff and M. Vasic.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor T. McInerney and P. Jones, L. Carter, K. Parker, D. Wilson and S. Yeoman.

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

| | <i>Action</i> |
|--|---------------|
| <p>HWB1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p> | |
| <p>HWB2 PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT</p> <p>The Board received a report of the Director of Public Health, on the Public Health Annual Report (PHAR) 2021/22. Each year a theme was chosen for the PHAR and for 2021/22 the report focussed upon the social determinants of health, particularly highlighting how individuals, communities, services and organisations could contribute to opportunities for everyone to benefit from good health and protected from harm. The report used the social determinants model as a guide to the key issues and included a chapter on the summary of the topic, why it was important and what work had been done or would be done. The following sections were included within the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social and community networks; • Living and working conditions; and • General socioeconomic, cultural and economic conditions. <p>A copy of the report was provided to the Board members and was also available on the Council website.</p> | |

RESOLVED: That the theme and development of the Public Health Annual Report be noted.

HWB3 DOMESTIC ABUSE - PRESENTATION

The Board received a presentation from Sarah Ashcroft which set out the opportunities and challenges for local authorities to implement the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The presentation provided the Board with information on:

- the Halton approach to implementing the statutory duty the Act placed on local authorities to provide support for victims and children;
- local and national data on domestic abuse related crimes; and
- understanding the trend which illustrated a rise in the numbers of domestic abuse numbers recorded in Halton.

The Board was advised that Halton had received £326,978 for 2021-22 and a further £327,883 for 2022-23 to assist with providing the necessary support for domestic violence victims and children. Members were advised on some of the initiatives this money would help to support, such as a new accommodation offer and commissioning children's services with a counselling and therapy offer.

RESOLVED: That the presentation be noted.

HWB4 PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Board received a copy of the final version of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) and an update on the results of the statutory 60-day consultation.

The PNA was a statutory document that stated the pharmacy needs of the local population. This included dispensing services as well as public health and other services that pharmacies may provide. It was used as the framework for making decisions when granting new contracts and approving changes to existing contracts as well as for commissioning pharmacy services.

Following the conclusion of the 60 day consultation period, the Steering Group had met to consider responses and any (amends) required in order to present the Board with the final version of the PNA.

The Board was advised that the proposed next steps for the PNA document were:

- the document would be published no later than 1 October 2022 and uploaded onto the Council's website; and
- the Steering Group would meet periodically and/or communicate electronically to produce supplementary statements as required.

The Board discussed the 'Care at the Chemist' scheme, if this was still available in Halton and how it was promoted.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) approve the PNA for publication; and
- 2) delegate the Steering Group to deal with production of supplementary statements needed throughout the lifetime of the PNA.

Director of Public Health

HWB5 UPDATE ON ONE HALTON PLACE BASED PARTNERSHIP

The Board received an update on One Halton Place Based Partnership development with Cheshire Merseyside Integrated Care System (ICS) context. On 1 July 2022 all Clinical Commissioning Groups were dissolved and 42 ICS began operating. Halton was within the Cheshire and Merseyside ICS which consisted of nine place based partnerships each with a NHS Place Director. On behalf of the Board, the Chair welcomed to the meeting Mr Anthony Leo, Halton NHS Place Director, who commenced in post on 1 July 2022.

The ICS also consisted of an Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and Halton's representative on the ICP was Councillor Wright. The ICB was the main delivery arm of the structure and the report included a diagram on the ICS structures which illustrated the responsibilities of both the ICP and ICB.

In addition the report set out the governance structure which had been developed for Halton's place based partnership and how it related to the ICS. One Halton had been developed to be a Joint Committee to the ICS so that it could receive delegated responsibilities from the Integrated Care Board. The Board were advised on the Officer's appointed to the One Halton Programme Management Office to date and the support received from external organisations to support the development of One Halton.

Four One Halton Sub-Committees and three One Halton work streams had been established and the Board was provided with a progress report on each of these.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HWB6 MARMOT REPORT: ALL TOGETHER FAIRER

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which advised that the Marmot Report – All Together Fairer, written by Professor Sir Michael Marmot and a team of researchers in partnership with Cheshire and Merseyside local authorities, had been launched at an event on 26 May 2022. A link to the full report had been previously circulated to the Board and a copy of the executive summary was attached to the report.

The Marmot Report set out measurable actions for each area within Cheshire and Merseyside as well as the sub region as a whole, to create a fairer, equitable society. A set of local Marmot Beacon indicators had been developed in partnership with local stakeholders, and these would monitor actions on local determinants of health in Cheshire and Merseyside.

RESOLVED: That the content of the report be noted.

HWB7 BETTER CARE FUND (BCF) RETURN

The Board received a report from the Director of Adult Social Services, which provided an update on the Better Care Fund 2021/22 year-end return, following its submission on 27 May. The update provided the Board with information on the four national conditions which had been met, progress on the five national metrics, income and expenditure actual, year-end feedback and adult social care fee rates.

RESOLVED: The Better Care Fund year-end return for 2021/22 be noted for information.

HWB8 HWB BOARD AGENDA PLANNING (DISCUSSION)

The Board received an update on the progress on the work by Officers in relation to future Health and Wellbeing Board agenda planning which included:

- a refresh of the Halton Health and Wellbeing Board terms of reference;
- developing the Board membership; and

- exploring the possibility of themed meetings and the facility for Board members to submit suggestions for future agenda items.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

Meeting ended at 3.45 p.m.

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SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 19 July 2022 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh (Chair), V. Hill (Vice-Chair), Baker, Begg, Bevan, Bramwell, Loftus and Ratcliffe

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Carlin, A. McInerney and Wall

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Ashcroft, I. Booth, G. Ferguson, S. Semoff and P. Wright

Also in attendance: Councillor M. Lloyd Jones under Standing Order no. 33

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

| | <i>Action</i> |
|---|---------------|
| SAF1 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS | |
| <p>At the start of the meeting the Chair welcomed everyone and thanked the Vice Chair – Councillor V. Hill for her support over the previous 12 months.</p> | |
| SAF2 MINUTES | |
| <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2021 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> | |
| SAF3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME | |
| <p>It was reported that no questions had been received.</p> | |
| SAF4 DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE | |
| <p>The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Community and Environment, which provided an update on the activities taking place across the Borough in response to domestic abuse and sexual violence. The Executive Board at its meeting on 16 June 2022 had approved a revised approach to delivering specialist domestic abuse support and services in Halton (Minute EXB 9 refers). Details of the SafeLives Whole Picture Approach,</p> | |

adopted in Halton, was outlined in the report.

The report provided Members with further information on:

- the increase in domestic abuse cases since Covid-19. Halton had the highest rate of cases discussed at MARAC (compared within Cheshire) (Q3 2021/22);
- the Halton domestic abuse accommodation service;
- the domestic abuse service offer for children, young people and families; and
- Halton's bid to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, to improve the local service offer for victims in Halton, specifically those who had been subjected to historical domestic abuse that would not have been eligible for domestic abuse support within the current commissioned service. A total of £163,200 had been awarded over a three year period.

Arising from the discussion, the Board requested further information on the proposals for the Women's Centre and if this service would be rolled out across the Borough.

Operational
Director –
Community and
Environment

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF5 EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Policy, Planning & Transport, which provided an update on the work undertaken by the Emergency Planning team during 2021-22.

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

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

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

Cheshire Resilience Forum.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted

SAF6 HALTON'S MODERN SLAVERY TOOLKIT

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Community and Environment, which advised Members that a working group had been established to develop a new toolkit for practitioners to deal with issues of modern slavery and human trafficking in Halton. The toolkit could be used by officers to see what support was available and how they could escalate issues and to whom. A copy of the modern slavery toolkit was attached to the report for information.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the work being undertaken to develop this toolkit and that the main responsibilities for victim support sits within safeguarding.

Meeting ended at 7.55 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, 21 September 2022 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Woolfall (Chair), Fry (Vice-Chair), Ball, D. Cargill, Davidson, S. Hill, Logan, McDermott, Stretch, Thornton, A. Lowe, Philbin, Polhill, Thompson and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Gilligan

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: Councillors Jones, Harris, A. Lowe, Nelson, Philbin, Polhill, Thompson and Wallace. On behalf of Cadent - Ms Evans and Ms Sansum.

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

Action

The Committee took part in a minutes silence in honour of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

EUR12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2022 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

EUR13 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

EUR14 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.

Councillor Davidson declared a disclosable other interest in the following item of business (para 3.2) as she was a

resident in the Borough where regeneration was taking place

EUR15 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 1 OF 2022/23

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Policy, People, Performance and Efficiency, which presented the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 1 of 2022/23.

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; and
- Waste and Environmental Improvement and Open Space Services.

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

Councillor Davidson declared a disclosable other interest in the following item of business as she was an employee of an academy in the Borough mentioned in the climate change action plan.

EUR16 CLIMATE CHANGE UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Planning, Policy and Transport, that provided an update on activities relating to the Council's Climate Change Action Plan. The Action Plan for 2022-2027 provided a clear direction for the Council and:

- set a target to be carbon neutral by 2040 which included both short term and longer term action;
- provided an initial focus on decarbonising energy use by buildings, transport, waste and enhancing the Borough's blue/green infrastructure; and
- sought to embed climate change in Council decision making and develop partnership working as a lead into a borough wide approach to tackling climate change.

Members were advised on the action taken by the

Council to reduce its carbon emissions, the introduction of electric vehicle charging, steps taken to embed climate change into decision making, the Big Halton Forrest Project, progress on Council climate change web pages and climate change training for members and officers. In addition, the report provided information on how the Council was facilitating to help climate change projects relating to private and social housing and green growth projects in the business and public sector.

It was noted that at this stage there were elements of the plan which were difficult to cost and a careful balance would need to be struck between the Council's carbon ambitions and the requirements it had placed on it delivering its statutory responsibilities. It was clear that significant resources would be required to enable the Council to reach its 2040 objective, much of which it did not have presently at its disposal. For these reasons actions would need to be prioritised in terms of resourcing, deliverability and cost.

In addition, the Council was also part of the Liverpool City Region Hydrogen Strategy for the region. Members received a presentation from Ms Evans and Ms Sansum representatives from Cadent, who advised the Board on Cadent's HyNet North West Hydrogen Pipeline. The presentation updated Members on the project work to date and the statutory consultation process which would run from 29 September to 10 November 2022.

RESOLVED: That

1. the Board receives the update on progress towards the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027 to be provided at the meeting; and
2. the set of priority actions set out in Section 5.0 be endorsed.

EUR17 CONTROLS ON HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO)

The Board received a report of the Operational Director – Planning, Policy and Transport, which detailed the controls available to regulate Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

The Board considered information provided from Councillors regarding the problems currently being experienced by the community who lived near to HMO's in their Ward and the powers available to the Council to tackle

these issues. In addition the Board discussed the use of Article 4 Direction to remove 'permitted development rights' thereby preventing the change of use from Class C3 (dwelling house) to Class C4 (houses of multiple occupation) without planning permission.

Following consideration of the information presented the Board agreed that a Working Party would be set up to discuss the issues raised and to consider the draft policy which had been produced (Appendix 1) to set out the relevant licensing requirements and property standards for HMOs.

RESOLVED: That a Working Party be established to discuss the issues raised and to consider the draft policy which had been produced (Appendix 1) to set out the relevant licensing requirements and property standards for HMOs, with the following Membership:

Operational
Director –
Planning, Policy
and Transport

Councillors S. Hill, A. Lowe, Stretch, Philbin, Thornton, Wallace and Woolfall.

EUR18 WORKING PARTY REVIEW OF COPPICING WORKS

The Board received a report which provided Members with a progress report on the work of the Working Party that was established to review the Council's coppicing works programme. The first meeting of the Working Party took place on 12 July and Members received a presentation on what structure planting is and how the Council managed its plantations, including some of the issues the Council faced.

Following a discussion on the Council's programme for the management of structure planting and a number of matters raised by Members, it was agreed that the next step would be for a field study visit to be arranged for Members to observe previous structure planting works that had been carried out at a number of locations across the Borough. The field study would take place by the end of September 2022.

RESOLVED: That the report be received.

Meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.

CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 6 September 2022 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Philbin and Thornton

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, E. Dawson, G. Ferguson, P. Garnett and R. Rout

Also in attendance: None

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

| | <i>Action</i> |
|--|---------------|
| CS10 MINUTES | |
| The Minutes from the meeting held on 7 June 2022 were taken as read and signed as a correct record. | |
| CS11 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME | |
| The Board was advised that no public questions had been received. | |
| CS12 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. | |
| CS13 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT GROUP NOTES | |
| The Board considered the minutes of the Member Development Group meeting held on 10 February 2022. | |
| RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted. | |
| CS14 HOUSING SUPPORT FUND 2022 | |
| The Board considered a report of the Operational | |

Director – Finance, which provided an update on the progress of the delivery of the £1.3m grant allocation received by the Council for the six month extension to the Government’s Household Support Fund (HSF). Halton’s allocation of grant funding was £1,297,880, for the period 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022, of which 5% was permitted to provide for the costs of administering the grant. A spending plan had been prepared and was attached as Appendix A to the report. Detailed information relating to spending for the period 1 April to 30 June 2022 was included as Appendix B.

It was noted that the DWP were currently working through the design and governance of the new HSF for the period 1 November 2022 to 31 March 2023. No details of the scheme were as yet available, however one change highlighted was there would be requirement to spend on particular groups of people as stipulated in the current HSF.

It was proposed that once the DWP had issued final guidance for the new HSF the Operational Director – Finance, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board (PPB), would recommend the new HSF scheme for approval by Executive Board. A further progress report would be submitted to the Board at its meeting in November.

RESOLVED: That

1. progress with delivery of the Household Support Fund, as outlined in the report, be noted;
2. a further progress report be brought to the next meeting of the Board; and
3. the Operational Director Finance in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Corporate PPB recommend the new Household Support Fund scheme for approval by Executive Board.

Operational
Director –
Finance

CS15 RESOURCING THE COUNCIL – CURRENT CHALLENGES

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Policy, People, Performance and Efficiency, which provided Members with an overall view of the resourcing challenges currently faced by the Council, their impact, implications and options.

It was noted since the start of 2021/22 financial year, the number of Council service vacancies submitted for advertisement had increased significantly. The rise in

numbers had created a significant challenge as the Council's recruitment service was not resourced at a level sufficient to manage workflow of such volumes. This had created delays in service provision, which remained prevalent. The key reasons for the increase in volume of vacancies were set out in the report. However, in addition to these reasons, there was also a failure to attract candidates to some roles which resulted in re-advertising and repeated recruitment activity.

The Board was also advised that the recruitment service also processed recruitment for schools on a chargeable Service Level Agreement basis. Forty five schools had bought into the service and Members were updated on revised legislation in respect of school recruitment which was introduced in April 2020 and the impact this had on the recruitment service.

Members noted data outlined in the report which showed an upswing in vacancies across both the public and private sectors and in particular across the Liverpool City Region (LCR). All local authorities in the LCR were reporting recruitment issues and certain post types continued to provide the highest level of challenge across the City Region, namely social worker roles, caring posts in the adult care sector, nursing posts in the adult care sector, technical and professional roles across a broad range of service areas and more recently administrative type posts.

In order to address some of the recruitment issues experienced, a revised approach to attracting candidates to Council roles was to be explored. The report detailed the measures which were under consideration as part of this new approach. In addition, the Council was also engaged in a strategic programme of work with the other five LCR Council's headed up by the Chief Executive of the LCR Combined Authority, designed to consider the high level challenge of resourcing the local government sector more generally in the short, medium and long term.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the report and the actions being taken to mitigate the challenges.

CS16 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 1 OF 2022/23

The Board received a report of the Operational Director, Policy, People, Performance and Efficiency, which presented the Performance Monitoring Report for Quarter 1 of 2022/23.

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;
- Catering, Stadium and Registration Services; and
- Property Services.

Arising from the discussion, the Board:

- requested further information on the Council's financial return on its solar panels and also on solar panel tariffs for the public; and
- requested that Executive Board provide the Board with an opportunity to provide some input into the Market report which is an item on Executive Board - 15 September 2022.

Chief Executive

RESOLVED: That the Quarter 1 Performance Monitoring reports be received and noted.

Meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Audit and Governance Board held on Wednesday, 6 July 2022 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), A. Lowe (Vice-Chair), E. Cargill, Garner, Jones, L. Nolan, Philbin and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J. Bradshaw, Harris and McDermott

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Dawson, S. Baker and G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: Michael Green – Grant Thornton

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

| | <i>Action</i> |
|---|---------------|
| AGB1 MINUTES | |
| <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p> | |
| AGB2 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER BIENNIAL UPDATE 2022/23 | |
| <p>The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, on the bi-annual update of the Corporate Risk Register for 2022/23.</p> <p>The Board was advised that the Council recognised its responsibility to manage both internal and external risks as a key component of good corporate governance. At Directorate level, arrangements were in place for the high risk mitigation measures on the Directorate Risk Registers to be reviewed and updated annually, in line with Directorate Business Plans. Progress was then reported to Management Team and Policy and Performance Boards.</p> <p>It was reported that the Risk Control Measures had been reviewed and updated in line with current changes within the Authority and as proposed by managers and stakeholders. The risks had been re-prioritised so that</p> | |

people, (the community and staff), took priority. These were set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That

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

AGB3 INFORMING THE EXTERNAL AUDIT RISK ASSESSMENT

The Board considered a report by the Operational Director - Finance, which presented for information the draft response provided to the annual letter to the Board from Grant Thornton, the Council's external auditors, regarding their year-end audit of accounts work.

The Appendix to the report outlined the draft responses provided to a number of questions contained in a letter from Grant Thornton, which it was proposed to provide to them in order to assist with their year-end audit of accounts.

Arising from the discussion the Board raised a number of issues which were addressed around the employment of external solicitors, risks due to the impact of future Government funding to local authorities and the potential risks around the Cheshire Pension Fund.

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

Operational
Director - Finance

AGB4 INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

The Board considered a report of the Divisional Manger – Audit, Procurement and Operational Finance, which summarised the work completed by Internal Audit during 2021/22, which included an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's overall risk management, control and governance processes.

The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) required the Head of Internal Audit to deliver an annual audit opinion and report that could be used to inform the Annual Governance Statement (the *Internal Audit Annual Report 2021/22* was appended to the report).

It was noted that it was the view of the Head of

Internal Audit that sufficient audit work was completed during the year to be able to form an overall opinion. It was reported that the Council's risk management, control and governance processes that were in place during 2021/22 were considered to be adequate and had operated effectively during the year.

RESOLVED: That the Board

1. receives and notes the overall opinion on the Council's risk management control and governance processes that were in place during 2021/22;
2. notes and endorses the safeguards established to limit any impairment to the independence or objectivity of the internal audit function; and
3. notes the Internal Audit Charter which sets out the purpose, authority and responsibility of the Council's internal audit activity.

AGB5 EXTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Finance, which provided a copy of the Interim External Auditor's, Grant Thornton UK LLP, Annual Report 2020/21.

The External Auditor was required to consider whether the Council had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Annual Report detailed overall arrangements, as well as providing key recommendations on any significant weaknesses in arrangements identified during the audit.

On behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Michael Green presented details of the findings of the External Auditor to the Board.

A Member sought clarification regarding the funding of the refurbishment of Lilycross Care Centre and it was agreed that information would be circulated to the Board.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the 2020/21 External Audit Annual Report be noted, including recommendations set out from page 26 of the report.

Operational
Director - Finance

AGB6 EXTERNAL AUDIT PLAN – 2021/22 YEAR-END

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director - Finance, which set out the 2021/22 year-end Audit Plan, presented by the External Auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP.

The Board was advised that the External Audit Plan was attached to the report and set out details of risks identified, their approach to the value for money conclusion and audit fees.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the External Audit Plan for 2021/22 year-end be noted.

AGB7 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.

AGB8 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

The Board received a report from the Divisional Manager – Audit, Procurement and Operational Finance, updating them on the internal audit activity since the last progress report to the Board on 23 March 2022. It also highlighted any matters that were relevant to the Board’s responsibilities as the Council’s Audit Committee.

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

Further to the approval of the Audit Plan on 23 March 2022, Members were advised that good progress had been made against the Plan so far, with most outstanding work relating to the 2021/22 Audit Plan now complete or nearing completion. The remaining work from 2021/22 would be reported to the next meeting of the Board.

Appended to the report were the executive summaries of the reports issued numbering 2 to 16, as listed in paragraph 4.2.

The Board discussed the difficulties the Council was experiencing recruiting staff and it was noted that a report would be submitted to the next Corporate Policy and Performance Board exploring these issues.

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

Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Tuesday, 12 July 2022 at the Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Thompson

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

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

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

| | | <i>Action</i> |
|------|--|---------------|
| DEV5 | MINUTES | |
| | The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record. | |
| DEV6 | 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. | |
| DEV7 | 22/00015/FUL - PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 20 APARTMENTS, WITH ASSOCIATED PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, LANDSCAPING AND ACCESS ON SITE OF FORMER PANORAMA HOTEL, CASTLE ROAD, RUNCORN | |
| | The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. | |
| | It was reported that additional conditions had been | |

recommended following the response from the Council's retained ecology advisor and further discussions with the Applicant regarding the DALP sustainable development requirements. These were presented in the published AB update list.

Arising from the Officer's presentation, additional conditions were recommended to secure obscure glazing to key windows in order to further minimise overlooking of neighbouring properties and to control hours of construction.

In response to Members' queries, clarity was provided using the plans on the locations of the entrances and exits to the site leading to the parking areas. Further to concerns over the Castle Road junction already being a black spot for accidents, it was commented that this had been raised by Officers with the Applicant, who had since made amendments to the scheme to accommodate the poor visibility at this junction.

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

- a) Financial payment (or a legal or other appropriate agreement) relating to securing financial contributions to open space.
- b) Conditions relating to the following:
 1. Time limit – full permission;
 2. Approved plans (GR1);
 3. External facing materials (GR12);
 4. SUDS (CS7 and CS23);
 5. SUDS verification and validation (CS7 and CS23);
 6. Structural details of all retaining walls within 4m of a highway boundary (GR12);
 7. Details of disabled and EV charge parking spaces to be detailed (C2);
 8. Cycle parking details to be supplied including location;
 9. Boundary treatment details;
 10. Program of restoration for the sandstone wall adjacent to Main Street and Castle Road, including an assessment of its current condition;
 11. Formal agreement entered with the Highway Authority in regard to the site access and re-positioned footway;
 12. Construction management plan including details of site deliveries, contractor parking to be located off highway and reasonable avoidance measures

for nesting birds, terrestrial mammals, amphibians, hedgehogs etc (GR1, GR2 and CS20);

13. Car park to be surfaced and set out prior to occupation (GR1);
14. Foul and surface water shall be drained on separate systems (CS23);
15. Phase 2 ground investigation study / remediation (CS23);
16. Bird and bat boxes details (CS(R)20);
17. Car parking lighting scheme (GR1, GR2 and CS20);
18. Specification of conservation area roof lights (GR1 and HE10);
19. Soft landscaping (GR1 and HE5);
20. Sustainable development and climate change scheme (CS(R)19);
21. Bat inspection prior to infill of cave/tunnel feature;
22. Bat box provision;
23. Lighting scheme to limit spill from site and impact on ecology;
24. Breeding bird check;
25. Bird box nesting compensation;
26. Japanese Knotweed eradication plan; and
27. Construction waste audit.

- c) That if payment is not made (or the Section 106 Agreement or alternative arrangement was not executed) within a reasonable period of time, authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee to refuse the application.

DEV8 22/00194/FUL - PROPOSED ALTERATIONS TO YARD AND BUILDING ENVELOPE, INCLUSION OF OPERATIONS HUB AND SHELTERED LOADING AREAS ALONG WITH ASSOCIATED MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT TO ENSURE CLIENT FUNCTIONALITY AT BORAX UK, GORSEY LANE, WIDNES, WA8 0RP

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

This application was placed in column A of the published AB list and the Committee agreed no further explanation was required, so the application was approved.

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

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Construction hours (GR12);
4. Implementation of external facing materials (CS(R)18 and GR1);
5. Electric vehicle charging points scheme (C2);
6. Parking and servicing provision (C1 and C2);
7. Implementation of cycle parking scheme (C1);
8. Implementation of drainage strategy (CS23 and HE9); and
9. Sustainable development and climate change scheme (CS(R)19).

DEV9 22/00207/COU - PROPOSED CHANGE OF USE FROM A DWELLING (USE CLASS C3 (A)) TO A CHILDREN'S HOME FOR TWO CHILDREN UP TO THE AGE OF 17 (USE CLASS C2) AT 29 KENNINGTON PARK, WIDNES, WA8 9PE

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

Further to the Officer's presentation, it was noted that a condition was suggested to provide clarity on what was permitted in terms of staffing.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Hallam, the Applicant, who provided some details on his own background from when he was a youth support worker to what he does now. He also commented *inter alia*:

- That he was aware of the representations made from neighbouring properties stating that they had not been advised of the plans – he had since met with some of them and invited them to a coffee morning so they could discuss the proposals with him;
- He set up good quality loving homes which were nicely furnished for the children;
- He recruited high quality staff with the right values needed when caring for children; and
- His relations with neighbours were good and he had made himself available for them to contact him anytime.

Members generally supported the application but recognised that this was a business that needed careful

management and this should be kept in mind. Members also noted that this type of change of use application took away large family homes from the housing market.

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

1. Time Limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans; and
3. Restriction of use.

Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Monday, 8 August 2022 at the Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, A. Evans, M. Webster, L. Wilson-Lagan, J. Farmer and A. Blackburn

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

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

| | <i>Action</i> |
|---|---------------|
| DEV10 MINUTES | |
| The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record. | |
| DEV11 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. | |
| DEV12 21/00319/FULEIA - DEVELOPMENT OF 151 RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS (COMPRISING A MIX OF 3, 4, AND 5 BEDROOM HOUSES) AND ASSOCIATED WORKS AT LAND AT CROWS NEST FARM, DELPH LANE, DARESURY | |
| The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. | |
| Members were advised that a total of 6 | |

representations were received to the application, 5 of which were objections. Since the publication of the agenda, an additional objection was received that was a copy of an earlier objection already considered. An additional condition was recommended regarding *Sustainable Drainage and Climate Change*, as detailed in the AB update list. A letter of objection had also been received from Mr Mike Amesbury MP, which was also presented in the published AB list.

The Committee was addressed by Mr Smalley who represented the Applicant. He introduced the scheme as being part of the wider site of the Redrow Development, which included 151 new homes. He stated:

- The proposal consisted of Redrow's Heritage Collection and would make a significant contribution to the supply of housing stock in the area;
- It would provide benefits for local communities such as employment opportunities and economic benefits arising from the supply chain;
- The plans included green technology such as heat pumps and electric vehicle charging points;
- The plans included landscaping and public open space improvements which included a children's play area;
- Referring to the landscape corridor in the centre of the site; this would be planted with hedges and 450 trees;
- The developer had worked closely with the adjacent land owner; and
- The developer had worked closely with the Council's planning and highways officers to deliver this robust scheme.

The following matters were discussed by the Committee:

- Access to the site – this would be from a new access point to the A56 parallel to the existing A56;
- Public Right of Way (PROW) diversionary routes and access over the George Gleaves Bridge – this Bridge is owned by *Peel Holdings* and is a listed building. There was no public access to the bridge currently but this was an aspiration being discussed with the Applicant for the remaining strategic site applications that were still being considered;
- Concerns over the absence of affordable homes being included in the application – further to the Inspector's report and financial viability study submitted by the applicant, priority in this case was

given to the wider strategic off-site improvements to the locality that when combined with the costs of opening up of the site for development, such as the infrastructure works required to make the site accessible to the existing highway network, resulted in the site being unable to deliver affordable housing;

- Whether future applications in this area could have affordable homes included – both parts of the former hybrid planning application 17/00407/OUTEIA were subject to a financial viability appraisal. There is an additional planning application on the opposite embankment of the Bridgewater Canal, the delivery of affordable homes on that site was a matter of ongoing discussion with the Applicant;
- Concerns over accessibility in relation to bus stops and cycling lanes – although bus routes were not yet finalised, the roads within the site were planned with buses in mind and one of the conditions stipulates that bus stops must be included; and
- Whether or not to remove the recommendation for delegated authority and request the application returns to Committee following the resolution of the outstanding matters.

Clarity was provided to Members over the matters outstanding and the request for officer delegation once these had been resolved. Further to debate it was agreed that the delegation would include consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

Councillor Abbott did not take part in the vote on the decision of the application, as he was absent from the room for part of the debate and officer responses.

RESOLVED: To approve the application subject to the resolution of the outstanding matters of drainage and works to the PROW and to delegate the determination of these outstanding matters to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee.

Any permission would be subject to the below conditions and the inclusion of the additional recommended condition mentioned above, relating to sustainable drainage and climate change and any others considered necessary relating to the drainage and PROW:

- a) Deed of variation to include the approval of this planning application in the definitions section of the existing S106 Agreement.

b) Conditions relating to the following:

1. Time limit – full permission;
2. Approved plans;
3. Contaminated land identification and remediation strategy;
4. Contaminated land validation report;
5. External facing materials;
6. Structural details of all retaining walls within 4m of a highway boundary;
7. Electric Vehicle charge parking spaces to be detailed;
8. Construction management plan including avoidance measures re habitat/mammal/bird nesting/amphibians;
9. Construction waste audit;
10. Hedgehog highway network measures;
11. Lighting scheme to limit impact on nocturnal species along Bridgewater Canal;
12. Ecological protection strategy;
13. Replacement of Existing hedgerow;
14. Ecological habitat management plan;
15. Soft landscaping plan;
16. Soft landscaping management plan;
17. Hard landscaping;
18. Invasive species method of eradication statement;
19. Invasive species validation report;
20. Bird and bat boxes;
21. Boundary treatment details;
22. Details concerning public right of way diversion including connection to George Gleaves Bridge;
23. Details of visibility splays;
24. Domestic refuse storage details;
25. Ground water flood risk assessment;
26. Suds verification report;
27. Barn owl mitigation strategy;
28. Delph Lane turning head and prohibition of vehicular through traffic details;
29. Bus stop details;
30. Final vehicle tracking;
31. Full engineering details for estate streets;
32. A56 access details; and
33. Removal of GRDO Schedule 2, Part 1, Class F – no fences forward of front elevation.

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

DEV13 21/00628/FUL - PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL DISTRICT CENTRE TO INCLUDE: RETAIL UNITS 1 & 2: DISPLAY OR RETAIL SALE OF GOODS, OTHER THAN HOT FOOD, USE CLASS E(A) AND/OR RESTAURANTS AND CAFES, USE CLASS E(B); RETAIL UNITS 3 & 4: TAKEAWAYS, USE CLASS SUI GENERIS - HOT FOOD TAKEAWAYS; RETAIL UNIT 5: VETERINARY PRACTICE, USE CLASS E(E). ELDERLY LIVING FACILITIES FOR THE OVER 55'S IN THE FORM OF: AN APARTMENT BLOCK PROVIDING 20 NO. ONE BED FLATS AND 24 NO. TWO BED FLATS, AND 5 NO TWO BED BUNGALOWS - ALL USE CLASS C3(A) DWELLING HOUSES; TOGETHER WITH ANCILLARY DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING CYCLE STORES FOR 20 NO CYCLES, AND LANDSCAPING AT LAND BOUNDED BY PITTS HEATH LANE AND OTTERBURN STREET, SANDYMOOR, RUNCORN

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

Committee Members advised that Sandymoor Parish Council had sent a letter directly to them, regarding a query with the emptying of bins for the retail units at the local centre. Planning officers were unaware of this, as they had not been sent the letter. It was commented that a meeting had since been arranged between the Council's Waste Management Team and the Parish Council, regarding their query.

The Committee agreed that the application be approved.

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

1. Time;
2. Approved plans;
3. Site levels;
4. Material details;
5. Affordable housing;
6. Over 55 residency age restriction;
7. Retain bollards on Biggleswade Drive;
8. Road safety audit;
9. Signage and road marking strategy;
10. Travel plan;
11. Car park strategy/management plan;
12. Electric Vehicle Charging;
13. Cycle and motorbike storage;

14. Construction Management Plan – Phasing Plan;
15. Car parking details;
16. Delivery and service plan;
17. Site access gates;
18. CEMP (MEAS requested);
19. Ecology lighting scheme;
20. Bird, bat and invertebrate boxes;
21. Badger and hedgehog RAMs;
22. Site waste management plan;
23. Bin storage;
24. Drainage information;
25. Drainage verification;
26. Noise mitigation;
27. Opening hours of retail units; and
28. Hours of construction.

DEV14 22/00327/FUL - PROPOSED TWO STOREY AND SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSIONS AT 6 LOCKETT ROAD, WIDNES, CHESHIRE, WA8 6SL

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

This application was placed in column A of the published AB list and the Committee agreed no further explanation was required, so the application was approved.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the conditions listed below:

1. Standard 3 year expiry;
2. In accordance with approved plans; and
3. Materials to match existing.

Meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Thursday, 15 September 2022 at the Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), J. Bradshaw, J. Lowe, McDermott, Ratcliffe and Thompson

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Young and R. Rout

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

Action

The Committee observed one minutes silence as a mark of condolence to Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

APC4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

APC5 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.

APC6 SELECTION INTERVIEW FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADULTS

Following the consultation upon and establishment of a new Senior Management Structure and in accordance with the Council's Staffing Protocol, the Committee considered a candidate for the post of Executive Director Adults.

RESOLVED: That Susan Wallace-Bonner be appointed to the post of Executive Director Adults, with effect from 28 November 2022.

Meeting ended at 1.50 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Friday, 7 October 2022 at the Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chair), J. Bradshaw, J. Lowe, McDermott, Ratcliffe and Thompson

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Gurrell, G. Haining, S. Young and M. Vasic.

Also in attendance: Sharon Senior and Massimo Porceddu - North West Employers

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

| | | <i>Action</i> |
|------|---|---------------|
| APC7 | MINUTES | |
| | <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2022, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and agreed as a correct record.</p> | |
| APC8 | SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 | |
| | <p>The Board considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 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.

APC9 SELECTION INTERVIEWS FOR THE POST OF OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, INCLUSION AND PROVISION

Following a long-listing recruitment process and the drawing up of a shortlist, the Committee considered candidates for the post of Operational Director Education, Inclusion and Provision.

RESOLVED: That Jill Farrell be appointed to the post of Operational Director Education, Inclusion and Provision.

Meeting ended at 11.29 a.m.

TAXI LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee on Wednesday, 22 June 2022 at the Bridgewater Room - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Loftus and Woolfall

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Wilson-Lagan and K. Hesketh

Also in attendance: None

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB COMMITTEE**

TLSC1 MINUTES

Action

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9 May 2022 having been circulated will be signed as a correct record.

TLSC2 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.

TLSC3 TAXI MATTER

Case No. 735

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

Chief Executive

Meeting ended at 11.22 a.m.

TAXI LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee on Monday, 22 August 2022 at the Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Fry and Loftus

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: E. Wilson-Lagan and K. Hesketh

Also in attendance: None

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

Action

TLSC4 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22 June 2022 having been circulated will be signed as a correct record.

TLSC5 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.

TLSC6 TAXI MATTER

Case No: 736

RESOLVED: That the application for a Restricted Private Hire Drivers Licence to be refused.

Chief Executive

Meeting ended at 11.47 a.m.