

# **Minutes & Reports**

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

**Wednesday, 25 April 2007**

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**COUNCIL**

*At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 21 February 2007 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall*

Present: Councillors Swain (Chairman), Bradshaw, Blackmore, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Cole, Cross, Dennett, Edge, Findon, Fraser, Gerrard, Gilligan, Harris, Higginson, Hignett, Hodgkinson, Horabin, Howard, C Inch, D Inch, Jones, Lloyd Jones, Loftus, Lowe, Marlow, Massey, McDermott MBE, McInerney, Nelson, Nolan, Norddahl, Osborne, Parker, Philbin, Polhill, E Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe, Redhead, Rowan, Rowe, Sly, Stockton, Swift, Thompson, Wallace, Wharton, Whittaker, Worrall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Drakeley, Leadbetter, Lewis, Morley, Pearsall and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Parr, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, J. Tradewell, P. Watts, L. Cairns and C. Foley

Also in attendance: 2 Members of Public

*Action*

## COU59 COUNCIL MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting be confirmed and adopted.

## COU60 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor had no announcements.

## COU61 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader of the Council reported on the following issues:

- A draft calendar for the 2007/08 Municipal Year had been tabled for information. Members were requested to submit any amendments within the next week.

- The results of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) had been received and it was advised that the Council's status had been confirmed as a four star excellent authority. It was noted that no service had deteriorated and, in some instances, there had been a substantial improvement; for example Cultural Services had gone from two stars to four stars in the space of one year. The effort in the Library Service was of particular note: Halton was one of only seven local authorities where the score had improved. Achievements in sport were also commendable. The Leader stated that this was a credit to all the staff and Councillors involved, as well as the Authority's partners, without whom these results could not be attained.
- The planning application in respect of the Priory Development on Bennett's Lane was being contested as it was considered that the application had been submitted under the wrong planning category.
- The Council had been put in Wave 6 of "Building Schools for the Future", which meant that the anticipated start date was eight months later than originally planned.

#### COU62 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the Minutes of the Executive Board held on 7<sup>th</sup> December and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2006, and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007. In receiving the Minutes, it was noted that the principle of including sprinkling systems in all new builds was one that was adhered to wherever possible. However, difficulty arose when new builds were being carried by the Schools themselves: governors sometimes decided to spend their resources elsewhere.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

#### COU63 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE

The Council considered the Minutes of the Executive Board Sub-Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> December and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2006, and 11<sup>th</sup> January and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

#### COU64 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8

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

COU65 EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE - 21ST DECEMBER 2006 (ES62 REFERS) - THE USE OF PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT 2002 BY THE CONSUMER PROTECTION SERVICE

The Executive Board Sub-Committee had considered a report seeking support for the use of the full "confiscation regime" and "offences" under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 by the Consumer Protection Service.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the scheme of delegation be amended to show the Borough Solicitor as the delegated person for instituting proceeds for the Council, with Trading Standard Officers/Consumer Protection Offices delegated as investigating officers;
- (2) in agreeing to the above, it be noted that the Council would be committing to undertake confiscation cases at Crown Court in Consumer Protection Prosecutions where it can be shown that assets are available for confiscation; and
- (3) a financial investigator, to act on a chargeable consultative basis for other local authority services requiring the use of an accredited financial investigator in appropriate cases, be permitted.

Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

*(NB Councillor Harris declared a personal interest in the following item of business due to being a governor of The Bankfield School.)*

COU66 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 25TH JANUARY 2007 (EXB76 REFERS) - CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2007/2008

The Executive Board had considered a report providing a summary of the funding available for the schools capital programme 2007/08, and outlining the process for prioritisation for capital repairs and the proposed programme.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Programme for 2007/08, identified in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

COU67 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 8TH FEBRUARY 2007 - LOCAL TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE SETTLEMENT 2007/08 AND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

PROGRAMME 2007/08

The Executive Board had considered a report advising of the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Transport on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2006 that had given details of the 2007/08 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement and the classifications awarded to the Council's second Local Transport Plan 2006/07 – 2010/11 (LTP2) and the first Local Transport Plan 2001/02 – 2005/06 (LTP1) delivery report.

It was noted that the settlement had included an additional £392,000 awarded for the high performance achieved in both the LTP2 and the LTP1 delivery report. Members were advised that both documents had been classed as "excellent" and Halton was one of only thirteen local authorities in the country to achieve a top grading for both documents.

RESOLVED: That the implementation programme for 2007/08 at Appendix A to the report be included in the Council's Capital programme.

COU68 MONITORING OFFICER

The Council was advised that the Council Solicitor was to leave the Authority on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007. Under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, every Local Authority was required to designate one of its officers to be the Monitoring Officer with various corporate governance related responsibilities. There were no specific qualification requirements for this role but it could only be filled by one of the Council's Officers and it could not be the Head of Paid Service.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Mr. J. Tradewell be thanked for his committed and professional approach to the role of Council Solicitor whilst with Halton, and wished well for the future in his new post at Staffordshire County Council; and
- (2) Mr. I. Leivesley – Strategic Director (Corporate and Policy) be appointed as the Council's Monitoring Officer for the period between the departure of the current Council Solicitor and his replacement taking up post.

COU69 CHANGE TO APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council was advised of the following change in appointments to outside bodies which had been made in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation (Matters relating to Council Policy – 17);

- Rural Commission – Councillor Nelson appointed (with Councillor McDermott appointed as substitute).

#### COU70 MINUTES OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

The Council considered the reports on the work of the following Boards in the period since the last meeting of the Council:

Children and Young People  
Employment, Learning and Skills  
Healthy Halton  
Safer Halton  
Urban Renewal  
Corporate Services  
Business Efficiency Board

In receiving the minutes, it was noted that:

- The MegaDrive presentation (Minute No. SAF32 of the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 refers) had outlined the positive effect this had had on the youth of the Borough in respect of improving road safety. Currently, 50 pupils from secondary schools across the Borough were accommodated and it was hoped that this number could be increased in the future.
- The Chairman of the Business Efficiency Board stated that it had been intimated that, in future, the Government may top slice savings from the Council's budgets. It was considered that the Council should make appropriate representations if this occurred.

#### COU71 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered reports on the following Committees in the period since the last meeting of the Council:

Development Control  
Standards  
Regulatory

Appointments

COU72 MOTION RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 6

The following motion was moved and seconded by Councillor C. Inch and Councillor Redhead respectively:

“The Liberal Democrat group of Halton Borough Council proposes that Council Tax increase should be minimised.

The rise should be kept in line with inflation to ensure that people on pensions (30% of Halton households) and hard working families are not disadvantaged. Following the poor and unfair Government settlement every effort must be made to reduce any increase.

With this in mind the following proposals are submitted for approval:

**Energy Savings** 190

The Council proposed a 10% reduction in energy in reference to the appointment of an Energy Officer. This should be implemented as agreed by the Corporate PPB.

Cost of Energy Officer (50)

**Executive Board** 56

This should be re-organised to match the directorate structure. Last year the Opposition position was removed but the Board decided to re-allocate responsibilities and maintain 11 posts. A structure with 6 posts is recommended.

**Councillor Allowances** 12

The council should vote to freeze councillors’ allowances to protect front line services.

**Joint Area Review** 90

We do not believe the addition of two posts to prepare for the audit next March is a justification for an increase in council tax. Hence these posts if necessary must be self-financed.

**Advertising, Marketing and Promotion** 120



A 15% reduction is proposed, to protect council services and employment. The £931,000 the council spent on this area last year is not appropriate in the current climate.

**Citizens Advice Bureau**

(60)

Cutting the grant to the CAB will impact those with the most severe hardships and concerns. The CAB provides an essential front line service, which should be protected.

**Totalling at least a 1% reduction**

358”

The Mayor ruled that, as this motion referred to budget proposals which were to be considered by the Executive Board the following day, this motion should stand referred in accordance with Standing Order No. 6(4).

*Meeting ended at 7.02 p.m.*

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**COUNCIL**

*At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 7 March 2007 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall*

Present: Councillors Swain (Chairman), Bradshaw, Blackmore, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Cole, Cross, Dennett, Drakeley, Edge, Findon, Fraser, Gerrard, Gilligan, Harris, Hignett, Hodgkinson, Horabin, Howard, C Inch, D Inch, Jones, Leadbetter, Lewis, Lloyd Jones, Loftus, Marlow, Massey, McDermott, McInerney, Morley, Nolan, Norddahl, Osborne, Parker, Pearsall, Philbin, Polhill, E Ratcliffe, M Ratcliffe, Redhead, Rowan, Rowe, Sly, Stockton, Swift, Thompson, Wainwright, Wallace, Wharton, Worrall and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Higginson, Lowe, Nelson and Whittaker

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Parr, B. Dodd, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, D Tregaea, J. Tully, L. Cairns and C. Foley

Also in attendance: 10 members of public

*Action*

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Mayor paid respects to Mr Pat Tyrrell who had recently passed away. It was noted that Mr Tyrrell had devoted approximately 40 years of his life to a range of public services and had been Mayor at Halton Borough Council in 2004.

The Council stood in silence for one minute.

*(NB Councillor Hignett declared a personal interest in the following item of business due to his daughter being employed by Halton Borough Council.)*

COU73 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 22ND FEBRUARY 2007 - BUDGET 2007/08

The Executive Board had considered a report setting out a recommendation to Council in respect of the Budget, Capital Programme and Council Tax for 2007/08. Information was provided for Members in respect of:

- the Local Government Finance Settlement;
- the Budget 2007/08;
- the Budget Outlook;
- the Capital Programme;

- Halton's Council Tax;
- Parish Precepts;
- Average Council Tax;
- Police and Fire Precepts;
- Total Council Tax; and
- the Prudential Code.

The Executive Board had recommended that Council adopt the resolution set out in Appendix A of the report, which included setting the Budget at £95.041m and the Band D Council Tax for Halton (before Parish, Police and Fire precepts) of £1,043.45.

In addition, the Board had recommended that the mover and seconder of the Motion submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group to full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007, and referred to the Executive Board under Standing Order No. 6(4), be afforded the opportunity by Full Council to resubmit the Motion as an amendment to the substantive Budget Motion.

The following motion was moved and seconded by Councillor Wharton and Councillor McDermott respectively:

"That

1. the policies outlined in this paper be adopted, including the Budget for 2007/08, the growth and savings set out in Appendix B, the Capital Programme set out in Appendix C, and Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix D;
2. it be noted that, at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006, the Council agreed the following:
  - (a) for 2007/08, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, a Council Tax Base of 37,392, being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year, and
  - (b) for the Parishes, the Council Tax base for each Parish for the year 2007/08 be set as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	722
Daresbury	140
Moore	352
Preston Brook	331

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate;

3. in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Sections 32 to 36), the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2007/08 and agreed as follows:
- (a) £271,145,384 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the said Act;
  - (b) £176,077,219 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the said Act;
  - (c) £95,068,165 – being the amount calculated by the Council for the year 2007/08 in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as its budget requirement for the year;
  - (d) £56,024,551 – being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates (£47,973,592) and Revenue Support Grant (£8,050,959);
  - (e) £1,044.17 – being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(d) above all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;

- (f) £26,965 – being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, each individual Parish precept being:

	£
Hale	17,565
Daresbury	3,000
Moore	2,900
Preston Brook	3,500

- (g) £1,043.45 Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates;

- (h) Part of the Council's Area

	£
Hale	1,067.78
Daresbury	1,064.88
Moore	1,051.69
Preston Brook	1,054.02

being the amounts given by adding to the amounts at 3(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings of its area to which one or more special items relate;

- (i) Part of the Council's Area

Band	Hale	Daresbury	Moore	Preston Brook	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£
A	711.85	709.92	701.12	702.68	695.63
B	830.49	828.24	817.98	819.79	811.57
C	949.14	946.56	934.83	936.91	927.51
<b>D</b>	<b>1,067.78</b>	<b>1,064.88</b>	<b>1,051.69</b>	<b>1,054.02</b>	<b>1,043.45</b>

E	1,305.07	1,301.52	1,285.40	1,288.25	1,275.33
F	1,542.35	1,538.16	1,519.11	1,522.48	1,507.21
G	1,779.63	1,774.80	1,752.81	1,756.70	1,739.08
H	2,135.56	2,129.76	2,103.38	2,108.04	2,086.90

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) and 3(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

4. it is further noted that for the year 2007/08 the Police Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	£
A	77.35
B	90.25
C	103.14
<b>D</b>	<b>116.03</b>
E	141.81
F	167.60
G	193.38
H	232.06

5. it is further noted that for the year 2007/08 the Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Authority, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	£
A	40.67
B	47.44
C	54.22
<b>D</b>	<b>61.00</b>
E	74.56
F	88.11

G	101.67
H	122.00

6. having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(i), 4 and 5 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2007/08 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band	Hale	Daresbury	Moore	Preston Brook	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£
A	829.87	827.94	819.14	820.70	813.65
B	968.18	965.93	955.67	957.48	949.26
C	1,106.50	1,103.92	1,092.19	1,094.27	1,084.87
<b>D</b>	<b>1,244.81</b>	<b>1,241.91</b>	<b>1,228.72</b>	<b>1,231.05</b>	<b>1,220.48</b>
E	1,521.44	1,517.89	1,501.77	1,504.62	1,491.70
F	1,798.06	1,793.87	1,774.82	1,778.19	1,762.92
G	2,074.68	2,069.85	2,047.86	2,051.75	2,034.13
H	2,489.62	2,483.82	2,457.44	2,462.10	2,440.96

being satisfied that:

- (a) the total amount yielded by its Council Taxes for the said financial year will be sufficient, so far as is practicable, to provide for items mentioned at 3(a) to (d) above; and, to the extent that they are not, to be provided for by any other means;
- (b) those amounts which relate to a part only of its area will secure, so far as is practicable, that the precept or portion of a precept relating to such part will be provided for only by the amount yielded by such of its Council Taxes as relate to that part; and
7. the Operational Director – Financial Services be authorised at any time during the financial year 2007/08 to borrow on behalf of the Council by way of gross bank overdraft such sums as he shall deem necessary for the purposes of this paragraph, but not such that in any event the said overdraft at any time exceeds £10m (£1.5m net) as the Council may temporarily require.”



The following amendment to the substantive motion was moved and seconded by Councillor Redhead and Councillor C. Inch respectively:

“The Liberal Democrat group of Halton Borough Council proposes that Council Tax increase should be minimised.

The rise should be kept in line with inflation to ensure that people on pensions (30% of Halton households) and hard working families are not disadvantaged. Following the poor and unfair Government settlement every effort must be made to reduce any increase.

With this in mind the following proposals are submitted for approval:

**Energy Savings** 190

The Council proposed a 10% reduction in energy in reference to the appointment of an Energy Officer. This should be implemented as agreed by the Corporate PPB.

Cost of Energy Officer (50)

**Executive Board** 56

This should be re-organised to match the directorate structure. Last year the Opposition position was removed but the Board decided to re-allocate responsibilities and maintain 11 posts. A structure with 6 posts is recommended.

**Councillor Allowances** 12

The council should vote to freeze councillors' allowances to protect front line services.

**Joint Area Review** 90

We do not believe the addition of two posts to prepare for the audit next March is a justification for an increase in council tax. Hence these posts if necessary must be self-financed.

**Advertising, Marketing and Promotion** 120

A 15% reduction is proposed, to protect council services and employment. The £931,000 the council spent on this area

last year is not appropriate in the current climate.

**Citizens Advice Bureau (60)**

Cutting the grant to the CAB will impact those with the most severe hardships and concerns. The CAB provides an essential front line service, which should be protected.

**Totalling at least a 1% reduction 358"**

Following debate, the amendment was put to the vote and defeated. The substantive motion was then put to the meeting and carried:

RESOLVED: That

1. the policies outlined in this paper be adopted, including the Budget for 2007/08, the growth and savings set out in Appendix B, the Capital Programme set out in Appendix C, and Prudential Indicators set out in Appendix D;
2. it be noted that, at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006, the Council agreed the following:
  - (a) for 2007/08, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003 and with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, a Council Tax Base of 37,392, being the amount calculated by the Council in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as its Council Tax Base for the year, and
  - (b) for the Parishes, the Council Tax base for each Parish for the year 2007/08 be set as follows:

Parish	Tax Base
Hale	722
Daresbury	140
Moore	352
Preston Brook	331

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the

Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax Base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate;

3. in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Sections 32 to 36), the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2007/08 and agreed as follows:
- (a) £271,145,384 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the said Act;
  - (b) £176,077,219 – being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (c) of the said Act;
  - (c) £95,068,165 – being the amount calculated by the Council for the year 2007/08 in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as its budget requirement for the year;
  - (d) £56,024,551 – being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its General Fund in respect of redistributed Non-Domestic Rates (£47,973,592) and Revenue Support Grant (£8,050,959);
  - (e) £1,044.17 – being the amount at 3(c) above less the amount at 3(d) above all divided by the amount at 2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year;
  - (f) £26,965 – being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, each individual Parish precept being:

	£
Hale	17,565
Daresbury	3,000
Moore	2,900

Preston Brook	3,500
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- (g) £1,043.45 Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates;

- (h) Part of the Council's Area

	£
Hale	1,067.78
Daresbury	1,064.88
Moore	1,051.69
Preston Brook	1,054.02

being the amounts given by adding to the amounts at 3(g) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings of its area to which one or more special items relate;

- (i) Part of the Council's Area

Band	Hale	Daresbury	Moore	Preston Brook	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£
A	711.85	709.92	701.12	702.68	695.63
B	830.49	828.24	817.98	819.79	811.57
C	949.14	946.56	934.83	936.91	927.51
<b>D</b>	<b>1,067.78</b>	<b>1,064.88</b>	<b>1,051.69</b>	<b>1,054.02</b>	<b>1,043.45</b>
E	1,305.07	1,301.52	1,285.40	1,288.25	1,275.33
F	1,542.35	1,538.16	1,519.11	1,522.48	1,507.21
G	1,779.63	1,774.80	1,752.81	1,756.70	1,739.08
H	2,135.56	2,129.76	2,103.38	2,108.04	2,086.90

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(g) and 3(h) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular band divided by the number which in that

proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;

4. it is further noted that for the year 2007/08 the Police Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	£
A	77.35
B	90.25
C	103.14
<b>D</b>	<b>116.03</b>
E	141.81
F	167.60
G	193.38
H	232.06

5. it is further noted that for the year 2007/08 the Fire Authority has stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Authority, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

	£
A	40.67
B	47.44
C	54.22
<b>D</b>	<b>61.00</b>
E	74.56
F	88.11
G	101.67
H	122.00

6. having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(i), 4 and 5 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2007/08 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:

Band	Hale	Daresbury	Moore	Preston Brook	All other Parts of the Council's Area
	£	£	£	£	£
A	829.87	827.94	819.14	820.70	813.65
B	968.18	965.93	955.67	957.48	949.26
C	1,106.50	1,103.92	1,092.19	1,094.27	1,084.87
<b>D</b>	<b>1,244.81</b>	<b>1,241.91</b>	<b>1,228.72</b>	<b>1,231.05</b>	<b>1,220.48</b>
E	1,521.44	1,517.89	1,501.77	1,504.62	1,491.70
F	1,798.06	1,793.87	1,774.82	1,778.19	1,762.92
G	2,074.68	2,069.85	2,047.86	2,051.75	2,034.13
H	2,489.62	2,483.82	2,457.44	2,462.10	2,440.96

being satisfied that:

- (a) the total amount yielded by its Council Taxes for the said financial year will be sufficient, so far as is practicable, to provide for items mentioned at 3(a) to (d) above; and, to the extent that they are not, to be provided for by any other means;
  - (b) those amounts which relate to a part only of its area will secure, so far as is practicable, that the precept or portion of a precept relating to such part will be provided for only by the amount yielded by such of its Council Taxes as relate to that part; and
7. the Operational Director – Financial Services be authorised at any time during the financial year 2007/08 to borrow on behalf of the Council by way of gross bank overdraft such sums as he shall deem necessary for the purposes of this paragraph, but not such that in any event the said overdraft at any time exceeds £10m (£1.5m net) as the Council may temporarily require.

*(NB Councillor Hignett declared a personal interest in the following item of business due to his daughter being employed by Halton Borough Council.)*

COU74 EXECUTIVE BOARD - 22ND FEBRUARY 2007 -  
DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE PLANS 2007-10

The Executive Board had considered a report requesting the adoption of the Council's Departmental

Service Plans for 2007-2010 as a basis for action and performance monitoring. A copy of the draft Service Plans had been circulated to all Members of the Council on a CD for consideration.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make any final amendments and adjustments that may be required and to approve the final Service Plans.

COU75 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2007-2008

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining a proposed calendar of meetings for the 2007-2008 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That the Calendar of Meetings for the 2007-2008 Municipal Year, attached at Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

*Meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.*

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 8 February 2007 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors McDermott MBE (Chairman), D. Cargill, Gerrard, Harris, Massey, McInerney, Polhill, Nelson, Wright and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Parr, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, D Tregaea, D. Sutton, J. Tradewell, L. Cairns and G. Cook

Also in attendance: 3 Members of Public

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

EXB80 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

EXB81 NORTH WEST OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy providing an update on the development of the North West Operational Programme (NWOP) for 2007-2013 and identifying issues for Halton.

It was noted that the NWOP presented key priorities and actions in regard to how European Funding would be allocated and spent in the Region during the period 2007-2013. Regional allocations had been set and, as expected, there was a 60:40 ERDF:ESF split, with Merseyside gaining £213m over the 7 year period and the rest of the North West being allocated £310m.

Consultation for the NWOP had been ongoing since September 2006 and Halton Borough Council had been

*Action*

active in lobbying for a fair share of resources, highlighting Halton's unique position as well as supporting the wider Merseyside view. The official response from the North West region was being collated by the North West Regional Assembly and would be submitted by the deadline of 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

The impact on Halton was outlined for the Board's consideration. It was noted that the end of the 2000-2006 funding programme would mean that Halton could no longer access ERDF monies in the same way as before; however, the Head of External Funding was working to maximise future funding opportunities from European sources. In addition, it was proposed that the Leader of the Council and the European Affairs Portfolio Holder follow up the discussions that had taken place at a study visit in Brussels in Spring 2006.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the proposed actions outlined in the report be approved; and
- (3) dialogue be maintained with colleagues in the Objective 1 area and other areas across the North West Region.

Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

#### **PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

##### **EXB82 LOCAL TRANSPORT EXPENDITURE SETTLEMENT 2007/08 AND LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME 2007/08**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment advising of the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Transport on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2006, giving details of the 2007/8 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement and the classifications awarded to the Council's second Local Transport Plan 2006/07-2010/11 (LTP2) and the first Local Transport Plan 2001/02-2005/06 (LTP1) Delivery Report.

It was noted that, due to the high performance achieved in both these reports, the settlement had included an additional £392,000. In addition, the Board was advised that the DfT performance assessments had placed Halton in the top quartile of the 82 local transport authorities in

England.

Appendix A to the report provided details of the proposed LTP2 capital expenditure programme for 2007/08. The total settlement for 2007/08 was £4.15 million; this covered all items of transport capital expenditure apart from major schemes such as the Mersey Gateway and major maintenance on the Silver Jubilee Bridge.

It was noted that an additional 25% of performance funding had been allocated to the integrated transport block; 12.5% had been achieved by gaining "Excellent" for the LTP2 grading and 12.5% for gaining "Excellent" for the LTP1 Delivery Report. The Board congratulated officers on their outstanding achievement in this area.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the 2007/08 Local Transport Capital Expenditure Settlement, and the classifications awarded to the Council's second Local Transport Plan, be welcomed; and
- (2) the implementation programme for 2007/08 at Appendix A be recommended to Council for inclusion in the Council's Capital programme.

*(NB Councillors McDermott and Polhill declared a personal interest in the following item of business due to being Board Members of Widnes Regeneration Ltd (WRL).)*

EXB83 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL (WIDNES WATERFRONT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2006

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment and the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy seeking approval to use the Council's statutory powers of compulsory purchase to assist with the comprehensive land assembly needed to achieve the successful development of the Widnes Waterfront Economic Development Zone (EDZ).

It was noted that the EDZ comprised 80 hectares of low quality former industrial land located on the banks of the River Mersey to the south of Widnes Town Centre, which had been designated as a regeneration site of high priority. Funding to bring this land back into full economic use was available until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009 using European Funding under Priority 3 of the North West England Objective 2

Programme, Northwest Development Agency Funds and Halton Borough Council monies. The redevelopment proposals were described in the report and outline plans were contained in Appendix D.

Detailed land referencing had taken place to identify the interests to be acquired for the development, and this schedule would form part of a proposed Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). Despite lengthy discussions, it was unlikely that agreement would be reached with all interested parties within a reasonable timescale; therefore the Acquiring Authority had legitimate, deep-seated concerns that it would be unable to comply with the timetable set for the delivery of the scheme unless it pursued a CPO to assemble the land required.

It was considered that there was a compelling case for making the Order in the public interest and this was outlined for Members' information; however, negotiations would continue with a view to acquiring the properties voluntarily even after the CPO had been made.

The Board was advised that there were two small amendments to the boundaries shown on the plan:

- (a) there was an addition of site 17(b) which had been disclosed by the ongoing site referencing; and
- (b) the boundary around Tan House Garage on Tan House Lane needed to be revised to reflect the actual ownership.

An amended schedule was tabled outlining these changes.

In addition, it was noted that, following the publishing of the agenda, further comments had been received from Mr Routledge of White Moss Landfill, and Mr Adam Gilson, Company Secretary of British Gypsum-Isover Ltd. These were read out for the Board's consideration. Officers advised that discussions had been ongoing with both parties for some time and it was hoped that a mutually acceptable solution could be found in order that those properties could be withdrawn from the CPO; this could be done at any time, including after the start of the Public Inquiry.

#### Reason for Decision

The draft Statement of Reasons (Appendix F) outlined the case and detailed the reasons for making the

CPO. In summary, this was to facilitate the comprehensive redevelopment of the area.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The Council and/or its joint venture partner had contacted and sought to commence negotiations with all the known freeholders and leaseholders to purchase land covered in the Order by agreement. These discussions were ongoing but it was unlikely that agreement would be reached with all parties within a reasonable timescale unless a CPO, to assemble the land required, was made.

Implementation Date

It was anticipated that the CPO would be made within 3 months of the Executive Board decision.

RESOLVED: That with the inclusion of the amendments tabled at the meeting

- (1) the Council makes a Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the acquisition of all interests in the land (the Order Land) shown edged red on the plan attached to the report, Appendix E, for the purposes of facilitating its development, redevelopment or improvement to secure a comprehensive and integrated scheme thereby achieving the promotion and improvement of the economic, social and environmental well-being of the area;
- (2) the Council makes a Compulsory Purchase Order under section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to acquire new rights over the land shown edged blue on the plan attached to the report, Appendix E, in order to secure the comprehensive redevelopment of this run down zone;
- (3) authority be given to the Strategic Director - Environment and the Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, and the Council Solicitor, to take all necessary steps to secure the making and confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order and for any other actions necessary to give effect to the land

Strategic Director  
- Environment/  
Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

acquisition and the implementation whether on a voluntary basis or otherwise;

- (4) the Strategic Director - Environment, and the Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy, in consultation with the Council Solicitor, be authorised to enter into an Indemnity Agreement with Widnes Regeneration Limited (WRL) which will indemnify the Council in respect of all external expenditure concerned with the making and implementation of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) and thereafter provide for WRL to develop those sites to implement the Widnes Waterfront Economic Zone in accordance with the principles of the Masterplan;
- (5) the CPO not be entered into until the Indemnity Agreement has been completed to the satisfaction of the Council Solicitor, the Strategic Director - Environment and the Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy;
- (6) authority be given to the Strategic Director - Environment and the Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Services, to implement the Widnes Waterfront Relocation Strategy (Appendix A); and
- (7) authority be given to the Strategic Director - Environment and the Strategic Director - Corporate and Policy, prior to making the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO), to make such changes as might be necessary to the Order in the light of varying circumstances and information relating to properties/businesses which might be affected by the CPO including if necessary the authority to expand the Schedule 2 rights.

**MINUTES ISSUED: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

**CALL IN: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007**

*Meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 22 February 2007 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors McDermott MBE (Chairman), D. Cargill, Gerrard, Harris, Massey, McInerney, Polhill, Nelson, Wright and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Parr, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, D Tregea, B. Dodd, A. McIntyre, J. Tradewell and L. Cairns

Also in attendance: 2 Members of the Press and 2 Members of Public

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

EXB84 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

EXB85 BUDGET 2007/08

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Financial Services outlining the budget, capital programme and council tax for 2007/08 to be recommended to Council.

It was noted that, since the report had been written and circulated, the Police Authority and Fire Authority had set their precepts at an increase of 6.9% and 1.5% respectively. Members were advised that, at this level, there was a risk that the Police Authority would be capped. If this happened, there would be implications for the Council, as the billing authority, in terms of any re-billing required.

The Corporate Services Portfolio Holder thanked those officers and Councillors involved in producing what

*Action*

was considered to be an excellent budget, particularly in light of the tough Local Government Finance Settlement received.

In addition, the Board gave consideration to the motion, referred to it by Council the previous evening under Standing Order No. 6(4), outlining proposed amendments to the budget by the Liberal Democrat Group.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council adopt the resolution set out in Appendix A, which includes setting the budget at £95.041m and the Band D Council Tax for Halton (before Parish, Police and Fire precepts) of £1,043.45; and
- (2) the mover and seconder of the Motion submitted by the Liberal Democrat Group to Full Council on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007, and referred to the Executive Board under Standing Order No. 6(4), be afforded the opportunity by Full Council to resubmit the Motion as an amendment to the substantive Budget Motion.

#### **JOINT CORPORATE SERVICES AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIOS**

##### EXB86 FLEXIBLE WORKING

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive outlining the work of the North West Flexible Working Group.

It was noted that the need for the Group had been identified out of the "Home-working in England's Northwest" project supported by the North West Development Agency. The Group was chaired by Peter Connor from BT and the Chief Executive had been asked to represent Local Authority interests on the Group. The mission and targeted outcomes of the Group were outlined for the Board's consideration.

It was noted that Halton had a number of flexible working pilots operating at present, which were regularly monitored and evaluated. In addition, a "Home/Work Balance" Officer Group was also exploring how best to maximise flexible working to enhance service quality and efficiency whilst at the same time improving terms and conditions for employees. It was requested that any proposed pilot be reported to the Board prior to implementation.

RESOLVED: That



- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the proposed actions outlined in the report be approved; and
- (3) Halton develop a programme of flexible working as an exemplar for local government best practice.

Chief Executive

## **LEADER'S PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB87 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT DELIVERY PLAN**

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive proposing updates for each of the Action Plans, produced to deliver Halton's Local Area Agreement, and requesting approval of the funding allocations contained within them.

It was noted that, since 2002, the Halton Strategic Partnership Board had ensured that there was a Specialist Strategic Partnership (SSP) for each of the five priorities. These SSPs were commissioned to produce the original Strategies and Action Plans, and had now produced updated Action Plans setting out their activities and investment proposals for 2007/08. They set out a programme of activity to deliver the thematic elements of the Community Strategy and, in particular, addressed the key measureable outcomes set out within it.

The Board was advised that the Action Plans utilised Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and, in the case of the Safer Halton Partnership, Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) as well. In addition, the Council had committed a substantial amount of resources through the Priorities Fund (PF). The Council monies were aimed at supporting neighbourhood renewal activity by match funding initiatives within the Action Plans.

Details were outlined for the Board's consideration and it was noted that the Action Plans had been endorsed by the Halton Strategic Partnership Board.

**RESOLVED:** That

- (1) the five Action Plans accompanying the report be approved;
- (2) the allocation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Safer and Stronger Communities Fund, referred to in this report and contained in the Action Plans

endorsed by the Halton Strategic Partnership Board, be approved;

- (3) the allocation of the Council's Priority Funds referred to in this report, including that contained in the Action Plans, be approved; and
- (4) delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council to approve amendments to the Actions Plans as necessary.

Chief Executive

## **PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB88 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2007**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment seeking approval of the Local Development Scheme (LDS), which was attached as an appendix.

It was noted that the LDS was a public statement of Halton Borough Council's three year work programme for producing the Local Development Framework (LDF). This was the fourth that had been prepared by the Council and it moved the preparation of the LDF forward to the 2007-2010 period.

The Board was advised that the Government Office for the North West (GONW), to whom the document was to be submitted, was keen for LDSs to become definitive programme management documents and, from 1 April 2007, would only expect them to be departed from in exceptional circumstances or as agreed in response to annual monitoring.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the revision to the Local Development Scheme, appended to the report, come into effect from 22/03/07, or from the date on which the Council receives notification from the Secretary of State in accordance with Regulation 11 (2) of The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, whichever is earlier;
- (2) the Operational Director - Environmental & Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Planning,

Strategic Director  
- Environment

Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal, be authorised to make any changes to this document as required by the Planning Inspectorate or the Government Office for the North West, or as a consequence of alterations to the joint working arrangements in relation to the Waste Development Plan Document, or as a consequence of the ongoing negotiations with consultants in relation to planning policy documents to support the Mersey Gateway;

- (3) further editorial and technical changes and/or correction of printing errors that do not affect the content be agreed by the Operational Director – Environmental & Regulatory Services before the document is published.

### **QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO**

#### **EXB89 DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE PLANS 2007-10 (KEY DECISION)**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding the Council's Departmental Service Plans for 2007-2010.

It was noted that Departmental Service Plans sat within an established planning framework and were central to the Council's performance management arrangements. They provided a clear statement on what individual services were planning to achieve and showed how this contributed to the corporate priorities of the Council. They were an essential tool for making key decisions about future service provision and the level of resources required.

The Board was advised that there had been no significant amendments to the layout of plans from the previous year. However, following the development of the Corporate Plan 2006-2011 and the introduction of Key Areas of Focus for each of the Council's Priority areas, the service objectives section of service plans had been revised in order to show more clearly how departmental activities were related to Corporate Priorities.

Members noted that the definitive set of 2007-08 Best Value Performance Indicators had yet to be confirmed by the Department of Communities and Local Government; once this information had been published, any changes that were necessary as a result would be incorporated. In addition, a Budgetary Statement would be inserted into plans following the approval of the budget by full Council in

March.

A number of questions were raised by the Environment, Leisure and Sport Portfolio Holder: the Board was requested to direct any further queries in respect of the Plans direct to the Chief Executive.

Reason for Decision

Departmental Service Plans were central to the Council's performance management arrangements. As such, it was necessary for them to be approved before the start of the new financial year.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

1<sup>st</sup> April 2007.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) this set of advanced draft Service Plans be received; and
- (2) full Council be requested to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make any final amendments and adjustments that may be required, and to approve the final service plans.

Chief Executive

**MINUTES ISSUED: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007**

**CALL IN: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

*Meeting ended at 2.42 p.m.*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 15 March 2007 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), D. Cargill, Gerrard, Harris, McInerney, Nelson, Wright and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: Councillors McDermott MBE and Massey

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Parr, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, K. O'Dwyer, D Tregea and L. Derbyshire

Also in attendance: (none)

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

EXB90 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2007 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

EXB91 CHILDREN'S DISABILITY SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director, Children and Young People which outlined the progress made in the Children's Disability Services in Halton and sought agreement to the expansion of the Pooled Budget for Disabled Children and revised 'Building Bridges' Multi Agency Strategic Plan for Disabled Children.

It was noted that the plans for the Children's Disability Services in Halton were regarded as an example of good practice and had been praised by representatives of the Department for Education & Skills, HM Treasury and the Department of Health. The significant progress of the plans would also positively contribute to the Joint Area Review planned in March 2008.

RESOLVED: That

*Action*

- (1) the expansion of the pooled budget as set out in the report be approved; and
- (2) the Building Bridges' Multi Agency Strategic Plan for Disabled Children be approved.

Acting Strategic  
Director-Children  
& Young People

*(NB: Councillor Nelson declared a Personal Interest in the following item of business, due to being a member of Halton Housing Trust).*

#### EXB92 HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which sought approval to change the Council's Allocations Policy with regard to offers to homeless households and undertaking first stage reviews of homelessness decisions.

It was noted that the changes outlined in the report were subject to consultation and a further report would be presented to the Board at the end of the consultation process.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the changes as set out in the report for consultation purposes be approved; and
- (2) a further report be presented to the Board on completion of the consultation exercise.

Strategic Director  
- Health and  
Community

#### EXB93 HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME (KEY DECISION)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which outlined the forecast outturn for the 2006/07 housing capital programme.

It was noted that the Appendix to the report compared the approved 2006/07 programme with the forecast outturn position, and also showed the proposed programme for 2007/08.

It was noted that the Council had been successful in receiving £25,000 from a bid to the Regional Housing Board.

#### Reason for the Decision

The proposed programme would enable the Council to make continued progress in addressing the priorities set out in its Housing Homelessness, Private Sector Renewal and Supporting People strategies.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The strategies referred to in paragraph 10.1 of the report had previously examined a range of options for meeting housing needs in the Borough, and the proposed programme of work has been based on the priorities that had already been identified.

Implementation Date

April 2007.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the position regarding the 2006/07 programme be noted; and
- (2) the proposed programme for 2007/08, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be recommended to Council for approval.

Strategic Director  
- Health and  
Community

EXB94 REVIEW OF NATURAL ASSETS STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which informed Members that the current Natural Assets Strategy had been approved in September 2000 and defined the Council's corporate policies for Halton's trees, woodland and nature conservation resource. The action programme of the Strategy had been implemented and a new replacement programme was proposed. The review also reflected the changes in the wider environment in which the Strategy operated, recent changes in legislation and highlighted the success of the raised profile of Halton's natural environment.

In this respect the following amendment to the Natural Assets Strategy 2007-2012 was tabled at the meeting:-

Page 106 – Action 46 – replace with “Subject to appropriate budgetary provision, the Council will continue to deliver the Wild About Halton programme and to employ a Wildspace Officer beyond 2009”.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the review of the Natural Assets Strategy, as amended, be approved and published as a document available to the public;

Strategic Director  
- Environment

- (2) the policies and actions contained in the Natural Assets Strategy be noted by all Services and adhered to whenever any of the Council's activities would potentially impact on the natural environment; and
- (3) a public launch of the document in 2007 be approved.

EXB95 VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING - GRANT ALLOCATION 2007/08

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Health and Community which recommended Voluntary Sector Grant Awards for 2007/08.

The Board was advised of a letter that had been received from the Chief Executive of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). The letter thanked the Council for the proposed funding to the Bureau. The Chief Executive of CAB highlighted that although the allocation was a reduction on last years funding, he had recognised that it was a substantial amount in light of the Council's budgetary pressures. He also took the opportunity to thank Council Officers for their constructive working relationship during the consultation period and recognised the Council's commitment to the provision of advice to Halton's residents.

The Board noted the comments from the Chief Executive of the Citizens Advice Bureau and the excellent work that had been undertaken by the Council with Voluntary Sector Organisations over the last few years. The Board also noted the valuable contribution that Voluntary Sector Organisations provided in Halton.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the recommended grant allocations be approved; and
- (2) further applications be approved by the Strategic Director, Health and Community, in consultation with the Neighbourhood Management and Development Portfolio Holder.

Strategic Director  
- Health and  
Community

**MINUTES ISSUED: 22nd March 2007**

**CALL IN: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

*Meeting ended at 2.30 p.m.*



**EXECUTIVE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 29 March 2007 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors McDermott MBE (Chairman), D. Cargill, Gerrard, Harris, Massey, McInerney, Polhill, Nelson, Wright and Wharton

Apologies for Absence:(none)

Absence declared on Council business:(none)

Officers present: L. Cairns, T. Crane, B. Dodd, D. Johnson, I. Leivesley, J. Unsworth and P. Watts

Also in attendance: Mr J Farmer and Mr G Small (for Minute No. EXB97)

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

EXB96 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2007 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

EXB97 ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding the Annual Audit and Inspection letter prepared by the Council's Audit Commission Relationship Manager and the District Auditor, Julian Farmer.

The letter provided an overall summary of the Audit Commission's assessment of the Council, drawing on the findings and conclusions from the Audit of the Council and inspections that had been undertaken in the last year. It also drew from wider analysis of the Council's performance and its improvement over the last year as measured through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) Framework.

*Action*

Mr. Farmer attended the meeting and addressed the Board on the overall summary of the Audit Commission's assessment of the Council, outlining actions considered necessary to be taken by the Council if it was to maintain its 'Four Star' rating. In particular, Mr. Farmer commented on the public's satisfaction in the performance of the Council, which had been shown to be increasing.

Members commented on the excellent report stating that this was a credit to everyone at the Council, but in particular the Operational Director – Financial Services and his team.

In addition, comments were made about the following issues:

- difficulties in partnership and multi-agency working where it was not always possible to influence partners' actions to the same extent as could be done internally;
- the Council had now reached Level 2 in the Equality Standards; and
- the Council had recently taken measures in respect of unauthorised absences and permanent exclusions which had already borne fruit.

The Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy confirmed that the actions required in the letter would be cross-checked against the Authority's Improvement Plans to ensure these points were being addressed.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Letter be received.

#### EXB98 GAMBLING ACT 2005 - DELEGATION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining a recommendation that authority should be delegated to the Regulatory Committee to set fees under Section 212 of the Gambling Act 2005.

It was advised that, on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2007, the Regulatory Committee had received a report on the Gambling Act 2005 which dealt with matters relating to powers and duties. The report had detailed the matters which the legislation reserved exclusively, either for full Council or for the Regulatory Committee. Section 212 of the Gambling Act 2005 enabled Councils to set fee levels in

limited circumstances. This function had to be exercised by full Council unless the Council delegated the powers to the Regulatory Committee in accordance with Section 154 of the Gambling Act 2005.

The Regulatory Committee had therefore resolved that the Executive Board be requested to recommend this amendment to full Council.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Regulatory Committee its power to set fees under Section 212 Gambling Act 2005 in accordance with Section 154 Gambling Act 2005.

Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

EXB99 CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE POST OFFICE NETWORK

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding a consultation document that had been issued by the Department of Trade and Industry on the future of the Post Office Network, and outlining the response of the Chief Executive to that consultation document.

It was noted that the Chief Executive had highlighted two particular concerns from Halton’s perspective:

- (1) the proposal to change the walking distance criteria for post offices in deprived urban areas from half a mile to one mile; and
- (2) the proposal to provide support for outreach services in “small remote communities”.

The Chief Executive’s letter outlined the importance of the Post Office to community life in areas like Halton and the potential impact of any reductions in service that may take place.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the action of the Chief Executive be endorsed; and
- (2) further reports be brought to the Executive Board as and when more detailed proposals are produced by the Department for Trade and Industry.

Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO**

EXB100 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2008/09

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director – Children and Young People which had been prepared in accordance with relevant statutory framework to determine Halton Local Authority's (LA's) School Admissions Policy for LA Maintained Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools, and Co-ordinated Admission Schemes, for all primary and secondary schools for September 2008 following statutory consultation.

It was noted that Halton LA had issued a statutorily required consultation paper on the proposed admission arrangements and co-ordinated admission schemes in January 2007 proposing no changes to the current over-subscription criteria for admission to LA Maintained Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools. These criteria followed Department for Education and Schools (DfES) recommendations contained within the revised School Admissions Code of Practice. However, the revised School Admissions Code of Practice, which came into force on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007, precluded the use of the first preference first system, which had previously been operated in Halton. Steps would therefore be taken in future years to address this and the process was outlined for information.

The Board was advised that the Halton Admissions Forum had agreed targets of 96% (for primary) and 94% (for secondary) first preferences met. Members noted that actual preferences met were 92% for primary and 95% for secondary. A target of 5% had also been set by the (then) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in respect of on-line applications for secondary schools; 6.5% had been achieved.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Admissions Policy and Co-ordinated Schemes for primary and secondary admissions for the 2008/09 academic year be approved; and
- (2) the National and Local Performance Indicator targets set/achieved for meeting first preference applications and on-line applications be noted.

#### **COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO**

EXB101 YOUTH MATTERS/CONNEXIONS TRANSITION (KEY DECISION)

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic

Director – Children and Young People providing information on developments regarding youth matters and Connexions transition.

It was noted that the publication of the Green Paper “Youth Matters” had presented a number of proposals building upon the Every Child Matters Agenda and taking into account the 14 – 19 Education in Schools White Paper proposals. Youth Matters proposed the merger of a range of existing Government funding streams which were targeted at young people. These would be devolved to local authorities, working through Children’s Trusts, to ensure a more holistic approach to meeting the needs of young people at a local level. The subsequent Next Steps document cemented the proposals following consultation and identified four key themes as priorities for delivering services to young people:

- (1) Empowering Young People – things to do and places to go;
- (2) Young People as Citizens – making a contribution;
- (3) Supporting Choices – information, advice and guidance; and
- (4) All Young People Achieving – reforming targeted support.

Within the key themes, specific actions were set down and these were outlined for the Board’s consideration.

The Education and Inspections Act 2006 consolidated these requirements placing new statutory duties upon local authorities to ensure that young people had access to a wide range of positive activities which empowered them to shape the services they received. Specific guidance and information that had recently been published was outlined for the Board’s information.

In addition Members were advised that Connexions was an information, advice and guidance organisation, which predominantly delivered services to 13-19 year olds. Connexions in Halton was delivered as part of Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership (GMCP) made up of the Boroughs of Halton, Liverpool, Wirral, St. Helens, Sefton and Knowsley. In order to ensure effective transition, a GMCP Transition Group had been established with representatives at Chief Executive or Director of Children’s

Services level from all six Boroughs. The group had published an interim report in January 2007, which set down a framework for development.

A Multi-Agency Youth Matters Steering Group had been established and specific terms of reference set. The Group would answer directly to the Universal Task Group within the Children's Alliance Board Framework. At the last Youth Matters Steering Group, a proposal for a smaller, time limited Integrated Youth Support (IYS) Working Group to be established had been endorsed. The main aim of this team was to plan, co-ordinate and deliver a multi-agency changed plan. A multi-agency half day event had already taken place to launch the transition process and Connexions Transition Funding had secured the half-time secondment of the Connexions Area Manager to the Local Authority to add capacity to develop the agenda.

The next step actions to be taken were outlined for the Board.

Members considered a number of issues as follows:

- The Halton Youth Bank was proving to be successful with 44 applications received so far and 12 being approved. It was noted that it had taken some time to get the YouthBank in the Borough up and running due to the amount of training required; however, the funding from the previous year had not been lost and would be rolled-forward.
- A lot of work was going on with young people in the Borough and there had been a number of recent events where a large number of children had attended and presented themselves in an excellent manner.
- There was a need to publish examples of successful events via press releases.

#### Reason for Decision

Integrated youth support was a key cornerstone of Youth Matters and integral to securing the delivery of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

#### Alternative Options considered and rejected

None.

#### Implementation Date

To be agreed with proposals in October 2007.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the development of proposals and options to secure Integrated Youth Support from April 2008 be supported;
- (2) the information be noted and the actions proposed in Section 6 of the report, as outlined below, be agreed:
  - (a) a multi-agency change plan be developed by April with a comprehensive implementation plan to follow – the change plan will concentrate on identifying the options for future developments;
  - (b) the option of IYS becoming a mini-trust be explored: in the first instance, the pooling of the resources for Connexions and Youth Services would occur; following this, the possibility of pooling other resources such as commissioned services could be pursued;
  - (c) following the agreement of outcomes and consultation with key stakeholders, the core structure of IYS (initially Connexions and YS) be developed – this would include links to Halton Borough Council management structures;
  - (d) the current contract arrangements with Connexions continue whilst future options are explored; and
  - (e) a report be tabled to the Council's Executive Board, and Children and Young People Alliance Board, in October 2007 to propose specific recommendations and options; and
- (3) a further report be presented to the Board in October 2007.

Acting Strategic  
Director-Children  
& Young People

#### EXB102 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR STRATEGY (KEY DECISION)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community presenting a new Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy for Halton.

It was noted that Anti-Social Behaviour, or its perception, had been a concern that had received wide-

ranging publicity both nationally and locally. With this in mind, it was felt timely to review Halton's approach to anti-social behaviour and to develop a revised strategy and action plan to address these concerns.

The Strategy had a three pronged approach: prevent and deter; protect and punish; and rehabilitate. The aim of each of these approaches was outlined for the Board's information.

Action Plans had been developed for each of the areas to ensure that delivery and targets were achieved and a performance monitoring framework was outlined. Members were advised that the strategy had been developed with partners, stakeholders and elected Members via the topic group of the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board. In addition, a consultation event had taken place in February with approximately 170 attendees, including young people and members of the community, where people could comment and ask questions in relation to the document.

The Board considered a number of issues including:

- the practicalities of delivering the contents of the strategy;
- the fact that there was full commitment from all of the registered social landlords to this strategy;
- the number of referrals in respect of drugs had increased, which was a positive sign of the impact that Ashley House was having, in particular with regard to the number of self-referrals;
- there was a need to provide a list of options to the Police in order that they could signpost young people to those activities when they were moving groups on;
- the fact that anti-social behaviour was not just about young people; and
- the positive impact the development of the waterfront could have in 12 months' time, as it would help to provide young people with more alternatives as to how they could spend their time.

#### Reason for decision

The Strategy was in response to an issue that was high on the public agenda, as voiced through community



engagement.

Alternative Options considered and rejected

All options were considered in producing the final strategy.

Implementation Date

If endorsed, the Strategy would be launched in April 2007.

RESOLVED: That “Promoting Positive Behaviour” – Halton’s Anti Social Behaviour Strategy – be endorsed.

EXB103 PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING RENEWAL STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community which sought approval to the proposed changes to the Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy, both to reflect recent legislative change and to amend the different forms of financial assistance provided to clients.

It was noted that Halton had introduced its Private Sector Housing Renewal Strategy in 2003 and a number of factors now made it necessary to revise this Strategy; these factors were outlined for the Board’s consideration.

An appendix was attached to the report summarising the principle changes being recommended in terms of the range of financial assistance to be offered to individuals and the rationale for them. Also appended was the full strategy, which included a new enforcement policy, HMO Licencing Policy, detailed eligibility criteria/conditions for financial assistance, and a policy for dealing with applications to reduce or waive requirements to repay assistance.

The Board was advised that a consultation exercise had been undertaken through the press, the Council’s website, the Landlords Forum, and directly with other local authority and stakeholder organisations: no responses had been received.

RESOLVED: That the Strategy be approved for implementation as soon as is practicable.

EXB104 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION HOUSING STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic

Director – Health and Community outlining the development and draft findings of the Housing Strategy for the Liverpool City Region. It was noted that this Strategy was a major piece of work which had been funded by Government Office North West but commissioned by the Merseyside Housing Forum - it would provide an investment framework for future housing development across the City Region and it was a key element of the Sustainable Communities workstream of the Liverpool City Region Development Programme in response to the Northern Way Challenge.

The findings of work undertaken so far were outlined for the Board's consideration including information on:

- Housing Market Assessment;
- Vulnerable Housing Markets; and
- BME/Gypsy and Traveller households.

The draft strategy identified seven strategic enablers as the building blocks to meet the vision to create sustainable communities. The "Strategic Enablers", and the appropriate policy responses required to deliver them, were also summarised for the Board's information.

It was noted that the Liverpool City Region Housing Strategy undoubtedly had a new heartlands/Liverpool focus. Informal discussions with colleagues in St. Helens and Knowsley had revealed concerns about the degree of emphasis based on the pathfinder area. Nevertheless, the findings and recommendations of the strategy may present opportunities to increase investment in some of Halton's poorest neighbourhoods. The Strategy also supported continued investment in Castlefields through the National Affordable Housing Programme as the area was identified as one of the top 15% Vulnerable Housing Markets.

There was a requirement to complete and pay for the commission by the end of March and this had led to challenging turnaround times for consultation and feedback. It was expected that the current draft of the Strategy would be signed off by Members of the Merseyside Housing Forum at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007 and endorsement of the Strategy would be sought at the Chief Executives and Leaders Group at the end of April. The authors of the Strategy had recognised that, given the deadline for completing the Commission, it was unlikely that agreement could be reached between partners on the relative merits of each vulnerable area. Therefore, the report restricted itself to suggesting a broad framework for partners to use to determine priority areas for investment.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted and the thrust of the comments identified in Section 6 – Conclusions – be supported.

## **ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND SPORT PORTFOLIO**

### EXB105 OLYMPICS 2012

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community which sought to establish an “Olympic Fund” to support sports persons in the Borough to aspire to high level performance.

It was noted that London was to stage the Olympic Games in 2012 and there was a strong desire to maximise the effect of the games across the country. Halton had registered the Stadium and the St. Peter and Paul/Wade Deacon Site as facilities for training camps for visiting countries. Halton was also part of a pan- Merseyside registration and was working with Cheshire on a range of common issues.

There had been strong support in Halton to promote young talent and there were a significant number of young people who could properly aspire to representing their country at the Olympic and Para Olympic. There were also opportunities for volunteers to get involved.

It was therefore proposed to set up an Olympic Fund which could be used in a variety of ways, for example to bring coaches and practice partners into the Borough to improve sports people; to bring role models into the Borough to inspire young people to participate in sport; to support training opportunities; or to provide kit.

The Fund would be set up using existing budgets that could roll forward each year but could also be used to attract further external/match funding and sponsorship. Initially, using monies from the enhanced sporting opportunities budget, and contributions from the Sports Partnership, a fund of £50,000 could be achieved. Clear criteria would be established about the management of the fund and award of grants.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) an Olympic Fund be established within existing resources to support young people in the Borough to get involved in the Olympic Games and Para-Olympic

Strategic Director  
– Health and  
Community

Games;

- (2) details of the Fund be agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Leisure and Sport and the Strategic Director for Health and Community; and
- (3) further reports be presented to the Board outlining progress.

#### EXB106 WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment providing an update on the progress made with the developing partnership arrangements for the Merseyside Authorities, the procurement of Waste Treatment Services and facilities, and the financial consequences as a result.

A Waste Management Strategy update was provided together with information about pooled targets, the Waste Action Plan, the Contract Procurement Strategy, the Financial Analysis Report, an Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) and a Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) progress update.

In addition, amended information was tabled in respect of 4.12 and Appendix 2 of the report. These changes had been made to reflect implications of the recently announced National Budget.

The Board considered a variety of issues including the fact that there was to be an all Member Seminar in May, and implications in respect of kerbside collections. It was noted that one of the proposals was to expand kerbside collections, thereby increasing the amount of recycling and reducing landfill costs, with weekly collections alternating between a blue bin collection (containing plastic, paper, cardboard, cans, and textiles) and a black bin (residual waste) collection.

The Board noted the need to consider relevant implications of this proposal and it was agreed that the Members' Seminar event would be the appropriate place to discuss this issue in more detail.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress being made with the procurement of waste treatment services and facilities and the developing partnership arrangements with the

Merseyside Authorities be noted; and

- (2) the progress towards the adoption of Halton's Waste Action Plan be noted and the Contract Procurement Strategy with the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority be approved.

## **EUROPEAN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB107 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy requesting that the Board review the Corporate Risk Register in line with the Council's Strategic Risk Management Framework.

It was advised that there was no proposal to add any new risks to the register at the present time.

**RESOLVED:** That the revised Corporate Risk Register, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB108 PARTNERSHIPS**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining the recommendations of the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board (PPB) meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> January 2007 in relation to partnerships.

The Corporate Services PPB had noted that it was necessary to ensure that:

- partnership work was properly directed and overseen by the Council;
- resources invested in partnership working were properly managed;
- arrangements were in place to ensure propriety and probity in partnership working; and
- partnership working delivered value for money in terms of outcomes.

It was advised that a register had been established, which was still in its formative stages but would develop to be a more comprehensive record of partnership working

over time.

Following consideration of this report, the Corporate Services PPB had made a number of recommendations to the Executive Board, which the Board now duly considered.

In moving the recommendations, the Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Management and Development thanked the Corporate Services PPB for its work in this area.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the definition of Partnership be agreed as follows:

“Partnership - a joint working arrangement where the partners:

- are otherwise independent bodies;
- agree to co-operate to achieve a common goal; and
- and to achieve it, create an organisational structure or process, an agreed programme, and share information, risks and rewards”;

(2) a register of all partnerships of which the Council is a member be created and kept by the Council Solicitor including the information as outlined in the report;

(3) all new partnerships created or joined by the Council be notified to the Council Solicitor by the officer with responsibility for the partnership;

(4) the governance of partnership checklist be formally endorsed;

(5) the issues set out in the checklist be properly considered and addressed before a decision is taken to form or enter into a new partnership;

(6) annual progress reports be presented by each partnership in the register to the appropriate PPB;

(7) the Corporate Services PPB review the Partnership Register and Partnership arrangements on an annual basis to make sure that they are working effectively; and

(8) as the process with regards to partnerships is developed, additional reports be brought to the Corporate Services PPB.

Strategic Director  
– Corporate and  
Policy

**PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND  
RENEWAL PORTFOLIO**

**EXB109 BOROUGH OF HALTON (WINDMILL CENTRE, WIDNES)  
COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2007**

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive requesting authorisation to make the Borough of Halton (Windmill Centre, Widnes) Compulsory Purchase Order 2007 under Section 226 (1)(A) of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990, Section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981.

It was advised that the purpose of the Compulsory Purchase Order ("The Order") was to facilitate land acquisition and acquisition of land and new rights in land (together referred to as "the Order Land") for redevelopment of the Windmill Centre for the reasons set out in detail in the Appendix to the report.

The Appendix gave a redevelopment background, information in respect of redevelopment of the site, the planning status and outlined justification for making a Compulsory Purchase Order. It was noted that the proposed scheme was in accordance with national planning policy for town centres and accorded with the Regional Planning Guidance for the North West.

In addition, the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West identified Widnes as a regional town/city where it encouraged retail investments that would assist in regeneration and economic development.

RESOLVED: That subject to:

- (a) the prior completion of an appropriate indemnity agreement with the Developer; and
- (b) the satisfactory grant of planning permission for redevelopment of the Order Land (as and for the purposes herein detailed in this report);

the following be resolved:

- (i) to make the Borough of Halton (Windmill Centre Widnes) Compulsory Purchase Order 2007 ("the Order") under Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Section 13 of the

Strategic Director  
- Environment

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 for the acquisition of all interests in the Order Land and the acquisition of new rights within the Order Land;

- (ii) the Order Land shall (subject as provided otherwise in this resolution) comprise the areas shown coloured pink and blue respectively on the plan attached for the purpose of redevelopment of the Windmill Centre comprising of demolition of existing buildings, construction of new retail units together with associated provision for access, servicing, parking and landscaping; and
- (iii) delegated authority be given to the Strategic Director - Environment (whether acting personally or through any other person nominated by him) to:
  - (a) take all necessary steps as soon as is reasonably practical to finalise the Order map and schedule (including the exercise of powers of requisition), secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Order including the publication and service of all notices and the presentation of the Council's case at any Public Inquiry;
  - (b) negotiate to acquire and acquire all interests in the Order Land and new rights within the Order Land either by agreement or compulsorily including prior to the making of the Order and where appropriate to agree terms for relocation;
  - (c) reduce (but not increase) the area of the Order Land and/or any interests therein should the said negotiations make the inclusion of such land and/or such interests unnecessary;
  - (d) make arrangements for the relocation of owners and occupiers, where appropriate;
  - (e) approve agreements with the owners of any interest in the Order Land and any objectors to the confirmation of the Order setting out the terms for the withdrawal of objections to the Order including, where appropriate, seeking inclusion in and/or exclusion from the Order of land or new rights; and
  - (f) in the event that a question of compensation be



referred to the Lands Tribunal, to take all necessary steps in relation thereto including advising on the appropriate compensation payable and to appoint appropriate consultants if necessary to assist and advise in this regard.

## **QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE PORTFOLIO**

### **EXB110 CAPITAL OF CULTURE**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community providing an update on Halton’s involvement in Liverpool’s Capital of Culture celebrations.

It was noted that, at its meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> March 2007, the Employment Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board (PPB) had endorsed Halton’s approach to its involvement in Capital of Culture. The PPB had recommended to the Executive Board that support should be given to a major youth cultural festival being hosted in Halton in 2008, with the cost of the event underwritten by the Council.

A Capital of Culture Working Group had been co-ordinating opportunities for involvement in Liverpool’s Capital of Culture Celebrations and recent progress had been made in putting together a headline programme of activities that was both achievable and deliverable. These were outlined for the Board’s consideration. It was noted that the programme was not exhaustive and other opportunities would arise as 2008 approached.

Most of the activities listed could be delivered within existing budgets. However, the Youth Festival was more difficult as it was envisaged that this would be Halton’s major event for 2008. All Merseyside’s twin towns would be invited to participate in the two-day event which would highlight youth performance and also offer cultural trade opportunities or exchanges of local cultures. Such an event would require a budget akin to the Halton Show and it had been identified that there was a maximum shortfall of £110,000. However, this sum should be significantly reduced through sponsorship or admittance fees, although ultimately this could not be guaranteed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Halton’s approach to its involvement in Capital of Culture be approved; and

Strategic Director  
– Healthy and  
Community

- (2) approval be given in principle to hosting a major Youth Culture Festival in Halton in 2008 and the cost of such an event be underwritten by the Council subject to further reports to the Executive Board as part of the development of the 2008/9 Council budget process.

**MINUTES ISSUED: 13<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

**CALL IN: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

*Meeting ended at 4.04 p.m.*

**EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 8 February 2007 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, G. Derby, J. Hughes, D. Sutton, J. Tradewell, S. Williams, M. Conway and R. Dart

Also in attendance: (none)

**ITEMS DEALT WITH  
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES  
EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

*Action*

ES72 COMMISSIONING OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT SERVICES

The Sub Committee considered a request to waive Standing Orders relating to Contracts to allow for the Commissioning of Professional Consultant Services through the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Buying Solutions Framework Agreements for Property and Construction Services. The OGC was an independent office of the Treasury, it was launched in April 2000 following the Gershon Review, as a One Stop Shop central procurement organisation.

OGC Buying Solutions was dedicated to providing procurement services mainly to assist the public sector in achieving greater efficiency and value for money. All OGC Buying Solutions framework agreements were fully compliant with EU and public sector procurement regulations and incorporated best practice principles, thus they provided a simplified pre-tendered call-off facility at highly competitive rates.

It was intended to "call-off" professional consultant

services from these framework agreements, initially to work on capital projects, but with the intention of widening this out in the future to work on any project where necessary.

The Sub Committee noted that the existing framework agreement for consultant services had been extended to its final end date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. This decision was made by the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy, in conjunction with the Executive Board Member for Corporate Services, in accordance with Minute No. ES27 (Executive Board Sub-Committee 4<sup>th</sup> March 2003).

It was agreed however, that the commissioning of consultants to work on capital projects should be excluded from the future workload of this agreement. As the level of spend on capital works in the future was uncertain, it was not appropriate at this stage to enter into another long-term agreement for the provision of consultant services. The setting up of any framework agreement would also take a considerable amount of time and cost, as EU regulations would need to be complied with.

The use of the OGC framework agreements as recommended would negate the need for a bespoke agreement and not the authority considerable expense. The arrangement would also allow the Council to use a variety of consultants across a range of projects.

RESOLVED: That a waiver of Standing Orders 2.1 – 2.6, 2.8 – 2.14, 3.1 – 3.7 and 4.1 be granted in order to allow for the procurement of professional consultant services through the OGC buying solutions framework agreement for construction and property professional services.

Strategic Director  
Corporate and  
Policy

ES73 DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

Under the provisions of Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the authority was allowed to grant discretionary rate relief to organisations who were either a charity or a non profit-making organisation.

The Sub-Committee considered a report which set out details of two applications for discretionary non-domestic rate relief from:

- (i) Addaction, Ashley House, Victoria Road, Widnes WA8 7RP
- (ii) Halton Disability Services, 87 Albert Road Widnes.

RESOLVED: That

(1) under the provisions of Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988, discretionary rate relief be granted to the following organisation at the percentage indicated, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 or the commencement of liability, whichever is the later, to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009:

Halton Disability Services                      20%

(2) under the provisions of Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988, the following application for discretionary rate relief be refused:

Addaction    20%

Strategic Director  
Corporate and  
Policy

**PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO**

ES74 REPORT OF TENDER ACCEPTANCE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF A SEWER BENEATH THE DARESBUY EXPRESSWAY

The Sub-Committee was advised on two tenders received for the replacement of a collapsed sewer beneath the Daresbury Expressway. The other two parties involved, the North West Development Agency and the CCLRC Daresbury Laboratory had agreed to meet one third each of the total cost of the tender sum.

The lowest tender received was that submitted by A.E.Yates in the sum of £79,879.00. Therefore the cost to the Council would be £26,626.33 which could be met from the Highways Maintenance Budget.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Standing Orders relating to Procurement Clause 3.2, the Committee note that the tender was awarded A.E. Yates Limited.

Strategic Director  
Environment

ES75 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it was:

RESOLVED: That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having been satisfied that in all

of the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information the press and the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 6 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

### **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO**

ES76 NATIONAL DAY NURSERIES ASSOCIATION NURSERY WITHIN KINGSWAY LEARNING CENTRE

The Sub-Committee considered a report which set out the current situation in relation to the National Day Nurseries Association Day Care (NDNA) Provision in Kingsway Learning Centre, and provided information on the proposed sale of the NDNA to a third party.

RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee endorses the proposed sale of the National Day Nursery Association (NDNA) Nursery to a reputable third party.

Strategic Director  
Children and  
Young People

### **CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

ES77 APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL ADVISORS FOR MERSEY GATEWAY

The Sub-Committee considered a report which outlined a review of the options for securing the continuity of the highest quality of legal advice for the Mersey Gateway Project as the project moves forward through the planning and procurement process.

RESOLVED: That the Council appoint DLA Piper on the terms submitted in their recent proposal.

Strategic Director  
Corporate and  
Policy

### **PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO**

ES78 PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS FOR THE CANAL QUARTER

On 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2005 the Executive Board resolved to approve Urban Splash as the preferred developer to progress the delivery of the Canal Quarter. The Council had worked exclusively with Urban Splash to work up proposals.

In order to maximise the impact of the Canal Quarter, and to integrate with the rest of the old town it was necessary to purchase certain properties and to achieve its regeneration objectives.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to secure the acquisition of properties for the Canal Quarter regeneration project (subject available funding) and to the terms being agreed by the Council Solicitor and Operational Director for Property Services in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder and the Chairman of the Executive Board Sub Committee.

Council Solicitor/  
Op Direct Prop  
Services

### COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO

#### ES79 REFURBISHMENT OF RIVERVIEW GYPSY SITE

The Sub-Committee were advised on six tenders received for the refurbishment of Riverview Gypsy Site, including the setting up of a temporary decamp site at Johnson's Lane, Widnes.

The lowest tenderer and highest scorer on price and quality were Mayfield Construction Limited.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the tender submitted by Mayfield Construction Limited be accepted;
- (2) the Strategic Director, Corporate and Policy be authorised to negotiate a tender uplift due to the delay between submission and acceptance of the tender;
- (3) the Board agree under the procurement Standing Order 1.6 in light of the case set out in the report to waive the tendering requirements of the Standing Orders; and
- (4) the revised budget for the project be noted.

Strategic Director  
Corporate and  
Policy

**MINUTES ISSUED: 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007**

**CALL IN: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007.**

*Meeting ended at 10.54 a.m.*

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 22 February 2007 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, R. Dart, B. Dodd, C. Leyshon, J. Tradewell and A. McNamara.

Also in attendance: (none)

**ITEMS DEALT WITH  
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES  
EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

ES80 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – URGENT BUSINESS

*Action*

The Committee was advised that a matter had arisen which required immediate attention by the Committee because in this case a decision was required before the date of the next meeting (Minute ES90 refers), therefore pursuant to Section 100 B (4) and 100 E Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman ruled that the item be considered as a matter of urgency.

ES81 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 25<sup>th</sup> January and 8<sup>th</sup> February 2007 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO**

ES82 2007/08 CHARGES FOR RIVERVIEW GYPSY SITE

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval for revised site charges at the Riverview

Gypsy Site for the financial year 2007/08.

A suggested pitch rental increase of 2.5% was in line with inflationary increases being levied for other Council fees and charges for 2007/08. The charge for water costs was based on actual bills and duties incurred in 2006/07, and should be increased by 9.2% for the coming year to cover costs.

The Sub Committee had previously considered a report on the procurement arrangements for the refurbishment of the Riverview Gypsy Site. The scheme would entail residents having to temporarily relocate to a site at Johnson's Lane, Widnes for a period of 7 – 8 months. Approval was sought to levy the same charges for pitch rental and water/sewerage on the temporary site as recommended above for Riverview. Any reduction in water consumption as a result of this move would be reflected in the 2008/09 charges.

RESOLVED: That the proposed 2.5% increase to pitch rental and 9.2% increase in water charges as set out in the report be approved with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007, and that the same charges be applied to the temporary site at Johnson's Lane for the duration of the improvement works at Riverview.

Strategic Director  
Health and  
Community

#### **CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

***N.B Councillor Wharton Declared A Personal And Prejudicial Interest In The Item Below As His Son Plays For Hale Fc.***

#### **COUNCILLOR HARRIS IN THE CHAIR**

#### **ES83 DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF**

Under the provisions of Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the authority is allowed to grant discretionary rate relief to organisations who are either a charity or a non-profit making organisation.

The Sub-Committee considered a report which set out details of an application for discretionary non-domestic rate relief for Hale Juniors Football Club, Hale Park, Hale.

RESOLVED: That

(1) under the provisions of Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988, discretionary rate relief be granted to the

following organisation at the percentage indicated, for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006 or the commencement of liability, whichever is the later, between 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009:

Hale Juniors Football Club                      100%

Strategic Director  
Corporate and  
Policy

### **COUNCILLOR WHARTON IN THE CHAIR**

#### **ES84    3RD QUARTER TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Sub-Committee considered a report which reviewed activities and treasury management for 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2006/07.

It was noted that all policy guidelines including the prudential indicators had been complied with.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### **ES85    2006/07 QUARTER 3 SPENDING**

The Sub-Committee considered a report which summarised the overall revenue and capital spending position as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006.

In overall terms, revenue expenditure at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter was around £1.97m below the budget profile. However, as the profile was only a guide to spending patterns, it did indicate in overall terms, that spending would be within budget. Within the overall position, there were some significant variances and details of these were outlined in the report.

With regard to capital, it was reported that spending to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 totalled £13.5m which represented only 42% of the total programme of £32.4m. In particular, within major projects, the Widnes Waterfront, 3MG, and Castlefields Projects were significantly below their capital programme allocations, however, these were complex multi-funded projects, which made them particularly challenging to deliver. Although spending was likely to be significantly higher in the remainder of the financial year, it was important that project managers maintained pressure to keep projects and spending on schedule and in particular to ensure that all external funding was maximised.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### **ES86    SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT**

1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it was:

RESOLVED: That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having been satisfied that in all of the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information the press and the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO**

ES87 REVISION TO CASTLEFIELDS FUNDING AGREEMENT

The Sub-Committee considered a report which outlined the revised proposals for a funding agreement with English Partnerships to support the Compulsory Purchase Order of the Castlefields Local Centre which was required to facilitate the development of the Castlefields Village Square, Runcorn.

RESOLVED: That a funding agreement be entered into with English Partnerships with the agreed funding limit.

Strategic Director  
Environment

**CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

ES88 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR 2007/08

The Sub-Committee was requested to recommend to the Council the appointment of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee recommend to Council:

Council Solicitor

(1) that Councillor M. Hodgkinson be appointed as the Mayor for the 2007/08 Municipal Year; and

(2) that Councillor A. Cole be appointed as the Deputy Mayor for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

ES89 HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

ES90 AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF CARE AND SUPPORT AT BREDON SHORT TERM RESPITE SERVICE

The Sub Committee were on advised on the five tenders received for the provision and support at Bredon short term respite service. The tenders had been evaluated for quality and value for money and three organisations were invited to make a presentation. Of the three organisations invited for interview, Creative Support scored high against the published criteria of evaluation and at interview. Therefore the report sought approval to award the contract to Creative Support on the basis that this organisation offers value for money in terms of both cost and quality.

RESOLVED: That the Strategic Director Health and Community be authorised to award the 3 yr contract (with an option to extend for a further 2 years) to Creative Support.

Strategic Director  
Health and  
Community

**MINUTES ISSUED: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

**CALL IN: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 6<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

*Meeting ended at 10.50 a.m.*

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 15 March 2007 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, A. West, R. Barnett, S. Baxter, P. Bickerstaff, R. Dart, E. Dawson, J. Hatton and M. Curtis

Also in attendance: (none)

**ITEMS DEALT WITH  
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES  
EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

ES92 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2007 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO**

ES93 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SHORT BREAK CONTRACTS

The Sub-Committee considered a report which outlined a number of contracts which provided a range of short breaks for disabled children and their families in Halton commissioned by the Council from the voluntary sector.

In 2006 quotations were sought from providers and contracts awarded based on this process. Contracts were awarded to provide these services for one year due to the annual nature of the funding (Carers Grant).

The exception to the above was the Crossroads contract awarded in 2004 for three years at a cost of £12,333, ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007. Renewal of the Contract was sought at an increased value. Additional contracts to fund additional carers within the clubs was

*Action*

awarded in 2006 bringing the total value to £17,555. The cost of running the clubs however, exceeded the contract value, the balance having been funded by charitable funding which Crossroads had been able to secure. This charitable funding had now ended and Crossroads therefore required the full cost of the service provision to be provided by the Council in order to continue to provide the service.

The cost of the Contract for 2007-08 would therefore be £29,367. This price level was consistent with the pricing of other contractors and takes into account additional staffing and transport costs.

The report sought a waiver of the Council's Standing Orders to enable the extension of the existing contracts until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 due to the specialist services provided to meet the needs of disabled children and their families and as there were limited providers delivering these services in the Halton area.

In order to fulfil the requirements and comply with Standing Orders the existing providers would be required to submit a written quotation to provide the same service for 2007-08 as they have provided in 2006-07. Each of the existing service contracts had been monitored on a quarterly basis and all perform to a satisfactory standard or above.

RESOLVED: That the waiver of Council Standing Orders (S4.1) and a one-year extension for each of the contracts outlined in the report be agreed.

Strategic Director  
Children and  
Young People

#### ES94 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

The Sub-Committee was advised that the Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed new duties on local authorities. Within these duties, the local authorities powers of intervention were strengthened. It was reported that these duties placed considerable challenges upon the existing structures within the Council for improving standards in schools.

Following initial work which had been undertaken with Steve Turnbull, EM Direct, it was proposed that there were a number of areas which required further development to deliver aspects of the Education and Inspection Act and expectations of the Joint Area Review.

It was proposed that specialist consultancy support was now required to remodel the service. Specifically, the



consulting support would be required to undertake developmental work whilst also bringing forward specific recommendations on service configuration. Specialist support had been sourced from SERCO.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 4.1 be waived in respect of the contract for securing the services of a consultant to undertake key development work relating to the remodelling of how the local authority undertakes its statutory function in relation to school improvement.

Strategic Director  
Children and  
Young People

ES95 CULTURAL & LEISURE SERVICES, SCALE OF CHARGES

The Sub-Committee considered the proposed admission charges for 2007/08 for the Council Libraries, the Kingsway Learning Centre, Leisure Centres, Parks and Playing Pitches, Community Centres and The Brindley Arts Centre.

RESOLVED: That the charges as outlined in the report be approved.

Strategic Director  
Health and  
Community

ES96 REVIEW OF FEES & CHARGES – CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

The Sub-Committee considered a report which outlined proposed increases in fees and charges for the Children's Services rates paid to foster carers.

RESOLVED: That the proposed changes in fees and charges outlined in the report be approved.

Strategic Director  
Children and  
Young People

**PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO**

ES97 FEES AND CHARGES

The Sub-Committee considered a report setting out the proposed increase in charges for services relating to Planning, Transportation and Development, Environment and Regulatory areas.

RESOLVED: That the proposed fees and charges detailed in the report be agreed and referred to the relevant Policy and Performance Boards for information.

Strategic Director  
Environment

**CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO**

ES98 TREASURY MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2007/8

The Sub-Committee considered the Council's Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2007/08.

The Strategy covers the Treasury limits in force which would limit the Treasury risk and activities of the Council, prudential indicators, the current treasury position, the borrowing requirement, prospects for interest rates, the borrowing strategy, debt rescheduling, the investment strategy, and any extraordinary treasury issues.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to approve the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy.

Strategic Director  
Corporate and  
Policy

ES99 LOCAL LAND CHARGES – FEES 2007/2008

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval for a new scale of fees for Local Land Charge Searches effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006.

The LLC1 fee was set by central government but with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007 that power was devolved to Councils. The detailed guidance from Central Government outlining the basis for setting charges was still awaited. However, it was known that the charges for the LLC1 had to be set so as to cover costs rather than to generate income.

It was reported that the Council needed to respond to the new freedom to set the LLC1 fee and it was proposed to reduce the CON29 fee to £118.00 and increase the LLC1 fee to £26.00. Approval for a new maximum charge was also sought.

RESOLVED: That effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007:

(1) taking account of the new discretion in relation to LLC1 charge the fees for Local Land Charges searches be set as follows:

Council Solicitor

LLC1:	£26.00 (currently £6.00);
CON29:	£118.00 (currently £134.00);
Part II Optional Inquiries:	£12.00 (no change);
Additional Inquiries:	£26.00 (no change) and equivalent increases

- (2) new maximum charge of £2,500 (£1500 since 2001);
- (3) the Council Solicitor, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, be authorised to review and amend the above charges in light of detailed Government guidance when issued; and
- (4) the Council Solicitor, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, be authorised to review and amend the Common Land Search Fee in light of detailed Government guidance when issued.

ES100 DISCRETIONARY NON DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

Under the provisions of Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, the authority was allowed to grant Discretionary Non Domestic Rate Relief to organisations who are either a charity or a non-profit making organisation.

The Sub-Committee considered a report which set out details of an application for Discretionary Non-Domestic Rate Relief for University of Liverpool, Building 2, Daresbury Innovation Centre, Daresbury. An additional letter on behalf of the Daresbury Innovation Centre was circulated to Members for consideration.

RESOLVED: That under the provisions of Section 47, Local Government Finance Act 1988, the following applications for discretionary rate relief be refused:

University of Liverpool                      20%.

ES101 ST BEDES INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOL PLAYING FIELDS

The Sub-Committee considered a report which proposed to regularise the situation in relation to the St. Bede' Infant and Junior School Playing Fields presently used by both schools to ensure they become school playing fields.

By formalising the arrangement, the schools would be able to attract funding to utilise the land more for the benefit of all pupils on both sites.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the playing fields be designated as school playing

Strategic Director  
Corporate and  
Policy

fields and are used by both schools;

(2) the Archdiocese of Liverpool will become responsible for all maintenance, fencing and any planning consents required for the school use; and

(3) the land will remain in the Council's ownership.

Strategic Director  
Corporate and  
Policy

## **ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND SPORT PORTFOLIO**

### **ES102 TENDER FOR NEW REFUSE COLLECTION VEHICLES**

The Sub-Committee was advised on six tenders received for the purchase of 10 new refuse collection vehicles.

The 6 tenders had been measured against the criteria detailed in the tender specification, i.e. 40% price, 40% qualitative factors, including vehicle characteristics and performance meeting the specification, operational and maintenance requirements of the Council, 20% contractor suitability, to include experience, quality assurance and compliance with conditions of contract.

As a result, taking into consideration price, quality and suitability, the most economically advantageous tender for the procurement of the new refuse collection vehicles was Farid Municipal Vehicles Limited, and this tender had been accepted by the Operational Director, Highways and Transportation.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

### **ES103 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

The Committee was advised that a matter had arisen which required immediate attention by the Committee because in this case a decision was required before the date of the next meeting (Minute 104 refers), therefore pursuant to Section 100 B (4) and 100 E Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman ruled that the item be considered as a matter of urgency.

**CORPORATE PORTFOLIO**

ES104 BRINDLEY MOUND

The Sub-Committee was advised on 6 tenders received for the removal of the Brindley Mound and for the construction of the retaining wall.

The work was expected to commence mid-April 2007 and would be a 10-week contract.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to appoint D. Morgan as the preferred contractor for the removal of the Brindley Mound and for the construction of the retaining wall.

Strategic Director  
Corporate and  
Policy

**MINUTES ISSUED: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**CALL IN: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007**

*Meeting ended at 10.53 a.m.*

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**EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Executive Board Sub Committee on Thursday, 29 March 2007 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Wharton (Chairman), Harris and Nelson

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, A. West, R. Barnett, P. Barron, J. Downes, S Harris, P. Wright and C. Goodall

Also in attendance: (none)

**ITEMS DEALT WITH  
UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES  
EXERCISABLE BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

*Action*

**ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND SPORT PORTFOLIO**

**ES105 NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE HALTON REGISTRATION SERVICE**

The White Paper Civil Registration: Vital Change, published in 2002, proposed that local authorities should be given responsibility for delivering the local registration service, and that Superintendent Registrars and Registrars should become local authority employees.

The Sub-Committee considered a report which set out the new Governance arrangements for the delivery of the Halton Registration Service. The new governance arrangements would provide for a more flexible, less prescriptive scheme allowing local authorities greater discretion to deliver local services which would meet both national standards and local community needs.

The Board were informed that in order to seek approval for the scheme under the new arrangements, local authorities must agree to the terms of the Code of Practice attached to the new scheme, deliver local registration services which would meet at least the national standards set out in the Good Practice Guide, prepare an annual

service delivery plan setting out the local authorities plans and targets for the year ahead, and have in place a reliable system for monitoring performance and annual reporting to the Registrar General.

Her Majesty's Inspectors had satisfied themselves that the Halton Registration Service was in a position to seek approval for a new registration scheme, in order to benefit from the new governance arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the pursuance of new governance arrangements for the delivery of the Halton Registration Service, be agreed and in doing so specifically agree the Council's commitment to the Code of Practice that would form part of the new scheme; and

(2) the Halton Registration District Service Delivery and Improvement Plan for 2007/08 be agreed.

Strategic Director  
Health and  
Community

ES106 BRITISH REGISTER OF ACCREDITED MEMORIAL MASONS (BRAMM)

In 2004 the national problem of unsafe headstones in the country's cemeteries lead to the setting up of the British Register of Memorial Masons (BRAMM).

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought the pursuance by the Council of burial authority registration with the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons, and for the requirement that only BRAMM Accredited Memorial Masons would operate in the Council's cemeteries.

Detailed in the report were the primary aims of the BRAMM Registration Scheme. It was noted that at present burial authority registration was free but would represent a clear demonstration that the authority takes its responsibility for the safety of memorials as seriously as the masons who register on the scheme. In particular, the registration required the authority to meet obligations, which were detailed in the report.

Of particular benefit to the Council was that permitting only BRAMM accredited memorial masons to carry out memorial works within the cemeteries would mean that the Council no longer needed to maintain its own local register of memorial masons.



Members were made aware that there would be a loss of income of £470 per year as a result of no longer maintaining a local register of memorial masons. However, Bereavement Services collect approximately £580k and this loss of £470 would be offset by the general increases in fees and charges that were likely to be applied for the 2007/08 financial year.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Sub-Committee agrees to the Bereavement Services Manager submitting an application for Halton to be a registered burial authority with the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons; and

(2) the Sub-Committee agrees to the re-wording of Section 7.5 of the Cemetery Rules as detailed in the report, with the proviso that the amended wording comes into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007.

Strategic Director  
Health and  
Community

#### **HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO**

##### ES107 REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES – HEALTH & COMMUNITY DIRECTORATE 2007-2008

The Sub-Committee considered a report which outlined the proposed increases in fees and charges for the Health and Community Care Services and Consumer Protection Services.

A consultation exercise on the proposals for changes to the charges for Social Care services was undertaken in 2007. All service users/carers were sent a copy of a survey form to complete and 8 open forums were held. As a result of the consultation exercise, comments have been received by Service Users and their Carers and details of which were summarised in the report.

The results of the survey had been considered and recommendations for changes to charges for Social Care Services were outlined.

With regard to Bereavement, Consumer Protection and Registration Service charges most had increased, some above inflation.

The Sub-Committee was advised that para 3.8 and Appendix 2 to the report, "charges for transport" had been amended to remove the words "to those aged under 55".

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the results of the survey about charging for Social Care Services be noted;
- (2) changes to charges for Care Services outlined in the report be approved, subject to the amendment detailed above; and
- (3) the proposed changes in fees and charges outlined in the report be approved.

Strategic Director  
Health and  
Community

### **ENVIRONMENT, SPORT AND LEISURE PORTFOLIO**

#### ES108 RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT WITH THE MERSEY FOREST

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval to sign a new Mersey Forest Agreement.

Halton had been a partner in the Mersey Forest since its inception, and the current agreement was now due for renewal. The new agreement would run until 2010.

The Agreement empowered the nine local authorities involved to work together to support the work of the Mersey Forest.

RESOLVED: That the existing Mersey Forest Agreement be renewed and that the Strategic Director – Environment, be authorised to determine the terms of the new agreement following the principles outlined in the report.

Strategic Director  
Environment

### **CORPORATE SERVICE PORTFOLIO**

#### ES109 DISPOSAL OF ETHEL HANLEY CARE HOME, CORONATION DRIVE, WIDNES

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval to dispose of the Ethel Hanley Care Home.

The Council currently owned the freehold interest of the premises, which were recently occupied by CLC Care Services Group by way of an internal repairing and insuring fees at a rental of £35,500 per annum. The Lease contained a flexible break option in favour of the tenant to enable the lease to be terminated, which they exercised on 13<sup>th</sup>

November 2006.

There was a risk that the reserve price would not be achieved at the auction, in which case the property would remain unsold. However, potential purchasers of such property were more likely to be regular auction goers and this method of sale was likely to maximise the capital receipt for the Council.

RESOLVED: That

(1) approval be given to the Operational Director Property Services, in consultation with relevant portfolio holder, to determine the basis for disposal and to dispose of the property by auction; and

(2) approval be granted to the Operational Director Property Services, in consultation with relevant portfolio holder, to accept the highest offer with details being reported to the Sub-Committee at the earliest opportunity

Strategic Director  
Corporate and  
Policy

ES110 DISPOSAL OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE - 9/11 LUGSDALE ROAD, WIDNES

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval to dispose of the Community Centre, 9/11 Lugsdale Road, Widnes.

The Council currently owned the freehold interest of the premises, which was currently occupied by Social Services as an Operational Building. Operations from Lugsdale Road transferred to Midwood House, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2007, which would save the Council £25,000 per annum in running costs.

It was noted that when disposing of a site by auction, there was a risk that it may not reach the reserve price in which case the property would not be sold. However, the auction market was quite popular at this moment in time and it was therefore considered that this risk was minimal.

RESOLVED: That

(1) approval be given to the Operational Director Property Services, in consultation with relevant portfolio holder, to determine the basis for disposal and to dispose of the property at auction; and

(2) approval be granted to the Operational Director Property Services, in consultation with relevant portfolio

Strategic Director  
Corporate and  
Policy

holder, to accept the highest offer with the details being reported to the Sub-Committee at the earliest opportunity.

**PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO**

ES111 REQUEST TO APPROVE SINGLE QUOTE TENDER CONTRACT:- LOCAL BUS SERVICE 700

The Sub-Committee considered a request for a Single Quote Contract (Procurement Standing Orders 1.5 and 3.1), to be entered into with Arriva (North West and Wales) to divert an existing express coach service linking Manchester City Centre and Liverpool John Lennon Airport to serve the Borough.

There were currently no other local bus operators running similar services. The proposal was based on an agreed financial revenue contribution from the Council of £87,000 over three financial years (2006/07 – 2010/11). This arrangement followed a kick-start style funding profile, whereby the Council's revenue contribution would decline over three years as follows:

2007/08	£43,500
2008/09	£29,000
2009/10	£14,500

A service contract would be entered into with Arriva (North West and Wales) in line with the Council's standard supported local bus service contract terms and conditions.

In addition, Arriva (North West and Wales) had guaranteed to operate the service commercially for a minimum of 7 years after the initial grant period from 2010/11 onwards.

RESOLVED: That Procurement Standing Orders in relation to tendering be waived accordingly.

Strategic Director  
Environment

ES112 RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT WITH MERSEY WATERFRONT REGIONAL PARK

The Sub-Committee considered a request for approval to sign the new Mersey Waterfront Regional Park Agreement.

The Mersey Waterfront Regional Park was set up in 2004 to transform, energise and connect the collective potential of areas along the Mersey Waterfront. The initial

three-year period was funded by £8.5m from the North West Regional Development Agency (NWDA) and £13.25m of European Regional Development Fund Objective 1 money. During this period, Halton had benefited from substantial grants towards Wigg Island Visitors Centre, Widnes Wharf Boardwalk and viewing platform, and the Waterfront Maintenance Scheme.

It was reported that £16.5m of NWDA Funding had now been secured for the succession programme, which would run until 2009.

Although no major schemes had been identified within Halton for this period, money may be available for smaller schemes within the 'Pride in our Promenades' and 'Coastal Spaces and Places' programmes. Halton would also benefit from marketing and publicity initiatives for the wider waterfront park. In addition, a spatial framework identified Halton as one of the key windows on the waterfront, which could help to draw in future funding.

RESOLVED: That the existing Mersey Waterfront Regional Park Agreement be renewed and that the Strategic Director, Environment be authorised to determine the terms of the new agreement following the principles outlined in the report.

Strategic Director  
Environment

**MINUTES ISSUED: 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007**

**CALL IN: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board Sub Committee may be called in no later than 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007**

*Meeting ended at 10.45 a.m.*

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**EXECUTIVE (TRANSMODAL IMPLEMENTATION) SUB BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Executive (Transmodal Implementation) Sub Board on Thursday, 1 March 2007 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman) and Wright

Apologies for Absence: Councillor(s) McDermott MBE

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: L. Derbyshire, M. Ledson, S. McDonald, D. Sutton, R. Barnett, A. Gore and W. Rourke

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

*Action*

ESB8 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2006, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

ESB9 3MG WESTERN APPROACH LOBBYING PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate & Policy which set out for discussion a lobbying plan to secure European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) to support the development of the 3MG Western Access Option (Knowsley).

Arising from the discussion, the following points were noted:-

- The lobbying framework as set out in Appendix 1 to the report and the various methods and range of the lobbying was noted; and
- It was recognised that it was important that there were regular briefings on the progress of the lobbying and action plan. It was also noted that an information pack would be available and

presentations undertaken where appropriate.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the comments raised be noted; and
- (2) the lobbying plan as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed.

Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

ESB10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 – URGENT BUSINESS

The Committee was advised that a matter had arisen which required immediate attention by the Committee because in this case a decision was required before the date of the next meeting (Minute ESB12 refers), therefore pursuant to Section 100 B (4) and 100 E Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman ruled that the item be considered as a matter of urgency.

ESB11 NWDA FUNDING 3MG

The Board considered an urgent report of the Strategic Director – Environment which sought authority to enter into a Legal Agreement with the North West Development Agency (NWDA).

The Board was advised that the NWDA had in principle over the last twelve months allocated £4.5m towards the delivery of the Masterplan. The reason for the urgency was that the Council would need to enter into a contract with the NWDA by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

The Council Solicitor advised as to the risks for the Council associated with entering into the agreement that was being insisted upon by the NWDA.

RESOLVED: That delegated authority be granted to the Strategic Director – Environment, in consultation with the Council Solicitor and the Executive Member for Planning Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal to negotiate and conclude the funding arrangements with the NWDA.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

ESB12 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Sub-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 paragraphs 1, 2, 3 (for agenda items 4 and 5) and paragraph 3 (for agenda item 6) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (2) whether the disclosure of the information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exceptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest tests 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 outweighs 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 is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraphs 1, 2, 3 (for agenda items 4 and 5) and paragraph 3 (for agenda item 6) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

ESB13 LINNER FARM, HALEBANK ROAD, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate & Policy which sought approval to the terms for the termination of part of the agricultural holding at Linner Farm, Halebank Road, Widnes.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) approval be granted to the terms for the termination of part of the agricultural holding at Linner Farm, Halebank Road, Widnes.

Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

ESB14 LINNER FARM COTTAGE, HALEBANK ROAD, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic

Director, Corporate & Policy which sought approval to the terms for the termination of an agricultural holding and the grant of a new residential tenancy at Linner Farm Cottage, Halebank Road, Widnes.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Strategic Director, Corporate & Policy to negotiate terms for the termination of the agricultural holding at Linner Farm Cottage and the grant of a new residential tenancy at Linner Farm Cottage, Halebank Road, Widnes.

Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

ESB15 TESSENDERLO, WEST BANK DOCK ESTATE, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Corporate & Policy which described the opportunity available to the Council to acquire the Tessenderlo site in Widnes as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, following the closure of the operation in December 2006.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) delegated authority be granted to the Operational Director, Property Services, to negotiate with Tessenderlo for the acquisition of their land ownership in the West Bank area of Widnes; and
- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Strategic Director, Environment and the Strategic Director, Corporate & Policy, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning, Transportation, Regeneration and Renewal and the Executive Member for Corporate Services, to take such action as is necessary to acquire the land from Tessenderlo, subject to the North West Development Agency agreeing to fully fund the purchase price.

Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

**MINUTES ISSUED: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**CALL IN: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

**Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007.**

*Meeting ended at 4.45 p.m.*

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**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Children and Young People Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 26 February 2007 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Dennett (Chairman), Horabin (Vice-Chairman), Fraser, Gilligan, Lewis, Marlow, Parker, Philbin and M Ratcliffe

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Higginson and Mr A Brothers

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Stockton

Officers present: L. Derbyshire, P. St. Aubyn, R. Bannigan, L. Butcher, A. McIntyre, A. Villiers and D Williams

Also in attendance: (none)

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

CYP45 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2007 having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.

CYP46 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Board was advised that no questions had been received.

CYP47 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The minutes of the Executive Board relating to the work of the Children and Young People's Policy Performance Board were submitted for information.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CYP48 PERFORMANCE MONITORING - QUARTER 3

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director, Children and Young People which gave Members the opportunity to examine progress towards achieving the

*Action*

service objectives, milestones and performance targets contained in the 2006/07 service plans within the Boards remit.

The following points arose from the discussion:-

Children's Services (Social Care)

- The improvements in the ratio of employment, education and training for care leavers and action and activities undertaken to date was noted;
- The new indicator, which recorded the stability for children under 16 years of age was noted. It was also noted that performance in this area had improved significantly last year but was not performing so well this year. The reasons for this and actions to address this issue were outlined;
- That the Safe Parenting handbook, when finalised, would be distributed to all households with children in the Borough. The Chairman requested that they be informed of the completion date of the handbook;
- Capital – It was noted that the money had all been committed and would be spent by the end of the financial year. The money had been committed primarily to IT;
- The Children's Pooled budget – the projected underspend was noted and further detail requested by the Chairman. It was also noted that the authority would have the option to carry forward any underspend to the next financial year.

School Support and Advisory Service

- The financial implications of proposals from the national Learning and Skills review to end the 'preferred supplier' status for Education/Business Partnerships was noted. It was also noted that all eight high schools contributed to the Business Partnership. However, it was recognised that it was not mandatory for primary schools to make a contribution; and
- The actions that had been identified to address the implications of the performance indicator BV 181a being closely linked to the LSPA targets for the % of

Acting Strategic  
Director-Children  
& Young People

children achieving 5 or more A\* - C GCSE's including English and Maths for 2008 was noted.

#### Student Services & Lifelong Learning

- The improvements in school attendance and the new set of standardised attendance codes that had been put in place to address this issue was noted;
- the 2005/06 permanent exclusion figures and the reasons that the numbers of young people who had been excluded had significantly reduced was noted. The guidelines and the authority's statutory duty to provide full time education for a young person who had been excluded more than six days was also acknowledged;
- the outcome of the visit by the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit was noted; and
- the number of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETS) and the challenges regarding reducing this number was noted.

RESOLVED: That the report and comments raised be noted.

*(Note: The Board agreed to consider Item 9 on the agenda – Health of Looked After Children – Update as the next item of business).*

#### CYP49 HEALTH OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director – Children and Young People which gave Members an update of the Health of Looked After Children Scrutiny Topic Action Plan.

The Board was advised that in March 2006, the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board had been presented with the findings of the health of looked after children (LAC) scrutiny group. An in depth audit of ninety LAC's case files had been carried out.

The action plan had been adopted by the Board and it was agreed that implementation of the plan be monitored. It was noted that Halton's performance in relation to the completion of health assessments was 91.2% compared to a national average of 77.3% and this year's performance currently stood at 94.7%..

The Board was also advised of activities and actions that had taken place since the publication of the report.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were noted:-

- That there was a legal requirement for LAC under the age of five to have a health assessment every six months and over five years to have an annual assessment;
- That the PCT were unable to agree to health assessments being typed and doctors had been advised to print clearly and would receive training in record keeping;
- That the ability to fast track a dental service was a remarkable achievement; and
- That the Board place on record its appreciation for the excellent work that had been undertaken by all staff to date.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress of the action plan and comments raised be noted; and
- (2) the continued progress of the Action Plan be monitored by the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board.

#### CYP50 YOUTH SERVICE ACTION PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director – Children and Young People which provided information on the detail of the improvement plan following the Youth Service Inspection and the presentation at the last meeting.

The Board was advised that the main findings of the review had identified that Halton Borough Council provided a good service which represented good value for money. The young people, at risk of exclusion had achieved well and made good progress. The resources available to the service were also sufficient and were being used efficiently.

The major improvements that had taken place within each section of the action plan were also highlighted to the



Board. In this respect, a list of the Youth Service Officers named in the action plan was circulated at the meeting.

Arising from the discussion, the following comments were noted:-

- That a monitoring report be presented to the autumn meeting of the Board. The report should also reflect the numbers of youths that were engaging in youth activities on a ward by ward basis;
- The number of young people accessing the youth activities was noted;
- That under the Education and Inspection Act 2006, the authority had a legal obligation to promote the full range of activities open to young people in the Borough;
- It was acknowledged that there was a small number of young people who would not participate in youth activities and would subsequently become involved in anti-social behaviour;
- The new 'on the streets team' whereby the authority worked in partnership with the fire and rescue service in a single team to address youth nuisance in problem areas in the Borough was noted. It was also noted that the Ditton area was being piloted on a six month basis. Chester college would be undertaking the analysis of the pilot;
- It was acknowledged that youth provision had greatly improved in the Borough; and
- That the Board place on record its appreciation for the excellent work that had been undertaken by all staff to date.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the information contained in the report and the comments raised be noted;
- (2) the improvement plan be agreed; and
- (3) an update report be presented to the Autumn meeting of the Board.

Acting Strategic  
Director-Children  
& Young People

Acting Strategic  
Director-Children  
& Young People

CYP51 QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

The Chairman of the Board, Councillor Dennett welcomed Councillor McInerney, the Portfolio Holder – Children and Young People to the meeting and invited Members to take part in a question and answer session with the portfolio holder.

Councillor McInerney highlighted some of the excellent achievements and activities that had taken place within the Children and Young People's Directorate during the last twelve months. He gave the Board Members a verbal update on the following service areas:-

- School attendance;
- The Safeguarding Board;
- The strong performance in health assessments relating to LAC;
- School improvement and attainment levels;
- The Youth Service inspection and OfSTED reports;
- The reduction in the number of young people with SEN statements;
- The strategies for addressing school balances;
- The activities and pressures within the fostering and adoption service;
- The opportunities and possible implications of the Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF);
- The progress on the Children's Centres; and
- Changes that had taken place in school funding.

In closing, Councillor McInerney reported that he recognised the pressures and challenges that the staff had embraced during the last twelve months and took the opportunity to thank all staff within the service for their excellent work and achievements to date.

Arising from the discussion, the following comments were noted:-

- The interventions that had been put in place to

reduce the number of young people with SEN statements by 18% in the Borough;

- That the Authority would need to consider the implications relating to the changes in the criteria to the age range of the young people placed in Belvedere. It was agreed that this matter be passed to Councillor Wright – Portfolio Holder, Community for consideration;
- The number of faith schools in the Borough and the criteria for admission into such schools; and
- The importance of the Children’s Centres and the opportunity for extended schools in the community was acknowledged.

Acting Strategic  
Director-Children  
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In closing the Chairman thanked Councillor McInerney for his attendance and participation in the meetings to date.

RESOLVED: That the verbal report and comments raised be noted.

CYP52 STANDING ORDER 51

The Board was reminded that Standing Order 51 of the Council’s Constitution stated that meetings should not continue beyond 9.00 pm.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 51 be waived for 20 minutes.

CYP53 ACTION PLAN REVIEW

The Board considered a report of the Acting Strategic Director – Children and Young People which provided Members with an update on two previous topics, Barriers to Learning – Excluding pupils and Healthy Eating. The report particularly related to the impact of the specific Action Plans on the outcomes for Children and Young People.

In this respect the Board received two presentations relating to the two Action Plans and the impact of the Action Plans on outcomes for Children and Young People.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were noted:-

- That a report be presented to the Board in the Autumn relating to the effectiveness of LA

Acting Strategic

strategies to address the needs of the lowest performing (20%) of pupils in the Borough;

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& Young People

- That schools meals were freshly prepared on the day but did not comprise of 'purely' fresh food as this would increase the cost of the meals;
- That there was high obesity rate within the Borough in young people up to the age of ten. A strategy for addressing obesity issues would need to be established. However, it was recognised that this would not be a solution to the issue as there were also cultural factors to consider; and
- The various factors that impacted on school budgets was noted.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the presentations be received;
- (2) the Action Plans and the outcome of the Action Plans on children and young people be noted;
- (3) the comments raised be noted; and
- (4) a report be presented to the Board in the Autumn relating to the effectiveness of LA strategies to address the needs of the lowest performing (20%) of pupils in the Borough.

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Director-Children  
& Young People

#### CYP54 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

As it was the last meeting of the Board in this municipal year, the Chairman took the opportunity to place on record a vote of thanks to Members and Officers for their participation and excellent work that had been undertaken during the year.

*Meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.*

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

*At a meeting of the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 12 March 2007 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Jones (Chairman), Fraser (Vice-Chairman), E. Cargill, Edge, Hodgkinson, Howard, Parker, Lewis and Stockton

Apologies for Absence: Councillor M Ratcliffe

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Findon

Officers present: G. Collins, N. Goodwin, A. Villiers and L. Derbyshire

Also in attendance: (none)

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>ELS39 MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007, having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>ELS40 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>It was noted that no questions had been received.</p>	
<p>ELS41 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the Executive Board relating to the work of the Employment, Learning and Skills Policy Performance Board were submitted for information.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.</p>	
<p>ELS42 CAPITAL OF CULTURE</p> <p>The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community which:-</p> <p>(1) gave the Members an update on Halton's involvement in Liverpool's Capital of Culture</p>	

celebrations; and

- (2) sought approval to endorse Halton's programme of activities, in particular the proposal to host a major Youth Cultural Festival in 2008, and its budgeting implications.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were noted:-

- that there would be a shortfall in the budget in relation to the Youth Cultural Festival event. However, 30% of the costs had already been identified. It was acknowledged that the potential shortfall in the funding would be significantly reduced with further sponsorship;
- The Youth Culture Festival in 2008 at which all Merseyside Authorities and their twin towns would be invited to participate would create an exciting opportunity for Halton to engage with the young people and the community. The event would focus on performance opportunities for young people and would be supported by the Merseyside Cultural Forum. The event would also allow a real opportunity for the young people of Merseyside to get together and to celebrate what they do;
- Halton in April 2007 would be hosting the European Student Rugby League Games as part of the Capital of Culture Programme. This was a nine day event from Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2007 and would provide numerous opportunities for the Borough. Accommodation for the visitors had also been secured. The last European Cup had been held in Moscow and it was acknowledged that a number of young people in Halton were involved every year in the cup as coaches and players;
- The Borough had recently staged a very successful National Students Rugby League Championships. The Rugby League had congratulated Halton on the championships announcing that they had proved to be the best that had been held in relation to organisation and venues etc. Halton

Farnworth Hornets had also been nominated for club of the year to the Council for Physical Recreation; and

- A Capital of Culture Enterprise Game for 2008 had been endorsed by the Merseyside Culture Forum.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the comments raised be noted;
- (2) the Board recommend that the Executive Board give support to a major Youth Cultural Festival being hosted in Halton in 2008; and
- (3) a report be sent to the Executive Board regarding the 2008 Youth Festival advocating that the Council underwrites the cost, such underwriting being reduced as sponsorship is secured.

Strategic Director  
- Health and  
Community

#### ELS43 CITY EMPLOYMENT STRATEGIES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment that provided an update on the Liverpool City Region Employment Strategy.

The Board was advised that the concept of the City Employment Strategies (CES) was that local consortia were formed of public, private and voluntary sectors which would work together to target those wards with the highest levels of worklessness i.e. worklessness above 25% of working age population. In Halton, the Department of Work and Pensions had identified Windmill Hill, Castlefields, Riverside, Halton Lea, Grange and Kingsway.

The Board was further advised that a draft Business Plan had been submitted to the Department of Work and Pensions and a formal response was awaited. The Department of Work and Pensions had clarified the Deprived Areas Fund (DAF) budget that was available. Until the end of March 2007, £1.4m had been identified to start the CES programme. Due to the late release of the funding, it was not possible for Job Centre Plus to commission any main programmes or spend the allocation. As a result, it was being used as a flexible fund to assist people into work. Anyone living in the DAF wards could access up to £250 if it could be proved that it would help them secure employment.

It was highlighted that there was still a lack of clarity with regard to the requested enabling measures that the partnership had submitted. Enabling measures were requests to change rules and procedures in order to improve services and outcomes. The Government was looking at all such requests nationally through a series of working groups. However, progress had been slow.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were noted:-

- The Government funding, in the first year incorporated staffing costs but in the second year these costs would have to be identified from alternative funds.
- The issues relating to the lack of enabling measures was noted;
- That the funding comprised of two allocations of £4.2m for each of the two years 2007 and 2008/09 for the six authorities which represents approximately £67,000 per identified ward. The consortium, once set up, would control the spending of Deprived Areas Funding. It was anticipated that the consortium would comprise of representatives from the six local authorities, Job Centre Plus and the Learning Skills Council;
- It was agreed that regular update reports on the progress of the CES be presented to the Board;
- It was acknowledged that employers would value the re-focus and expansion of measures such as worked based mentors, Skills Passports and Skills Escalators;
- The barriers to people not gaining employment and the survey that had been commissioned to gain further information on this matter was noted;
- The national programme for work based skills development 'Train to Gain' was discussed and noted;
- The apprenticeships framework and the issues relating to funding and the limitations in respect of age etc were noted. It was also acknowledged that flexible apprenticeships were required for the 25 + age group in order to give more mature people the



opportunity to train in another career such as plumbing etc. The process for obtaining funding for such apprenticeships was also discussed and noted;

- The issues and implications relating to the lack of consistency in funding mechanisms and frequent changes to the rules for such funding was noted;
- It was suggested that the new funding allocation could be publicised at the Area Forum meetings and they could also be used to allocate the available funding to the appropriate wards, although this would need to be considered further as not all wards are covered by the available funding; and
- The issues and problems arising from obtaining a pension on retirement was noted. It was also suggested that issues relating to retirement pensions could be considered by the Board in the future; and
- The work previously developed through topic groups was considered relevant and should be fed into the CES process.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comments raised be noted;
- (2) appropriate funding from the CES be allocated as follows:-
  - (i) to increase the emphasis on literacy and numeracy in the Borough;
  - (ii) to deliver adult learning programmes within the locality for the more mature individual which will give flexibilities of choice for a new career;
  - (iii) an analysis be undertaken to identify the number of unemployed mature people in the Borough that would benefit from a new career;
  - (iv) to enable the development of funding mechanisms, flexibilities and consistency of programmes such as student grants;

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- Health and  
Community

- (3) selective Area Forum meetings be used to promote the new funding and feedback from the meetings be reported back to the Board;
- (4) action plans that had been developed by previous Working groups be considered to identify opportunities to utilise the new funding;
- (5) regular updates on the progress of the CES be presented to the Board.

*(NB: Councillors Stockton and E Cargill declared a personal interest in the following item of business, due to being Directors of Murdishaw Community Centre).*

#### ELS44 COMMUNITY CENTRES UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community which advised the Members of the contribution that the Community Centres Service had made to the delivery of the Culture and Leisure Service Plan and the five key corporate priorities during the last year.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were noted:-

- The key achievements over the last year were noted;
- The comparative usage and the fall in the usage at some of the Runcorn centres and the possible reasons for the decline was noted. It was suggested that a detailed analysis of the specific activities undertaken in the five different sites be undertaken; and
- The success of Country Garden Services in Murdishaw Community Centre and the possible expansion of the service to other areas of the Borough, were appropriate, was noted.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and comments raised be noted;
- (2) a detailed analysis of the specific activities undertaken in the five different sites be undertaken; and
- (3) the Board support the wherever possible,

Strategic Director  
- Health and  
Community

possible expansion of the Country Garden Service across the Borough.

ELS45 STANDING ORDER 51

The Board was reminded that Standing Order 51 of the Council's Constitution stated that meetings should not continue beyond 9.00 pm.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 51 be waived for 20 minutes.

ELS46 COMMUNITY COHESION IN HALTON

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate & Policy that provided a comprehensive briefing on the progress of the Community Cohesion scrutiny topic.

The report requested the view on a series of questions relating to community cohesion in Halton.

In this respect, a CD containing all the data related to the review was available at the meeting.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were noted:-

- The complexity and the range of inter related matters that community cohesion issues impacted on was discussed and noted. It was also noted that such issues had an economic, social and cultural impact on the community;
- The work that the working group had undertaken to date was discussed and noted;
- The difficulties and the reasons for the difficulties in obtaining definitive statistics to address some of the issues was noted;
- The value of voluntary services such as CAB was noted. It was also noted that some organisations had difficulties in paying for the rent in the Councils community centres. The suggestion to reduce/remove rent to such organisations in Council Community Centres could be considered and the organisations could also be given the opportunity to opt into the Council's training programmes;
- In relation to Question 1 in paragraph 3.6 – What is

the best and most appropriate definition for community cohesion in Halton? After considerable debate the following suggestions were supported by Members of the Board to be considered by the working group:-

- (i) “Community Cohesion maybe defined as striving to ensure that all Halton residents and migrant workers feel socially included, integrated and valued and that they have a stake in the success of their community in which they live and work to be certain that it happens;” and
  - (ii) “ Togetherness”;
- In relation to the other questions in paragraph 3.6 of the report, it was suggested that Halton’s Community Strategy ensures that it adequately deals with issues relating to community cohesion. It was also noted that community cohesion would need to be included in service planning and monitoring in the same way as equality and diversity; and
  - It was agreed that an update report on the discussion points and suggestions for the definition of community cohesion be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress on the action plan and comments raised be noted:
- (2) an update report on the discussion points and suggestions for the definition of community cohesion be presented to the next meeting of the Board; and
- (3) the Council should consider helping the Voluntary sector by:-
  - Not charging rent or services charges for its buildings;
  - Not charging for standard services such as emptying bins;

Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

- Working with voluntary groups to become a procurement partner so that they may benefit from the economy of scale that the Council has when placing large orders; and
- Providing the voluntary sector with free places on Council Training Courses.

ELS47 PERFORMING MONITORING REPORTS - QUARTER 3

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter monitoring reports for the Economic Regeneration, and Cultural and Leisure Services. A number of performance considerations were outlined in the appendix to the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

*Meeting ended at 9.20 p.m.*

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**HEALTHY HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 13 March 2007 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors E. Cargill (Chairman), Loftus (Vice-Chairman), Blackmore, Hodgkinson, Horabin, Howard, D Inch, Jones, Lloyd Jones, Swift and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Gerrard (in accordance with Standing Order No. 33)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: P. Barron, L. Cairns, D. Gill, M. Loughna, A. Villiers and A. Williamson

Also in attendance: 11 public

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

	<i>Action</i>
HEA42 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2007, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
HEA43 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
HEA44 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
<p>The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board and Executive Board Sub Committee relevant to the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.</p>	
HEA45 THE HEALTHCARE COMMISSION ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK 2007: 5 BOROUGH PARTNERSHIP NHS TRUST	

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community providing an update of progress made in the 5 Boroughs' Self Assessment against The Standards for Better Health during the period April 2006 to March 2007.

Information was provided about the self-assessment against the standards, which had been nominated by the Board in February 2007. In addition, Ms. Hooton - Assistant Director for Clinical Governance attended the meeting to give a presentation and to respond to the Board's questions on this issue.

Ms. Hooton confirmed that the 5 Boroughs Partnership could evidence that it was compliant with each of the Standards highlighted by the Board. However, it was anticipated that it would be weak in one area with regards to record keeping. This was largely due to there being several electronic systems, some of which were not compatible.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HEA46 UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 'CHANGE FOR THE BETTER' IN HALTON

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community providing an update on the implementation of 'Change for the Better' in Halton.

It was noted that, at the previous meeting of the Board on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2006, it was concluded that the proposals regarding the modernisation and redesign of Mental Health Services for Adults for people in Halton, Knowsley, St. Helens and Warrington was a substantial variation in the provision of mental health services and, as such, subject to joint scrutiny by Halton, Warrington and St. Helens Borough Councils. Consequently, a number of joint meetings had taken place between July and November 2006 with a final meeting scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007. An appendix to the report gave an update on the successes and achievements to date and Mr. Ray Walker attended the meeting to give a presentation on the items listed in the appendix.

The Board considered the following issues:

- builders were on site at the Brooker Centre – they were expected off-site at the end of the month at which time there would be two single sex wards;
- day hospital closures had been part of the original consultation - it was intended that more appropriate



- care be provided in appropriate settings;
- people aged over 65 who required care would receive this on single sex wards;
- older and younger people had been located together in some wards and no problems had been experienced with this to date;
- services were now open to people irrespective of age; for example, “Crisis Resolution”;
- a joint working group was looking at the provision of medication by GPs - this was expected to be in place within the next three to six months with GPs managing 8 – 10 patients each;
- the majority of people would be treated within the Borough; however, some services were so specialist that patients would have to travel elsewhere, for example people who had offended and required a medium secure unit would need to be located at St Helens as this was the nearest facility;
- staffing had been enhanced to allow training and practice to take place in a structured way;
- there had been a change in respect of psychologists so that there was a change of focus in line with national evidence;
- there were two types of eating disorders – one was managed at GP level and the other, when at specialist level, outside of the Borough;
- evidence around psychosis showed that early intervention meant a better outcome in the long term;
- work would be taking place to improve the Crisis Intervention Home Service to avoid having to admit patients to hospital; however, if it was felt that non-admittance was not safe, the patient would be admitted and the team would then work with that person with the aim of discharging them.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Walker for attending the meeting and outlined her concerns about the pace of change in respect of the provision of medication, which was considered to be too fast. Mr. Walker confirmed that he would ensure that this point was addressed in detail in the report.

RESOLVED: That the update be received.

HEA47 THE HEALTHCARE COMMISSION ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK 2007: NORTH CHESHIRE HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

The Board received a report from Ms. Liz Craig, Director of Governance at North Cheshire NHS Trust,

providing information about the Trust's position at the end of 2006/07 in relation to the Health Care Commission Annual Health Check.

Attached to the report was the Annual Health Check Declaration 2006/07 including an overview of the self assessment process requested by the Health Care Commission and those standards to be included within this year's assessment in order for the Health Care Commission to define its final rating for the Trust. The report focused on areas of partnership working across the health economy and those criteria identified as relevant to the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board so that the Board could comment on the Trust's performance against the standards should it wish to do so.

Ms. Catherine Beardsall, Chief Executive of the Trust, attended the meeting to provide an overview of these standards and results together with Ms. Liz Craig - Director of Governance, Jane Downey - Head of Risk Management, and Anna Alexander - Deputy Director of Nursing

The Board considered the following issues:

- the Trust was in a situation of financial turnaround to establish a system by which it could sustain services into the future - over the next 14 months, savings of £18m had to be achieved;
- there was non-compliance with the MRSA and decontamination targets;
- processes had been examined to maximise capacity as part of the financial recovery plan;
- bad behaviour to staff was on a downward trend - the Trust had a pro-active security team and offered conflict resolution training to all front line staff;
- the number waiting four hours or longer for beds had reduced, with only 20 patients waiting longer than the 4 hour period in February;
- there had been publicity about consultants refusing to transfer to Halton. Ms Beardsall confirmed that consultants had been cautious about what work could be transferred; however, good progress had been made with 16% transferring successfully, demonstrating to those who were nervous that this could work. It was intended that the transfer be completed by June with 25% of activity taking place at Warrington and 75% at Halton: the number of beds at Warrington's site would be reduced so the default had to be at Halton; and
- the hours of opening would be the same.

In addition, the Board considered the non-compliance of the MRSA and decontamination targets in detail and noted the following:

#### Decontamination

- the hospital did not comply with regulations coming into force this year with respect to decontamination as the hospital did not have a wall between clean and dirty instruments – this was not unusual and, had the licence not been up for renewal, the Trust would have met the standard until arrangements were in place to comply with the new regulations;
- the licence was time limited and up for renewal intermittently – this was outside the Trust's control;
- following a national initiative, the Trust had been working with a Consortium to provide a new building off-site at Trafford Park – once this was ready, full compliance could be declared;
- this had been a lengthy process due to the necessary steps that had had to be taken including setting up the Consortium, the tendering procedure and carrying out the building work.

#### MRSA

- information was provided in respect of MRSA and how it was carried and contracted;
- the Trust advised that it was working hard to reduce the figures in this respect but had been unsuccessful so far with 33 incidents to date this year;
- 9 of the 33 cases had been community acquired, which meant that the patients had come into hospital with MRSA – unfortunately, this still counted against the target;
- all the action plan objectives had been achieved apart from one, which was to screen patients before they came into hospital - it was intended that elective surgery be targeted for this as it was a high-risk group: thought was also being given to checking those people who had vascular surgery;
- screening was costly and the Trust was liaising with its colleagues in the PCTs to try and arrange for the Trust to do the screening side with the GPs carrying out the necessary treatment; however, this would not stop all of the cases and, even those hospitals that screened all patients still had incidents of MRSA;
- a 'root cause analysis' was being carried out on every patient who contracted MRSA to see if the reason

- why they had contracted it could be pinpointed;
- visitor guidelines were also in place;
- a Patient Environmental Action Team Inspection had been carried out regarding cleanliness, which had classified Halton as 'excellent' and Warrington as 'very good';
- the cleaners were the hospital's own staff;
- the same regimes were operated in both Warrington and Halton and all staff were trained by the same infection control team;
- the Trust would be working closely with the Health and Safety Executive over the next twelve months in accordance with the Action Plan.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Beardsall and her colleagues for attending the meeting and invited them to return in the near future.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

*(NB Councillor Lloyd-Jones declared a personal interest in the following item of business as her husband was a non-executive director of Halton and St Helens' Primary Care Trust.)*

HEA48 THE HEALTHCARE COMMISSION ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK 2007: HALTON AND ST. HELENS PRIMARY CARE TRUST (PCT)

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community regarding progress made in the Halton and St. Helens Primary Care Trust's self assessment against the 'Standards for Better Health' during the period April 2006 – March 2007.

It was noted that the PCT was aspiring to make a declaration of compliance against all of the core standards but had a responsibility to invite third parties to comment on performance. A timetable for receipt of comments had to be agreed and it was requested that this be 13<sup>th</sup> April in order that a full declaration could be made to the PCT's Board on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

It was noted that there had been some confusion with regards to the information presented and the Board considered holding a special meeting in order that more information could be provided.

RESOLVED: That a special meeting be held in order that the Board may comment on the submission of the Annual Health Check Declaration to the Halton and St.

Helens Primary Care Trust Board if considered appropriate.

HEA49 STANDING ORDER 51

The Board was reminded that Standing Order 51 of the Council's Constitution stated that meetings should not continue beyond 9.00 pm.

RESOLVED: That Standing Order 51 be waived.

HEA50 TRAVEL POLICY AND PROCEDURE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director - Health and Community outlining a draft Travel Policy and Procedure for the Health and Community Directorate.

It was noted that the Policy and Procedure had been developed to:

- promote a range of travel options available to adults over the age of 18 who accessed social care services;
- promote the independence of people by encouraging and supporting independent travel;
- provide clear guidelines to staff and managers on the provision of transport; and
- provide clear guidelines to staff and managers regarding the production of charges associated with the provision of transport.

The Board was advised that the Policy and Procedures supported, and had been developed in line with, the draft Transport Service Level Agreement between the Health and Community Directorate and the Environment Directorate. Consultation on the policy had been undertaken with operational staff, and service users and carers were to be consulted during February as part of a wider exercise being undertaken on proposed revisions to Social Care charges. It was therefore anticipated that the charge to service users would come into effect on the first working Monday in April in line with other revised Social Care charges.

The Board considered the implications and noted that there was a maximum charge of £2.00 per day and £8.00 per week. In addition, officers were complimented on the travel training that was provided at Riverside College: this training was provided for as long as was necessary, which varied from service user to service user.

RESOLVED: That the draft Travel Policy and Procedure be noted and welcomed.

HEA51 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORTS FOR THE 3RD QUARTER (2006/07)

The Board considered a report regarding the third quarter monitoring reports for the services within the remit of the Board as follows:

- Older People's and Physical and Sensory Impairment Services;
- Adults of Working Age; and
- Health and Partnerships.

A number of performance considerations were outlined for Members' assistance and the Board considered the following issues:

- An emergency duty team would start with St. Helens in six months' time. In the meantime, Cheshire would continue to provide Halton with a service. It was suggested that a further report be presented to the Board on this issue 12 months after the new team had started to see if there had been a benefit.
- A working group of Health and Social Care had been established to pilot people having access to individualised budgets. This would be a challenge and rested on a market being there. It was confirmed that a presentation could be provided for the Board at a future meeting.

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

*Meeting ended at 9.25 p.m.*

**HEALTHY HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 3 April 2007 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors E. Cargill (Chairman), Loftus (Vice-Chairman), Blackmore, Horabin, Swift and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Hodgkinson, D Inch, Howard, Lloyd Jones and Gerrard (in accordance with Standing Order No. 33)

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor Jones

Officers present: A. Villiers, A. Williamson and C. Halpin

Also in attendance: Mr C. Powner and Mrs K. Heeley, Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust, and 1 member of the public

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

HEA51 THE HEALTHCARE COMMISSION ANNUAL HEALTH CHECK 2007: HALTON AND ST HELENS PRIMARY CARE TRUST

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The Board received a presentation from Mr C Powner of Halton and St Helens Primary Care Trust (PCT) on the Annual Health Check results for 2006/07. The presentation set out:

- the background of the PCT and its mission statement;
- the PCT's main providers;
- the private practices involved with the PCT i.e. GP practices, Dentists, Phamacies etc;
- the standards which the PCT were tested against and the conclusions of this testing, namely that due to the reasons set out below the PCT was expected to declare compliance with each standard:
  - C14 – Complaints: robust complaints procedure in line with regulations and comprehensive staff training programme
  - C16 – Patient Information: patient information leaflets produced in line with guidance, PCT

Annual Report highlights the range of services and information leaflets are available in a range of formats

- C17 – Patient and Public Involvement: robust Patients and Public Involvement (PPI) strategy, processes for consulting with patients and public and patients are well represented on PPI Forum/LITs
- C18 – Access to Services: published race equality scheme, PCT premises are DDA compliant and Choose & Book awareness raising publicity campaign
- C22 a & c – Partnership Working: robust plans to promote, protect and demonstrably improve health, Local Area Agreements on health and well being include shared outcomes and implementation of Choosing Health has been jointly planned and wide range of programmes to cover health protection
- C22b - Director of Public Health Annual Report: recommendations in the DPH's annual report, services for alcohol, obesity, sexual health and smoking and implementation of numerous interventions.

The Board raised a number of issues in relation to the presentation, as detailed below:

- how the budgets for each consortium would be set, prioritised, monitored and reviewed;
- whether the priorities would be national or local in relation to each consortium;
- whether the change to practice based commissioning would create additional jobs and if so how these would be funded;
- heating problems with the new Health Care Resource Centre in Widnes;
- how Halton and St Helens PCT was linking with the North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust, as this was particularly relevant to Halton; and
- whether there were any plans to set up walk-in centres in Halton.

In response the representatives present from Halton and St Helens PCT, Mr C. Powner and Mrs K. Harrison, gave the following answers:

- budgets were set based on historical spend and a mix of weighted capitation; each practice had own governance arrangements and business plan which



- linked back to the PCT;
- priorities would be set based on both national and local priorities and would be agreed with the PCT;
- each consortium was being provided with a business manager by the PCT, however these posts had been transferred directly from the PCT so incurred no additional funding and would not effect front line funding;
- the issues reported in relation to the Health Care Resource Centre would be reported back;
- new contracting arrangements meant that one PCT acted as the lead in negotiations with North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust, this was Warrington PCT at present. This meant that Halton and St Helens PCT was an associate PCT; however, it was noted that it was still a significant partner providing 30% of the hospital trust's income and, as such, it did still have opportunity to input into any negotiations.

In addition it was noted that a roadshow had been developed in relation to Practice Based Commissioning which Members may find useful if invited to a future meeting.

The Board thanked the PCT representatives for an informative presentation.

The Board discussed two areas where it had worked with the PCT on the implementation of Choosing Health and on the development of the consultation protocol, along with individual members' experience of the availability of patient information within Halton. The Board agreed that there was sufficient evidence to enable a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Commentary to be made in relation to two of the standards; C16 – Patient Information and C22 a & c – Partnership Working.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the content of the report be noted;
- (2) a 3<sup>rd</sup> party commentary on the performance of the PCT, in relation to Standards C16 and C22 a & c, to accompany the Annual Health Check declaration, be submitted by the deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007; and
- (3) authority be delegated to the Operational Director - Adults of Working Age, in consultation with the Chairman, to agree the final wording of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Commentary.

Strategic Director  
- Health and  
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*Meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.*

**SAFER HALTON POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 20 March 2007 at the River Suite, Halton Stadium*

Present: Councillors Osborne (Chairman), Stockton (Vice-Chairman), Edge, Morley, E Ratcliffe, Rowan, Swift, Thompson and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Lloyd Jones and Redhead

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: S. Clarke, H. Cockcroft, J. Downes, M. Simpson, J. Unsworth, A. Villiers, P. Watts and A. West

Also in attendance: (none)

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

*Action*

SAF41 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SAF42 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was noted that no public questions had been received.

SAF43 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

The Board considered the Minutes of the Executive Board and the Executive Sub-Committee relating to the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.

(NB Councillor Osborne declared a personal interest in the following item of business due to being a board member of Halton Housing Trust.)

SAF44 ALLEY GATES AND GATING ORDER

The Board heard how this report would be presented to both Safer Halton and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Boards in order to advise of the new powers that were available to the Council to make Gating Orders and the proposed policy to be adopted that would respond to all future requests for alley gates.

The report outlined that Section 2 of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 introduced a new power that would allow Councils to make, vary or revoke gating orders in respect of highways within their area. It was noted that this had been effected by inserting new sections 129A to 129G in the Highways Act 1980 that would enable Councils to restrict public access to any public highway by gating (at certain times of the day if applicable) without removing its underlying highway status.

Local authorities would now be able to make 'Gating Orders' on grounds of anti-social behaviour as well as crime.

Detailed within the report was the background to the legislation and the issues the legislation would require the Council to consider.

It was reported that there needed to be a balance of duties regarding crime and disorder and keeping the highways available. In addition, it was noted that this legislation would only refer to new schemes not previously on-going schemes.

Members discussed financial implications and concerns were raised with regards to the maintenance of alleygating. It was suggested that Housing Trusts and Housing Associations could be contacted in order to contribute in some way to the scheme. Members also suggested that there was a need to seek main stream funding for this from the Executive Board.

In addition Members felt that there was a need to look to the future provision of Area Forum funding as the current Neighbourhood Renewal Funding would be coming to an end, therefore there would be a need for a replacement stream of funding.

The Chairman reported that this would be Alan West's last meeting due to retirement and wished to record a vote of thanks for his contributions and commitment on behalf of the Board.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board be asked:

(1) to adopt a policy regarding all future proposed alleygates to be supported by a Gating Order made under the provisions of Section 129A of the Highways Act 1980;

(2) a recommendation be put forward to Executive Board in order to obtain main stream funding for the future of alleygating; and

(3) a paper be brought back to the next meeting to look at the long term implications of alleygating.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

SAF45 NEW GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE HALTON REGISTRATION SERVICE

It was reported that the Civil Registration Service was undergoing national modernisation therefore the Board considered a report which noted that the new governance arrangements would provide for a more flexible, less prescriptive scheme allowing local authorities greater discretion to deliver local services which would meet both national standards and local community needs.

The Board were informed that in order to seek approval for the scheme under the new arrangements, local authorities must agree to the terms of the Code of Practice attached to the new scheme, deliver local registration services which would meet at least the national standards set out in the Good Practice Guide, prepare an Annual Service Delivery Plan setting out the Local Authority's plans and targets for the year ahead, and have in place a reliable system for monitoring performance and annual reporting to the Registrar General.

Members were advised to read in detail the Code of Practice which was appended to the report.

It was felt that the new governance arrangements for the delivery of the Halton Registration Service would provide the Council with much more control and loosen the ties that the General Register Office set.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the report be noted;

(2) the Executive Board be requested to agree to the pursuance of the new governance arrangements for the delivery of Halton Registration Service, and in

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doing so to specifically agree to the Council's commitment to the Code of Practice that will form part of the new scheme; and

- (3) the Executive Board be requested to agree the Registration District Service Delivery and Improvement Plan.

SAF46 BRITISH REGISTER OF ACCREDITED MEMORIAL MASONS (BRAMM)

The Board received a report, which sought the pursuance by the Council of Burial Authority Registration with the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons, and for the requirement that only British Register of Memorial Masons (BRAMM) accredited Memorial Masons would operate in the Council's Cemeteries.

It was reported that the national problem of unsafe headstones in the country's cemeteries lead to the setting up of the BRAMM in 2004.

The primary aims of the BRAMM registration scheme were detailed within the report and that at present burial authority registration was free but would represent a clear demonstration that the authority would take its responsibility for the safety of memorials as seriously as the masons who register on the scheme.

In particular, the registration required the authority to meet obligations, which were outlined in the report. The Board were informed that this would be a way to guarantee the quality of workmanship of memorials, which would meet the national standards and would demonstrate that fitters were properly trained. Should masons be found to breach the rules BRAMM could take action.

Members were made aware that there would be a loss of income of £470 per year. However, when compared to the money spent on recent repairs to headstones, it would be more cost effective in the longer term.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the Executive Board be requested to agree to the Bereavement Services Manager submitting an application for Halton to be a registered burial authority with the British Register of Accredited

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Memorial Masons; and

- (3) the Executive Board be requested as to the rewording of Section 7.5 of the Cemeteries rules as detailed in paragraph 3.14 below, with the proviso that the amended wording comes into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007.

#### SAF47 DOMESTIC ABUSE

The Board was advised on the progress of the Domestic Abuse Forum. The report outlined recent successful events which had taken place – for example, a National Campaign, a multi agency risk assessment conference workshop, the prospect of a programme focussing on reducing the number of repeat victims who report incidents of domestic abuse on a regular basis and further implementation of the strategy which would involve more professions in the Borough.

The recent achievements attained and data, which was a completed record of Halton Police Statistics for the October – December 2006 targets set in the annual LPSA2 was detailed within the report.

It was reported that the Domestic Abuse Forum was largely funded by external grants, which may run out in 2008. Members felt that this was paramount to make a recommendation to Executive Board to seek future funding for the service.

Members held a wide ranging discussion regarding the huge success of the sanctuary scheme, the severe lack of police staff designated to cover domestic abuse, the 12% cut in funding the Domestic Abuse Forum had received and the loss of the Children and Young People's Contract which had to be added in to the remit of the Domestic Abuse Forum.

Members agreed that there was need to be a recommendation to Executive Board requesting funding and in addition a letter be drafted to the Constable of the Police requesting more staff be allocated to domestic abuse.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Board note the contents of the report; and
- (2) a recommendation be made to the Executive Board to seek future funding for the Domestic Abuse Forum; and

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(3) a letter be written to the Chief Constable of Cheshire Police requesting that more staff be allocated to Domestic Abuse.

SAF48 NOTES OF WORKING PARTY MEETINGS

Members were informed of topics and issues discussed at meetings of Working Parties set up by the Safer Halton Policy & Performance Board, details of which were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

SAF49 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate & Policy regarding the Third Quarter Monitoring Report for the Highways & Transportation, Environment and Regulatory Services, Health & Partnerships, and Cultural & Leisure Services. Detailed in the report was a briefing paper which highlighted aspects contained in the full version of the Monitoring Report which set out what the services had been planning to achieve and to demonstrate how they contributed to the Council's Strategic Priorities.

The Board raised concerns regarding the capital allocation for 2007/08 for Runcorn Library, in regard to the current situation. In response it was noted that there was a nominal sum of money which could be used should the Library be closed plus an extra sum of money for the possibility of a new HDL. The Council was currently looking at this being included in Urban Splash programme with a new option of a building adjacent to The Brindley.

RESOLVED: That the Policy and Performance Board

- (1) Scrutinise service performance and progress towards achieving objectives and targets and raise any questions or points for clarification in respect of the information contained in the quarterly monitoring reports;
- (2) Highlight areas of interest and/or concern that require further information or action to be reported at a future meeting of the Policy and Performance Board where appropriate.

*Meeting ended at 8.12 p.m.*



**URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board held on Wednesday, 21 March 2007 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Hignett (Chairman), E. Cargill, Morley, Nolan, Rowe, Sly, Thompson, Wallace and Whittaker

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Leadbetter and Worrall

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Sutton, G. Collins, M. Curtis, L. Derbyshire, D. Owen, A. Villiers, P. Watts, A. West and I Goodall

Also in attendance: (none)

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

URB42 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2007, having been printed and circulated were signed as a correct record.

URB43 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.

URB44 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

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

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

URB45 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORTS FOR THE 3RD QUARTER (2006/07)

The Board received a performance briefing paper which highlighted aspects contained in the full versions of

*Action*

the monitoring reports, which set out what the services had been planning to achieve and demonstrated how they contributed to the Council's strategic priorities.

A number of emerging issues and key developments that would impact upon the service or where any action was required to address performance were detailed within the report, for the following services:

***Environment Directorate***

1. Highways & Transportation
2. Environment & Regulatory Services
3. Economic Development
4. Major Projects

***Health & Community Directorate***

5. Culture & Leisure

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

URB46 WIDNES WATERFRONT EDZ PERFORMANCE PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which sought agreement of the Widnes Waterfront Economic Development Zone (EDZ) Northwest Development Agency (NWDA) Performance Plan for the financial year 2007/08.

In this respect, the Board received a presentation which:-

- (1) gave an update of all the key NWDA projects for 2007/08; and
- (2) outlined the current and future developments of the NWDA Projects.

It was noted that, at an appropriate stage within the development of Venture Fields, the Authority would advertise for a suitable developer in order to establish a quality hotel on the site.

RESOLVED: That the Widnes Waterfront NWDA Performance Plan for 2007/08 be approved.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

URB47 TOPIC BRIEF - BUSINESS PARKS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director

– Environment which reported on the programme of work that had been undertaken by the Business Parks Topic Group as part of the scrutiny programme. The report explored the options for sustaining and expanding the Council's business parks improvement programmes.

As this was the last meeting of the Board in the municipal year, the Chairman of the Board, Councillor Hignett, took the opportunity to thank Officers and Members for the work they had undertaken on the Topic Groups during the year.

In relation to the willingness of businesses to consider paying a 'Bid Levy' to sustain or implement a range of estate improvements, it was noted that Riverview Industrial Estate, because of the insufficient size of the site, was not able to progress the bid. However, it was anticipated that they could form part of the Widnes Waterfront bid.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) The proposal to progress the development of the Business Improvement Districts on Astmoor and Halebank Industrial Estate as set out in paragraphs 7.4 to 7.7 of the report be supported;
- (2) the proposal to expand the Business Parks Improvement Programme to cover the Widnes Waterfront and adjacent areas as set out in paragraph 8.4 of the report be supported;
- (3) the key recommendations of the Topic Team set out in paragraphs 7.4 to 7.7 in the report and paragraph 8.4 be forwarded for consideration and decision by the Executive Board at the next available meeting; and
- (4) the Executive Board be requested to formally feedback their comments, decisions and proposed actions to the next available meeting of the Board and informally give feedback to the Chairman of the Board as soon as is practicably possible.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

URB48 TOPIC BRIEF - RAISING ADDITIONAL REVENUE FROM EXISTING SERVICES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment which reported on the programme of work

that had been undertaken by the Raising Additional Revenue from Existing Services Topic Group as part of the scrutiny programme. The report detailed the ideas that had been reviewed, discussed and researched by the Topic Group and provided recommendations for further action.

Arising from the discussion, the value of selling Council Services, such as grass cutting and other Landscape Services was noted.

RESOLVED: That

(1) Council Officers further investigate the following revenue raising ideas that had been recommended by the Topic Group:-

- a) Sponsorship;
- b) Advertising;
- c) Franchising;
- d) Biomass; and
- e) Selling Services to other Authorities; and

(2) the conclusions of the investigation be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

#### URB49 TOPIC BRIEF - STREET LIGHTING

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment which reported on the programme of work that had been undertaken by the Street Lighting Topic Group as part of the scrutiny programme. The report gave feedback on the review and the results for the bids for Capital Funding of Street Lighting.

The Board was advised that the Topic Group had discussed various options for reducing the cost of street lighting whilst trying to maintain current high standards. Some of the discussions included the following:-

- The removal of high mast lighting on expressways;
- A trial of the dimming of street lighting;
- The change of switching levels for columns;
- Lights being switched off at midnight;
- The use of solar panels; and
- Decorative lighting.

The Board was further advised of a manufacturer of the technology to dim street lighting who were currently promoting a scheme whereby they would pay for the capital

costs of installing the equipment and this would be re-paid by advertising on the electronic panels on street signs.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the report be forwarded to the Executive Board for consideration and then subsequently be reported back to a future meeting of the Board;
- (3) in the specification for new installations there be a requirement for equipment that can be dimmed and for lower maintenance columns;
- (4) consideration be given to the main supply to street lighting being metered;
- (5) consideration be given to the scheme currently being promoted by a manufacturer to install the technology for dimmed street lighting at no capital cost to the Authority; and
- (6) the new developments in solar power and LED technology be monitored and implemented where appropriate.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

#### URB50 PETITIONS RELATING TO TRAFFIC CALMING ON DITCHFIELD ROAD AND HALTON VILLAGE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which outlined the petitions that had been received in relation to existing traffic calming on Ditchfield Road, Widnes and to proposed traffic calming on Norton Lane, Stockham Lane and Norton Village in Halton Village.

In respect of the petition relating to Ditchfield Road, Councillor Osborne, in his capacity as Ward Councillor spoke on behalf of the residents to support the retention of the existing traffic calming adjacent Trewan House Nursing Home, Ditchfield Road. He outlined the background to the petition and highlighted that the traffic calming had significantly improved the safety for residents in Ditchfield Road. There were no objectors to the petition present at the meeting.

Arising from the discussion, it was noted that such schemes had significantly reduced the number of road traffic accidents in the Borough. The role and composition of the

Highways Consultation Review Panel was also noted.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the following conclusions be supported:-
  - (i) that the existing traffic calming adjacent Trewan House Nursing Home (No. 335) Ditchfield Road, Widnes be retained and the situation monitored with the petitioners informed accordingly; and
  - (ii) that the Norton Village petition be considered as part of the Consultation Review panel evaluation of the proposed traffic calming scheme for the area.

*(Note: Councillor Sly declared a Personal Interest in the following item of business due to his business being based on the Daresbury site).*

#### URB51 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY REVIEW

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Environment which gave an overview and outlined the conclusions and recommendations outlined in a commercial property study which assessed the supply of and demand for employment land and premises (industrial, office and retail) in Halton.

The Board was advised that due to the timing of the study, it had not taken account of the requirements within the Mersey Gateway Project. However, the information would be updated at the appropriate time.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations set out in paragraph 3.20 of the report (a – j) be supported.

*(Note: Councillor Wallace declared a Personal Interest in the next item of business due to being a Board Member of Groundwork Mersey Valley),*

#### URB52 PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY MILESTONE STATEMENT PROGRESS REPORT 2007/8

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment which informed the Members of the progress that had been made in relation to the works detailed within

Strategic Director  
- Environment

the Council's Public Rights of Way Milestone Statement 2003.

The Board noted the proposed reduction in core funding for Groundwork Mersey Valley proposed for 2007/8 and the end of all core funding in 2009/10 and the significant impact it would have on the ability to address issues raised within the Milestone Statement.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### URB53 UPDATE ON TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ACT & UTILITIES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment which outlined the requirements of the Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA) and some of the responsibilities placed on the Authority.

The report outlined that the powers the Authority currently had to direct the work of 'undertakers' (which included the public utilities such as electricity, gas, telecommunications and water companies, or their contractors) under the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (NRSWA) and Highways Act 1980.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a representative from the undertakers, when appropriate, be invited to attend a future meeting of the Board.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

#### URB54 ALLEYGATES AND GATING ORDERS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment which advised of new powers available to the Council to make Gating Orders. The report also proposed a policy be adopted that would respond to all future requests for alley gates.

The Board was advised that as this was a cross cutting issue, the report had also been considered by the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board who had approved the recommendations and added a further proposal relating to the finance for maintenance of the schemes.

The Board noted that alley gating had been successful in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in the Borough. However, it was also noted that the Authority would have to

balance safety and highway issues when a proposed gating order affected a right of way of access for the general public rather than residents' rear access to a limited number of properties.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposals for the adoption of a policy requiring all future proposed alley-gates to be supported by a Gating Order be supported; and
- (2) the Executive Board be requested to adopt a policy requiring all future proposed alley-gates to be supported by a Gating Order made under the provisions of Section 129A of the Highways Act 1980.

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- Environment

#### URB55 AUTUMN LEAF SWEEPING REPORT 2006

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment which informed the Members of the way in which the Autumn Leaf Sweeping had been carried out on adopted footpaths and other amenity areas during the last leaf fall period of 2006. The report did not include the leaf sweeping activities along the public highway as this activity had been carried out in close partnership with Landscape Services by the Waste Management Division.

The Board was advised of the data that had been provided to show how a co-ordinated approach with some additional resources from within the Landscape Services Division had brought about a more effective clear up of leaves and had led to a drop in calls from members of the public.

The Board was further advised that there had been a 42% reduction in the number of complaints received and an update report would be presented to the Board on an annual basis.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

#### URB56 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT



The Chairman, Councillor Hignett reported that Alan West was attending his last meeting of the Board prior to taking retirement. The Chairman took the opportunity to place on record the Board's appreciation of the work undertaken by Mr West during his time with the Authority.

RESOLVED: That the Board place on record its thanks to Mr West and to extend its best wishes to him in the future.

*Meeting ended at 8.20 p.m.*

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**CORPORATE SERVICES POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 27 February 2007 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chairman), Lowe (Vice-Chairman), Bradshaw, Blackmore, Dennett, Edge, C Inch, Loftus, Nolan, Norddahl and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, I. Leivesley, R. Mackenzie, J. Tradewell, A. Villiers and S McEneaney

Also in attendance: (none)

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

	<i>Action</i>
CS35 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2007, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.</p>	
CS36 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was noted that no public questions were received.</p>	
CS37 MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE BOARD	
<p>The Minutes of the Executive Board and the Executive Board Sub-Committee relating to the work of the Corporate Services Policy and Performance Board since its last meeting were submitted for information.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.</p>	
CS38 REVIEW OF AREA FORUMS - WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORT	
<p>The Board received an update report on the work of the Area Forum Topic Group which had been gathering</p>	

information in relation to its review of Area Forums. A final meeting of the Group would be held shortly and the findings submitted to the Board for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

#### CS39 2007/08 WORK PROGRAMME

The Board considered a report which outlined the draft work programme for the coming year. It was agreed that the following topics would be included in the Board's work programme for 2007/08 with draft membership as detailed:

Topic	Lead Officer	Lead Member	Membership
Learning from Complaints	R. Mackenzie	Councillor Lowe	Councillors Norddahl, Bradshaw, Wainwright, Edge, Gilligan
Development of Web Based Service Delivery	S. Riley/R. Dart	Councillor Blackmore	Councillors Wainwright, Gilligan
Disabled access to Council Buildings and Services	J. Goacher	Councillor Loftus	Councillors Wainwright and Gilligan
Performance Management	R Mackenzie	Councillor C.Inch	Councillors Wainwright, Gilligan, Nolan, Blackmore, Dennett

RESOLVED: That the draft work programme be approved for further development.

#### CS40 COUNCIL-WIDE TRAINING PROVISION

At a previous meeting of the Board training provision across the Council was examined. However, with the exception of Corporate Training, the Board were not

provided with any details as to the budget for training provision across the Authority.

The Board considered a report which set out the cost of training within the Authority and examined whether there was scope for improving co-ordination and reducing duplication in training provision.

The report suggested that the Board ask the additional further questions of the responsible officers in each area:

- What posts are involved in organising/providing training activity within your Directorate?
- What are the grades/salary costs of each post involved?
- What proportion of each of the posts identified is attributable to organising or providing training?
- Where are each of the officers identified as organising or providing training based?

The Board discussed the administration of training across the three directorates, Corporate and Policy, Children and Young People and Health and Community; and requested further information on the following:

- (i) the administration costs of providing training separately across three directorates;
- (ii) the implications/benefits of bringing these services together;
- (iii) the implications at the end of the National Training Strategy Grant on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008; and
- (iv) are all external bodies charged to use the training facilities.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the additional further questions as outlined above be asked of the responsible officers in each area and a report brought back to the next meeting of the Board; and

(2) further information on the following be provided to the Board:

- (i) the administration costs of providing training separately across three directorates;
- (ii) the implications/benefits of bringing these services together;
- (iii) the implications at the end of the National Training Strategy Grant on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008; and

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- (iv) are all external bodies charged to use the training facilities.

CS41 PERFORMANCE REPORTS – THIRD QUARTER 2006/07

The Board considered a report which outlined the progress of the Performance Management Third Quarter against the service plan objectives, the performance targets, performance trends/comparison and factors affecting the service etc., for the following areas:-

- Exchequer and Customer Services;
- Financial Services;
- ICT Services;
- Legal Services;
- Personnel Services;
- Policy and Performance;
- Property Services; and
- Stadium and Hospitality.

The Board received a presentation from the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy which outlined the types of properties owned, leased or occupied by the Council, how they meet the needs of the Authority and address the Council objectives, and how the Authority makes the most of its assets and ensures their future viability. Members also noted the process for the monitoring and assessment of Council properties and the role, future objectives and benefit of the Accommodation Strategy.

Arising from the discussion Members requested:

- a breakdown of buildings leased to voluntary organisations including the location, type of organisation and rent charged;
- regular reports on the progress of the Accommodation Strategy;
- a further report be presented on the industrial units owned by the Council including information on capital received, those vacant and feedback from potential leaseholders; and
- congratulations be forwarded to the Trent implementation team for the recent successful changes to the payroll system.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Third Quarter Performance Management Report be received;
- (2) a breakdown of buildings leased to voluntary organisations, including the location, type of organisation and rent charged be provided;
- (3) regular reports on the progress of the Accommodation Strategy be submitted; and
- (4) a further report be presented on the industrial units owned by the Council including information on capital received, those vacant and feedback from potential leaseholders.

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**NB. At the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman thanked John Tradewell (Council Solicitor) for his contribution to the Board and wished him well for the future.**

*Meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.*

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**BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD**

*At a meeting of the Business Efficiency Board held on Wednesday, 28 February 2007 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Cole (Chairman), Lloyd Jones (Vice-Chairman), Dennett, Hignett, C Inch, Lowe, Osborne, Philbin and Rowe

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bradshaw and Findon

Absence declared on Council business:(none)

Officers present: I. Leivesley, C. Halpin and M. Murphy

Also in attendance: (none)

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

	<i>Action</i>
BEB26 MINUTES	
<p>The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007, having been printed and circulated, were signed as a correct record with one amendment to the attendance list to include Councillor Dennett's apologies on Council Business.</p>	
BEB27 COMPREHENSIVE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT (CPA) AND DIRECTION OF TRAVEL 2007	
<p>The Council had recently received confirmation of its star rating and "direction of travel" awarded by the Audit Commission. The Council had been assessed as being a '4 Star authority: Improving Well'. Copies of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) scorecard for 2006 were circulated to the Board, for information.</p> <p>The Board was also advised that the Corporate Assessment: The Harder Test would take place during the end of March and beginning of April 2008 and that a Joint Area Review (JAR) of Children and Young People's Services was also scheduled to take place in 2008.</p> <p>The Board congratulated Culture Services for moving from a 2 star service to a 4 star service, which was particularly impressive as the national trend in culture</p>	

services was downward with only two or three other authorities seeing any improvement.

The Board expressed an interest in looking at 3 star services in more detail and in this respect it was agreed that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) a further report on 3 star services be submitted to a future meeting of the Board.

Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

BEB28 EFFICIENCY WORKSTREAMS

The Board had considered the draft Efficiency Strategy at its last meeting and had made specific comments about its style, but more particularly asked that greater emphasis be placed on service quality. The next step to take the strategy forward was the identification of work streams aimed at realising both cashable and non-cashable efficiency savings.

Following discussions at the last meeting along with issues raised previously through the Budget Review Working Party, a number of activities had emerged to form a workstream programme. Some of the activities had already commenced and reports had been made to the Board; however, some would still need to be initiated and all would need to be reported back to the Board on progress.

The report gave details of each workstream and its current status. It was suggested that officers be asked to investigate ways in which these activities could be resourced and it was also suggested that quarterly progress reports be submitted against each of the workstreams, once initiated.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the work streams be approved and be developed into a formal programme; and
- (2) officers investigate how the programme be reviewed.

Strategic Director  
- Corporate and  
Policy

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

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs 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 is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

BEB30 2006/07 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN – QUARTER 3  
PROGRESS REPORT

The Board received a progress report against the 2006/7 Internal Audit Plan which gave a summary of the audits completed in the third quarter September – December 2006 and which gave details of other initiatives Internal Audit had been involved in during this period.

RESOLVED: That the Internal Audit Progress Report be accepted.

*Meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.*

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**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Monday, 12 February 2007 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chairman), Thompson (Vice-Chairman), Blackmore, Hignett, Morley, Leadbetter, Osborne, Polhill, Rowan, Sly and Whittaker

Apologies for Absence: Councillors (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: L Beard, L Bolton, G. Henry, A. Pannell, A. Plant, M. Simpson, J. Tully and P. Watts

Also in attendance: 3 officers from the Council and 1 member of public

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

*Action*

DEV52 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007 having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV53 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.

DEV54 - PLAN NO. 06/00883/FUL - PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF WINDMILL CENTRE TO PROVIDE RETAIL UNITS (CLASS A1) WITH MEZZANINE FLOORS AT THE WINDMILL CENTRE, LUGSDALE ROAD, WIDNES.

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

The Committee received a presentation from Mr Paul Swales of Stadium Developments Ltd, which informed the Committee that the current site would be demolished and the new development would be located on the site. This

would provide a modern shopping complex that would cater for the needs of the retailer.

It was noted that the development would be on two levels including the car park - with the lower level parking being underground with 24 hour security and CCTV in addition to lighting. The shop fronts would be glazed and separated with masonry. Two walkways to the town centre would also be provided. It was reported that Stadium Developments Ltd would manage the cleaning and landscaping of the site in addition to the security.

The Committee were advised of the schedule of contributions to the Section 106 Agreement being to the Fiddlers Ferry roundabout and Gerrard Street roundabout to enhance the public access and egress from the site and the provision of pedestrian walkways.

Members discussed various issues such as the creation of jobs, increase of traffic, the type of retailers the Borough could expect, waste management strategy, opening times and the prospect of fees for parking. It was advised that parking charges was an issue that needed to be debated and a separate meeting for the Chair, Vice Chair, Portfolio holder, Lead Officer and Mr Paul Swales would be arranged in the near future. It was requested that any comments from Members regarding this issue were to be forwarded to either the Operational Director Environmental and Regulatory Services or the Chairman.

The Chairman thanked Mr Paul Swales for an informative presentation.

RESOLVED: That

- A) The application is referred to the Secretary of State under the Town and Country Planning (Shopping Direction) (England and Wales) (No2) Direction 1993.
- B) Subject to satisfactory receipt of details showing the public realm details and the application not being 'called in' by the Secretary of State, authority be delegated to the Operational Director Environmental and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to approve the application subject to the following conditions and the entering into of a Section 106 agreement for contributions to the gyratory, public transport contribution in lieu of adequate number of car parking

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- Environment

spaces and public realm onto Widnes Road:

C) Conditions relating to the following:

1. Standard commencement condition
2. Submission of good quality materials (BE2)
3. Boundary treatment (BE2)
4. Landscaping both hard and soft, including tree planting (BE2)
5. Cycle parking (TP6)
6. Provision of Green Travel Plan (TP16)
7. Provision of Bin Storage/Waste (BE1)
8. Wheelwash during construction (BE1)
9. Construction and delivery hours (BE1)
10. Controlled pedestrian crossing (TP7)
11. Improvements to bus stops (TP2)
12. Reconstruction of Gerrard Street footway (TP7)
13. Provision of taxi layby (TP5)
14. Grampian style condition improvements of pedestrian crossing facilities at service entrance, Greenoaks way and Lugsdale Road (TP7)
15. Provision of public art (BE2)
16. Details of footway closures to frontage of site (TP7)
17. Details of lighting scheme (BE2)
18. Provision of recycling facilities (BE2)
19. Details of swept paths (BE2)
20. Parking management plan (TP12)
21. Disabled parking (BE1)
22. No outside storage (BE1)
23. Opening hours (BE1)
24. Delivery Hours (BE1)
25. Site investigation / remediation required to be carried out (PR14)

DEV55 - PLAN NO. 06/00936/FUL - PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY WAREHOUSE TO REPLACE EXISTING WITH INSTALLATION OF 2 NO. BOILERS AND 1 NO. OIL TANK AT SAFFIL LTD, TANHOUSE LANE, WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined

in the report together with background information in respect of the site.

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

1. Standard condition relating to timescale.
2. Details of materials.
3. Landscaping condition.
4. Remediation measures required following ground investigation survey.
5. Scheme for storage and handling of chemical storage.
6. Parking condition to ensure parking provided and maintained at all times.
7. Requirement of travel plan.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

DEV56 - PLAN NO. 06/00938/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF 99 DWELLINGS AND ASSOCIATED WORKS TO SITE H3 QUEENSBURY WAY, WIDNES.

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that four letters of representation had been received details of which were outlined in the report.

It was reported this application followed an earlier planning permission for residential development of 107 dwellings. The current application proposed to erect 99 dwellings and was suggested would make the properties more marketable. Separation between dwellings had also been increased to improve privacy distances.

The Committee raised concerns regarding the urgent need for the filter road into the estate. In reply it was noted that the Council's Highways department had assured the planning department that it would be completed by the end of 2007 as the contract was out to tender and would be determined in the near future.

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

1. Condition specifying amended plans (BE1)
2. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2)
3. Drainage condition, requiring the submission and approval of drainage details to include a surface

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- Environment



- water regulation system. (BE1)
4. Landscaping condition, requiring the submission of both hard and soft landscaping to include replacement tree planting. (BE2)
  5. Boundary treatments including any retaining walls to be submitted and approved in writing. (BE2)
  6. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing and used throughout construction. (BE1)
  7. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development. (BE1)
  8. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties/ commencement of use. (BE1)
  9. Submission and agreement of finished floor and site levels. (BE1)
  - 10.2 conditions relating to restriction of permitted development rights relating to garage conversions and frontage boundary fences etc. (BE1)
  11. Site investigation, including mitigation to be submitted and approved in writing. (PR14)
  12. Protection of drainage ditches during construction (BE1)
  13. Site investigation, including mitigation to be submitted and approved in writing and implemented. (PR14)

Additional conditions were reported as follows:-

14. Provision of adequate visibility splay for the parking at one plot; and
15. Restriction of permitted development rights on extensions and out buildings.

DEV57 MATTER RELATING TO ADJOINING AUTHORITY CONSULTATION

PLAN NO. 06/00929/ADJ – Adjoining Authority Consultation by St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council for a proposed strategic rail freight interchange on a site of 272 hectares at, and around the former Parkside Colliery, to provide:- up to 715,000 sq metres of rail served warehouse and distribution buildings, train assembly area, a container depot, a cargo exchange, multi modal secure access terminal, waste recycling centre, up to 18,600 sq m of Parkside Business Centre (B1 office space), up to 9,300 sq m Park Centre to include: - up to 4,300 sq m recreation and leisure space, up to 2,500 sq m (A1) retail space, up to 2,500 sq m of (A3, A4,A5) space for eating and drinking, Crèche, power generating facilities (including 1,850 sq m of ancillary buildings), a Countryside Park, new highway works including

a relocated M6 junction 22, public transport interchange, access, parking, servicing, infrastructure and landscaping, ground re-modelling, the re-location of Newton Park Farm Manor House Barn. The application is an outline application with all matters except for access reserved for future consideration to the land on both sides of M6 motorway between Winwick Road, West Coast Main Line Liverpool – Manchester railway line and Winwick Lane, including the former Parkside Colliery Winwick Road, Newton Le Willows.

The Committee was informed that this proposal was an adjoining authority consultation by St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council in respect of an outline application for a Strategic Rail Freight Interchange. The Committee was advised of a number of anomalies which were detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That St Helens MBC be advised that whilst no objection is raised to the principle of an intermodal facility at Parkside, it would ask that the anomalies identified within the submission be addressed and the points raised within this report be considered.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

DEV58 MATTER RELATING TO TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

The Committee considered an objection made to The Heath, Runcorn No.4, (T P O 107) Tree Preservation Order 2006.

Application No 06/00594/OUT was approved by this Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2006. The plans showed which trees would have to be felled and which trees should be retained and incorporated in to the development. A Tree Preservation Order was subsequently made under delegated powers on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006 so that the most significant of those trees shown for retention were now subject to statutory protection.

RESOLVED: That the order is confirmed without modification.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

DEV59 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

It was reported that an appeal had been received following the Council's refusal of the following application:-

06/00384/TEL      Application for prior approval for 12.5m high monopole accommodating 3 No. antennas, 1 No.300mm dish antenna

radio equipment housing and ancillary development at Grass verge off Tower Lane Runcorn Cheshire

It was noted that the following applications had been withdrawn:-

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 06/00730/FUL | Proposed four storey mixed use development including 2 No. ground floor business (Class B1) units, 16 No. 1 bed apartments, associated car parking and landscaping at Former Tabu Nightclub 4-8 Victoria Road Widnes Cheshire. |
| 06/00881/FUL | Proposed two storey extension to existing travelodge at Fiddlers Ferry Road Widnes Cheshire.   |
| 06/00897/COU | Proposed change of use from part residential and part retail (Water Garden Centre) to residential and alteration to/extension of Harefield Cottage Warrington Road Bold  |

*Meeting ended at 7.08 p.m.*

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**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Development Control Committee on Wednesday, 14 March 2007 at Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Nolan (Chairman), Thompson (Vice-Chairman), Blackmore, Hignett, Morley, Leadbetter, Osborne, Polhill, Rowan and Sly

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Whittaker

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: L. Beard, J. Farmer, A. Pannell, M. Simpson, J. Tully, R. Wakefield and P. Watts

Also in attendance: 15 Members of public and Mr MacBeth of Widnes Regeneration Ltd

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

	<i>Action</i>
DEV60 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2007, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
DEV61 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE	
<p>The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described.</p>	
DEV62 - PLAN NO. 06/00879/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION FOR DEMOLITION OF DWELLING/STABLES/OUTBUILDINGS, PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT (COMPRISING OF 17 NO. HOUSES) AND ASSOCIATED ACCESS TO THE LAND AT MANOR FARM, MANOR FARM ROAD, RUNCORN	
<p>The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that two letters of objection had</p>	

been received, details of which were outlined in the report.

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

Strategic Director  
- Environment

- A) The applicant entering into a legal agreement in relation to the payment of a commuted sum for the provision and improvement of off-site open space.
- B) Conditions relating to the following:
  - 1. Reserved matters condition, for the submission of and approval prior to the commencement of development.
  - 2. Time limit for the submission of reserved matters.
  - 3. Time limit for the commencement of development.
  - 4. Reserved matters to be submitted and carried out as approved.
  - 5. Condition specifying amended plans (BE1).
  - 6. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2).
  - 7. Landscaping condition, requiring the submission of both hard and soft landscaping (BE2).
  - 8. Boundary treatments to be submitted and approved in writing (BE2).
  - 9. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing and used (BE1).
  - 10. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1).
  - 11. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties/commencement of use (BE1).
  - 12. Submission and agreement of finished floor and site levels (BE1).
  - 13. Ground investigation, including mitigation to be submitted and approved in writing (PR14).
  - 14. Conditions relating to tree protection during construction including arboricultural method statement (BE1).
  - 15. Conditions relating to restriction of permitted development rights relating to garage conversions and frontage boundary treatments, extensions and outbuildings and rear boundary treatments including insertion of gates (BE1).
  - 16. Two conditions relating to drainage details (BE1).
  - 17. Conditions relating to submission, agreement and implementation of dedicated bat roost and carrying out development strictly in accordance with submitted bat mitigation report (GE21).
  - 18. Provision of appropriate refuse collection bins for

use by the occupiers (BE1).

- C) That if the legal agreement is not executed within a reasonable period of time authority be delegated to the Operational Director- Environmental and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman to refuse the application on the grounds that it fails to comply with UDP Policy S25 Planning Obligations.

DEV63 - PLAN NO. 06/00958/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION (WITH LANDSCAPING MATTERS RESERVED) FOR THE ERECTION OF 14 NO. APARTMENTS TO THE LAND AT ESSEX GARAGE 24 - 30 FARNWORTH STREET WIDNES

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that four objections had been received, details of which were detailed in the report. The Committee was advised of a further two objections that had been received relating to lack of open space in the area, impact from the parking to the rear of the site, the number of properties in the area that were vacant, and overlooking to the properties to the rear.

Mr Bridge addressed the Committee on behalf of the developer and spoke in favour of the application.

The Divisional Manager for Planning and Policy informed the Committee that, due to the lack of on-site amenity space and the proposed rear block, the proposal was considered to be an over development of the site that was out of character with the surrounding area.

RESOLVED: That the application be refused on the grounds that the proposal is contrary to Policy BE1, BE2, H2, the Council's Supplementary Planning Guidance on New Residential Development and PPS 3, in particular the lack of amenity space, poor layout and over development of the site that is out of character with the surrounding area that would adversely affect the amenity of the future residents of the site and neighbouring properties.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

DEV64 - PLAN NO. 06/00971/FUL - PROPOSED DEMOLITION AT CEASARS CLOSE AND CONSTRUCTION OF 50 NO. NEW TWO STOREY HOUSES AND THREE STOREY FLATS (SOME WITH MEZZANINES) FOR SALE AND RENT TO THE LAND AT CEASARS CLOSE CASTLEFIELDS, RUNCORN

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that two letters of objection had been received, details of which were outlined in the report.

It was reported that there was a requirement for the developer to apply for a closure order affecting the existing footpaths/highways within the site.

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

1. Condition specifying amended plans (BE1).
2. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2).
3. Landscaping condition, requiring the submission of both hard and soft landscaping to include replacement tree planting (BE2).
4. Boundary treatments including retaining walls to be submitted and approved in writing (BE2).
5. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing (BE1).
6. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1).
7. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties/commencement of use (BE1).
8. Two conditions relating to the agreement and implementation of bin stores cycle parking provision (TP6).
9. Submission and agreement of finished floor and site levels (BE1).
10. Two conditions relating to restriction of permitted development rights relating to extensions and outbuildings and boundary fences etc (BE1).
11. Site investigation, including mitigation to be submitted and approved in writing (PR14).
12. Four conditions relating to tree protection during construction (BE1).
13. Agreement of details and construction design of all retaining walls (BE1).
14. Provision of appropriate refuse collection bins for use by the occupiers (BE1).

and an additional condition as follows:-

15. Provision of an oil interceptor for all surface water drainage from car parking areas.

Strategic Director  
- Environment



DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF 43 NO. DWELLINGS TO THE LAND AT THE FORMER FIRE STATION, HEATH ROAD, RUNCORN

The Committee was informed that this item had been deferred and would be brought back to a future meeting.

DEV66 - PLAN NO. 07/00002/FUL - PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF HALTON BROOK NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE AND ERECTION OF 114 NO. NEW DWELLINGS WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AND PUBLIC OPEN SPACE TO THE LAND AT HALTON BROOK, RUNCORN

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. It was noted that eight letters of objection had been received, details of which were outlined in the report.

It was advised that a further letter of objection had been received relating to the loss of green space and the lack of need for housing. In addition one petition containing 85 signatures had also been received in respect of the application.

Mr Jinks addressed the Committee and spoke against the application and Mr Smith spoke in favour of the application.

It was reported that Members should be aware that there was a requirement for the developer to apply for a closure order effecting the existing footpaths/highways within the site.

The Committee was informed that the scheme would result in the redevelopment of a significant area of designated green space and there would be a loss of a number of mature trees from the area. It was considered that the wider benefits of the scheme would outweigh any harm resulting from the loss of green space and trees especially in the context of the wider regeneration proposals for the area.

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

- A) The applicant entering into a legal agreement in relation to the payment of a commuted sum for the provision and improvement of off-site open space.

Strategic Director  
- Environment

- B) Conditions relating to the following:
1. Condition specifying amended plans (BE1).
  2. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2).
  3. Drainage condition, requiring the submission and approval of drainage details (BE1).
  4. Boundary treatments including retaining walls to be submitted and approved in writing (BE2).
  5. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing (BE1).
  6. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1).
  7. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties/ commencement of use (BE1).
  8. Agreement and implementation of cycle parking provision (TP6).
  9. Submission and agreement of finished floor and site levels (BE1).
  10. Site investigation, including mitigation to be submitted and approved in writing (PR14).
  11. Four conditions relating to tree protection during construction (BE1).
  12. Prior to the commencement of development details of recycling facilities shall be submitted (BE1).
  13. Prior to the commencement, a noise survey shall be submitted with appropriate remediation measures (BE1).
  14. Prior to the commencement of development, shutter details shall be submitted and approved (BE16).
  15. Prior to the commencement of development, details of the play area, including structures and materials, shall be submitted (BE1).
  16. Provision of appropriate refuse collection bins for use by the occupiers (BE1).
- C) That if the legal agreement is not executed within a reasonable period of time authority be delegated to the Operational Director - Environmental and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Chairman or Vice Chairman, to refuse the application on the grounds that it fails to comply with UDP Policy S25 Planning Obligations.
- D) The following additional conditions be attached to any grant of planning permission:-

17. Lighting details to be provided prior to commencement (BE1).
18. Boundary treatment to be provided prior to commencement (BE1).
19. Prior to completion of the local centre, works to the local play facilities shall be provided and agreed in writing by the local planning authority (BE1).
20. Pedestrian dropped crossings shall have tactile paving installed prior to completion (BE1).
21. Permitted development rights for the conversion of the garages to be removed (BE1).
22. Prior to commencement of development, details of fencing to be provided along the boundary of the site with the Spur Road shall be provided and carried out prior to completion (BE1).
23. Prior to completion, a local traffic calming scheme shall be in place along Meadway.
24. Prior to commencement of development, details of the alterations to the junction of the Spur Road and Halton Brook Avenue be submitted and approved. The approved scheme shall be in place prior to commencement of site 1 & 2 (BE1).
25. Amended plans condition (BE1).
26. Two bus stops to be improved/or relocated to approved standard prior to occupation of development (TP1).
27. Landscaping to be carried out.
28. Details of bus swept path.

DEV67 - PLAN NO. 07/00003/FUL - PROPOSED SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION TO THE LAND AT 2 GARRIGILL CLOSE, WIDNES

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

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the condition relating to the following:-

1. Requiring material to match the existing property (H6).

DEV68 - PLAN NO 07/00005/COU - FULL APPLICATION FOR THE CONVERSION AND REFURBISHMENT OF LAWSON HOUSE INTO 20 NO. APARTMENTS, INCLUDING DEMOLITION OF NEWER EXTENSIONS AND ADDITIONS TO THE REAR TO THE LAND AT LAWSON HOUSE, MOUGHLAND LANE, RUNCORN

Strategic Director  
- Environment

The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. There had been two comments received from local residents, details of which were outlined in the report.

It was reported that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) had advised against the proposal and had been asked whether or not they wished for the application to be called in. The Committee was informed that the HSE did not wish for it to be called in: a consultant on risk had advised that the proposal did not conflict with Policy PR12 and it provided appropriate standard layout design.

RESOLVED: That the application be approved subject to the entering into of a Legal Agreement for off-site Open Space provision and the following conditions:-

1. Condition specifying amended plans (BE1 & BE2).
2. Entering into of a S.106 Legal Agreement for a financial contribution towards off-site open space (H3).
3. Site investigation (PR14).
4. Materials condition, requiring the submission and approval of the materials to be used (BE2).
5. 3 landscaping conditions, requiring the submission of both hard and soft landscaping to include replacement tree planting (BE2).
6. Boundary treatments including retaining walls to be submitted and approved in writing (BE22).
7. Wheel cleansing facilities to be submitted and approved in writing (BE1).
8. Construction and delivery hours to be adhered to throughout the course of the development (BE1).
9. Vehicle access, parking, servicing etc to be constructed prior to occupation of properties/commencement of use (BE1).
10. Maintenance of appropriate visibility splays at site entrance (BE1).
11. Two conditions relating to the agreement and implementation of bin stores cycle parking provision (TP6).
12. Five conditions relating to tree protection during construction (BE1).
13. Provision of appropriate refuse collection bins for use by the occupiers of the apartments (BE1).
14. No lighting to be installed on building without further approval (BE1).
15. No installation of satellite dishes without further approval (BE2).

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and the following additional conditions:-

16. Appropriate visibility splay.
17. Hard surfacing adjacent to the trees.
18. Additional tree protection in order to ensure special working methods are used to construct any hard surfacing within the designated root protection zones and strictly carried out in accordance with the arboriculture method statement.

*(NB: Councillor Polhill declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following item of business due to being a board member of Widnes Regeneration Limited and left the room during its consideration.)*

DEV69 - PLAN NO. 07/00011/OUT - OUTLINE APPLICATION (WITH ALL MATTERS RESERVED FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION) FOR LEISURE FACILITY CONSISTING OF CINEMA, TEN PIN BOWLING, BINGO HALL, CLIMBING CENTRE, ICE RINK AND ANCILLARY A1/A3 USES AT THE LAND ADJOINING EARLE ROAD AND ASHLEY WAY, WIDNES

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

Mr MacBeth addressed the Committee and displayed boards with the proposed layout and design of the application. It was noted that Members felt this was an excellent and much needed proposal.

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

1. Standard Outline Conditions and Reserved Matters.
2. Submission of good quality materials (BE2).
3. Boundary Treatment (BE2).
4. Landscaping both hard and soft landscaping (BE2).
5. Cycle parking (TP6).
6. Provision of Green Travel Plan (TP16).
7. Pedestrian and cyclists access (TP6).
8. Details of service roads (BE1).
9. Details of air conditioning, extraction flues (BE1).
10. Provision of Bin Storage/Waste (BE1).
11. Wheelwash during construction (BE1).
12. Construction and delivery hours (BE1).

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13. Provision of bus stops (TP1).
14. Provision of taxi lay-by (TP5).
15. Provision of public art (BE2).
16. Details of public realm area (BE2).
17. Details of lighting scheme (BE2).
18. Details of signage (BE2).
19. Provision of Recycling Facilities (BE2).
20. Details of swept paths (BE2).
21. Parking Management Plan (BE1).
22. Disabled parking (BE1).
23. No outside storage (BE1).
24. Opening hours (BE1).
25. Delivery hours (BE1).
26. Drainage (BE1).
27. Site Investigation report/remediation strategy (PR14).
28. Environment Agency conditions (BE1).
29. Use restrictions (BE1).
30. A1 & A3 uses ancillary to the development, and shall not be used until the development of the other facilities (BE1).

#### DEV70 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

It was reported that an appeal had been received following the Council's refusal of the following application:-

06/00794/COU      Proposed change of use from off licence (Class A1) to hot food takeaway (Class A5) at 10 Cronton Lane, Widnes.

The following applications had been withdrawn:-

06/00937/FUL      Proposed conversion of existing premises into 4 No. two bed apartments at St.Faith's Mission, Preston on the Hill, Preston Brook, Runcorn.

06/00964/FUL      Proposed single storey rear extension, loft conversion and replacement garage at 21 Malpas Road, Runcorn.

06/00970/FUL      Proposed conversion of existing stable building and erection of 7 No. new apartments to provide 7 No. accommodation units at 35 Irwell Lane, Runcorn.

07/00041/FUL      Proposed free standing conservatory to rear of Browside Farm, Moss Lane,

Moore.

A petition had been received regarding the following application: -

06/00939/COU	Proposed change of use of car wash into a takeaway (Class A5) at Halton Brow Service Station, Halton Brow, Runcorn.
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*Meeting ended at 7.07 p.m.*

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**REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Monday, 19 March 2007 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall*

Present: Councillors Philbin (Chairman), Pearsall (Vice-Chairman), Cole, Drakeley, Gilligan, D Inch, Lowe, Nelson and E Ratcliffe

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Cross and Wainwright

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: G. Ferguson, K. Cleary, J. Findlow, J. Tully and C. Cullen

Also in attendance: (none)

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

REG22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2007 having been printed and circulated were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

REG23 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE AGE POLICY REVIEW

At a previous meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2006, the Committee agreed that a review of the age policy on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles in the Borough be undertaken.

Subsequently, on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2006, Members of the Taxi Consultative Group were advised of the review and asked for their comments and the reasons for their comments in writing.

As a result, 5 responses were received from the trade which were collated together with other relevant information and proposals for the age limit and reported back to the meeting of the Taxi Consultative Group on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2007.

*Action*

At this meeting, the members of the group made comments both for and against the proposals and were requested to make recommendations/comments in writing to the Licensing Section, Legal Services by 16<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

RESOLVED: That the vehicle age policy outlined in appendix 1 be adopted as Council policy.

## APPENDIX 1

**Section 1.01 PROPOSED VEHICLE AGE POLICY**  
**Maximum age limit**

<b>Saloons estate and MSV's years (Status quo)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>MPV <u>FULLY</u> wheelchair compliant years</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Purpose built (definition to remain the same) years</b>	<b>16</b>

**Grandfather rights period – 2011**

**Grandfather rights will be given for those adversely affected by any policy change. The current proposals mean that only Hackney Carriage purpose built vehicles could theoretically be adversely affected. By 2011 all purpose built vehicles will be no older than 16 years**

**REASONS FOR HAVING AN AGE LIMIT**

- **Inevitable decline in mechanical standards including greater likelihood of breakdown.**
- **Inevitable decline in comfort (seats / interior looking tired)**
- **Image**
- **Perfectly lawful to have an age limit (Hyndburn)**
- **System currently works**
- **Implication for no age limit would be a massive increase in enforcement to police the vehicles.**
- **Provides an incentive to invest in more expensive fully wheelchair compatible vehicles whilst balancing this against total absence of an age limit which would result in more vehicles of a lesser standard.**
- **Saloon and Estate and MSV's are not included whatever the cost of those vehicles. They do not**

**contribute to increasing fully wheelchair  
accessible vehicles in the Borough.**

*Meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.*

**APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE**

*At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Thursday, 8 March 2007 at the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building*

Present: Councillors McDermott MBE (Chairman), Findon, Gilligan, Polhill, Redhead and Wharton

Apologies for Absence: (none)

Absence declared on Council business: (none)

Officers present: D. Parr, L. Cairns and I. Leivesley

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

APC18 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

APC19 EARLY RETIREMENT POLICY

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy outlining a revised Retirement Policy covering:

- Voluntary Early Retirement – in the Efficiency of the Service;
- Ill-Health Retirement; and
- Flexible Retirement.

It was noted that the Council was required to revise its retirement policy in the light of new age discrimination legislation and changes that had been made in the Pension Regulations. The revised draft policy essentially retained the key components of the existing scheme: no fundamental changes were proposed to the scheme at present, although adoption of the scheme did not prevent that from happening in future years.

*Action*

Members were advised that the Trade Unions had been consulted and supported this course of action. In addition, it was noted that there were no direct financial implications attached to the report. Any future decisions around individual officers' retirements would be brought to the Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution, at which time the relevant financial implications would be outlined for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That the draft Retirement Policy, attached as an appendix to the report, be formally adopted.

APC20 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 Committee 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 paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 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 outweighs the public interest 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 Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

APC21 RESTRUCTURING PROPOSALS

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy seeking approval to the early retirement of three postholders in the Corporate and Policy Directorate “in the efficiency of the service”.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Stephen Spencer be retired from the Authority “in the efficiency of the service” within the scheme for such retirements agreed by the Committee;
- (2) Harry Woodall be retired from the Authority “in the efficiency of the service” within the scheme for such retirements as agreed by the Committee;
- (3) Christine Kenny be retired from the Authority “in the efficiency of the service” within the scheme for such retirements as agreed by the Committee;
- (4) all three posts be deleted from the establishment; and
- (5) the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy be authorised to agree the final terms and dates of retirement in each case in consultation with the Executive Board Member for Corporate Services.

Strategic Director  
– Corporate and  
Policy

*Meeting ended at 3.44 p.m.*

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