



Minutes

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

Wednesday, 19 July 2023

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COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Friday, 19 May 2023 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Bramwell and Davidson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: M. Reaney, S. Wallace-Bonner, S. Young, K. Butler, G. Ferguson and W. Rourke

Also in attendance: 19 members of the public

Action

COU1 ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR

Moved by Councillor Polhill and seconded by Councillor Angela McInerney:-

RESOLVED: That Councillor Val Hill be elected Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

Moved by Councillor Tom McInerney and seconded by Councillor Paul Nolan:-

RESOLVED: That Councillor Kevan Wainwright be elected Deputy Mayor of the Borough for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR VAL HILL IN THE CHAIR

COU2 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 8 March 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

COU3 THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no Mayor's announcements.

COU4 LEADER'S REPORT

There was no Leader's report.

COU5 MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS 2023/24

Details of the Borough Council elections held on 4 May 2023 were submitted for information.

RESOLVED: That the election results be noted.

COU6 EXECUTIVE BOARD (SELECTION COMMITTEE) 16 MAY 2023

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

COU7 LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mike Wharton be appointed Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2023/24 and Councillor Dave Thompson be appointed Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

COU8 BOARDS, COMMITTEE AND PANELS

RESOLVED: That the Boards, Committees and Appeals Panel be constituted with the membership as shown for the Municipal Year 2023/24:-

Executive Board (10)

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

Health & Wellbeing Board

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

Corporate Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Gilligan (Chair), Philbin (Vice Chair), Bradshaw, Hutchinson, Leck, Logan, A. Lowe, A. McInerney, N. Plumpton Walsh, Thornton and Wainwright.

Health Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Dourley (Chair), Baker (Vice Chair), Begg, Davidson, Fry, Garner, Goodall, C. Loftus, L. Nolan, Stretch and Thornton.

Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors Woolfall (Chair), P. Lloyd Jones (Vice Chair), Abbott, Ball, Hutchinson, K. Loftus, L. Nolan, M. Ryan, Skinner, Stockton and Thornton.

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

Councillors Jones (Chair), Teeling (Vice Chair), Ball, Garner, S. Hill, Hutchinson, C. Plumpton Walsh, M. Ryan, Rowe, Stretch and Wall.

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

Councillors Logan (Chair), C. Plumpton Walsh (Vice Chair), Baker, Begg, Goodall, Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, McDermott, Rowe, Ryan and Skinner.

Safer Policy and Performance Board (11)

Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh (Chair), Carlin (Vice Chair) Baker, Bevan, Bramwell, Cargill, Goodall, A. Lowe, Ratcliffe, Skinner and Wallace.

Development Management Committee (11)

Councillors S. Hill (Chair), Leck (Vice Chair), Bevan, Carlin, Davidson, C. Loftus, Philbin, C. Plumpton Walsh, Polhill, Thompson, Woolfall.

Audit and Governance Board (11)

Councillors Polhill (Chair), Wall (Vice Chair), Abbott, Begg, Bevan, Bradshaw, Dourley, Gilligan, McDermott, N. Plumpton Walsh and Wallace.

Regulatory Committee (11)

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

Mayoral Committee (5)

Councillors Dennett, V. Hill, Gilligan, Philbin and Wright.

Appointments Committee (6)

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

Scrutiny Co-Ordinator

Councillor McDermott.

COU9 APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

RESOLVED: That Councillor Tony McDermott be appointed Scrutiny Co-ordinator for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

COU10 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTEE

RESOLVED: That Mr David Wilson be re-appointed as the non-voting Healthwatch Halton Co-optee to the Health Policy and Performance Board for the Municipal Year 2023/24.

COU11 APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE BODIES

The Council considered a report of the Chief Executive, regarding the appointment of Members to serve on various Outside Bodies. A document was tabled showing the recommendations put forward.

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

COU12 EXECUTIVE BOARD PORTFOLIOS

The Leader confirmed that the Executive Board would consist of the following Portfolio holders for the Municipal Year 2023/24:-

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

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

Corporate Services – Councillor Dennett

Children and Young People – Councillor T. McInerney

Adult Social Care – Councillor J. Lowe

Health and Wellbeing – Councillor Wright

Community Safety – Councillor M. Lloyd Jones

Environmental & Urban Renewal – Councillor Nelson

Employment, Learning & Skills and Community – Councillor P. Nolan

Climate Change – Councillor Harris

RESOLVED: That the Portfolios be noted.

COU13 UPDATES TO COUNCIL CONSTITUTION 2023 (MINUTE

EXB 107 REFERS)

Executive Board had considered a report of the Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services, which sought approval of a number of changes to the Council's Constitution.

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

Operational
Director, Legal
and Democratic
Services

COU14 CREATION OF CAFE FACILITY AT PICKERINGS PASTURE (EXB112 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director – Community and Greenspace, which sought approval of a revision to the Council's Capital Programme, to fund the construction of a café facility at Pickerings Pasture Local Nature Reserve.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the proposal to open a café facility at Pickerings Pasture Local Nature Reserve which would be operated as a franchise opportunity, as outlined within the report, be approved; and
- 2) £520,000 be included within the Council's Capital Programme to fund the construction of the café facility.

Operational
Director -
Community &
Green Space

COU15 CIVIC SUNDAY

The Mayor announced her intention to attend a Civic Service at St Basil and All Saints Church, Hough Green Road, Widnes on Sunday 25 June 2023 starting at 9.45am.

Meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 16 March 2023 in Boardroom -
Municipal Building, Widnes*

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Young, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, S. Wallace-Bonner and
A. Jones

Also in attendance: None

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

	<i>Action</i>
EXB86 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
LEADER'S PORTFOLIO	
EXB87 PENSIONS DISCRETIONS STATEMENT 2023/24	
<p>The Board received the annual Pensions Discretions Statement for 2023-24 for Halton Borough Council.</p>	
<p>The Council was required to publish a Pension Discretion Statement annually, to advise the discretions it intended to exercise under the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) – this was appended to the report.</p>	
<p>It was reported that the Pensions Discretion Statement for 2023-24 was based upon the statement for 2022-23, which was approved by Executive Board in February 2022. It was noted that no new discretions had been added.</p>	
<p>RESOLVED: That the Board approve the Pensions Discretions Statement for 2023-24.</p>	

EXB88 THE CORPORATE PLAN: INTERIM APPROACH AND THE WAY FORWARD

The Board considered a report which outlined the approach to producing an interim Corporate Plan for the Council. In order to progress the initial work, North West Employers had facilitated and supported a session with members of the Board and Management Team on 6 December 2022. Following the session, it was agreed that an interim Plan with a Statement of Intent would be in place by March 2024 and a Corporate Plan would be produced from April 2024. The report set out the key themes for Halton, timeline and engagement with the public (the 'Big Conversation').

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) agree on the interim approach outlined and the way forward culminating in a new Council Corporate Plan being launched on 1 April 2024;
- 2) the report be noted;
- 3) approves the Statement of Intent for publication on 1 April 2023; and
- 4) endorses the approach to facilitate the 'Big Conversation'.

Operational
Director Policy,
People,
Performance and
Efficiency

EXB89 DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

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

The report outlined details of the applications from Widnes Gymnastics Academy and Runcorn Amateur Boxing Club in respect of their premises and the potential annual cost to the Council of granting discretionary rate relief to each organisation.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the application for 15% discretionary rate relief from Widnes Gymnastics Academy with effect from 14 July 2022, be approved; and
- 2) the application for 90% discretionary rate relief from Runcorn Amateur Boxing Club with effect from 1 June

Operational
Director - Finance

2022, be approved.

EXB90 REVIEW OF COUNCIL WIDE FEES AND CHARGES

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the review of the Council wide fees and charges for 2023/24 for services provided by the Council's Directorates.

The Board was advised that, as part of the budget preparations for 2023/24, a review of fees and charges had been carried out. The aim in setting fees and charges was to ensure that the Council fully recovered the cost incurred in providing the service, although this was dependent on a number of factors outside of the agreed charge. These were detailed in the report and noted as including demand, which could change year on year and be affected by weather, economy, regional and national events and demographics; competition, where there may be a strong competitive market; and a statutory element, where some charges were outside the control of the Council and there was no discretion to what could be charged.

Attached at Appendix A was the proposed schedule of statutory fees for 2023/24 and the chargeable rates for The Brindley Theatre and the Registrar's Service were attached at Appendix B and C respectively, for 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That the proposed fees and charges for 2023/24 as set out in Appendix A attached to the report and for 2023/24 as set out in Appendices B and C attached to the report, be approved.

Operational
Director - Finance

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

EXB91 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL AND NHS CHESHIRE & MERSEYSIDE: JOINT WORKING AGREEMENT (BETTER CARE (POOLED) FUND)

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Adult Services, which presented for approval the Joint Working Agreement (JWA) between the Council and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (CM), which would take effect from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The Agreement would replace the current JWA which was due to expire on 31 March 2023, the draft Agreement was attached as Appendix 1.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the contents of the report and associated Appendix; and
- 2) approve the Agreement, with delegated authority to the Executive Director Adult Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, to finalise the new Joint Working Agreement.

Executive Director
of Adult Services

EXB92 HOMELESSNESS GRANT FUNDING ALLOCATION

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

Government confirmed the allocation of a key element of the overall investment in funding through the Homelessness Prevention Grant, which was available to local authorities in 2023-24 to support and deliver services to prevent and tackle homelessness. Members were advised that from this funding Halton had been allocated £369,085 for 2023/24. It was noted that the funding grant allocation would be ring fenced to ensure the Local Authority had the resources to take action to prevent homelessness and utilise the funding to continue to implement the Homelessness Reduction Act.

The proposals for the allocation of the Homelessness Prevention Grant were presented in Appendix 1, Repossession Notice Activity in Appendix 2 and the proposals for the allocation of the Rough Sleepers Initiative Grant were presented in Appendix 3.

RESOLVED: That Executive Board

- 1) note and consider the contents of this report; and
- 2) approve the recommendations for expenditure against the grants, as described in Appendices 1 and 3.

Executive Director
of Adult Services

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB93 NHS HEALTH CHECK PROGRAM

The Board considered a report of the Director of Public Health, which sought approval by virtue of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v), to waive part 3.1

and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders to renew current public health services provided by GP Practices, specifically the NHS Health Check Program (NHSHC), for a three year period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026, with the potential to be extended on an annual basis for a further two years until 31 March 2028.

The award of the contract via a waiver was sought on the following basis:

- The NHSHC is a clinical service that can only be delivered by organisations that satisfied the requisite clinical and regulatory requirement;
- Only General Practices holding a contract with the NHS for provision of healthcare were entitled to keep, maintain and access a registered patient list. Access to confidential patient data contained within this list, was essential to fulfil obligations to deliver the NHSHC program; and
- It would prevent disruption to the delivery of important and mandated services.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- 2) give approval to the recommendation that the contract with GP Practices be extended for a further three year period, with the potential for two one year extensions, without going through the Procurement process, in pursuance of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4(v) (non-emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000) seeking to waive part 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders.

Director of Public Health

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL & CLIMATE CHANGE PORTFOLIOS

EXB94 ZERO WASTE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Board received a report of the Operational Director – Community and Greenspace, which provided details on the progress in developing a Liverpool City Region Zero Waste Strategic Framework in co-ordination with partner Liverpool City Region (LCR) local authorities. The report sought approval to adopt the key principles set out in the LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework, to minimise waste related carbon emissions through actions to prevent, reduce, recycle and re-use waste. A copy of the

Strategic Framework document was attached as Appendix 1.

The Strategy would provide the strategic link between the partnership work being undertaken across the LCR to tackle waste and also the collective commitment to achieve the Halton’s net zero ambitions.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) approve the principles set out in the LCR Zero Waste 2040 Strategic Framework (attached as Appendix 1) to reduce waste related carbon emissions; and
- 2) approve continued partnership working with Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) and the other LCR local authorities to deliver action to meet our individual and collective climate targets and objectives.

Operational Director - Community & Green Space

EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING AND SKILLS AND COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO

EXB95 VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING – GRANT ALLOCATIONS 2023/24

The Board received a report of the Executive Director – Adult Services, which presented the Voluntary Sector Funding Grant allocations for 2023/24.

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

Following the panel's assessment, the recommendations for allocations were presented in paragraph 3.3, from an available budget of £226,640.

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

Executive Director of Adult Services

EXB96 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 Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

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

DEPUTY LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB97 FORMER BUS DEPOT MOOR LANE, WIDNES

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director - Economy, Enterprise and Property, which provided an update on the negotiations regarding the Moor Lane Bus depot. The report sought approval to declare the asset surplus to requirements and to place the building on the Council's disposal list.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board approves the placing of the asset on the Council's Asset Disposal register;
- 2) approval is given to the Operational Director - Economy, Enterprise and Property, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Deputy Leader – Major

Operational
Director -
Economy,
Enterprise &
Property

Projects, to place the property on the open market for sale; and

- 3) authorises the Operational Director - Economy, Enterprise and Property, to arrange for all required documentation for the transactions to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Deputy Leader – Major Projects.

EXB98 57-59 HIGH STREET, RUNCORN

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property, which sought approval for the construction of new assets and subsequent lease of 57-59 High Street, Runcorn. The site would be used for the new build of a youth centre on the plot of 57 High Street and the refurbishment/repurposing of 59 High Street as a winter garden as part of the youth centre. The plan also included an internet style cafe and a training kitchen with outside garden suitable for growing vegetables.

RESOLVED: That the Executive Board

- 1) approves the construction of new assets and subsequent lease of 57-59 on the terms reported in section 3.4; and
- 2) authorises the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property to arrange for all required documentation for the construction and lease to be completed to the satisfaction of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, Deputy Leader – Major Projects.

Operational
Director -
Economy,
Enterprise &
Property

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

EXB99 LILYCROSS CARE CENTRE - CARE BEDS

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Adult Services, which sought a waiver of Procurement Standing Orders for the granting of an extension to the current contract for the provision of 10 Transitional Beds (Residential and Nursing) at Lilycross Care Centre, Widnes by Catalyst Management Services for the period from 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the contents of the report; and
- 2) in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v), a waiver of Part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders be approved for the granting of an extension to the current contract with Catalyst Management Services, for the provision of Care Beds at Lilycross Care Centre for the period from 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023.

Executive Director
of Adult Services

EXB100 CARE PROVIDER CONTRACT UPLIFT 2023/24

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Adult Services, which advised on the outcome of the consultation with domiciliary care, direct payments, supported living and care home providers within Halton, in respect of the Care Provider Contract Uplift for 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Board note the contents of the report;
- 2) the Board considers the recommendations and risks; and
- 3) approval to be given to offer the recommended uplift to care providers for 2023/24.

Executive Director
of Adult Services

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB101 FOUNDRY LANE RESIDENTIAL

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director - Economy, Enterprise and Property, which provided an update on the Foundry Lane Residential Scheme and requested additional funding to meet the liabilities from the land transfer agreement and bridge the funding gap left by pre-Grant Funding Agreement expenditure.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Board recommends to Full Council that funding is sought for the additional costs to be funded through an amendment to the Capital Programme to ensure that the Foundry Lane Residential Scheme is delivered.

Operational
Director -
Economy,
Enterprise &
Property

EXB102 SCI-TECH DARESBUURY MASTERPLAN UPDATE

The Board received a report of the Operational Director - Economy, Enterprise and Property, which provided an update on the delivery of the Sci-Tech Daresbury Masterplan and land acquisition requirements.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services, is authorised to commission preparatory work and finalise discussions as detailed in Paragraphs 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.

Operational
Director, Legal
and Democratic
Services

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB103 CONTRACT FOR ADVOCACY SERVICE

The Board received a report of the Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services, which sought a request to waive Procurement Standing Orders to allow the renewal of a contract with 7 Harrington Street Chambers to provide advocacy and legal services on behalf of the Council, for a period of one year from 1 April 2023 with an option to renew for a further 2 years thereafter. The report set out the anticipated cost of the contract and the risk to the Council should the contract renewal not be agreed.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Board approve that the contract with 7 Harrington Street Chambers be renewed for twelve months, with an option to extend for a further 2 years, in pursuance of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (v) (non-emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000), to waive part 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders.

Operational
Director, Legal
and Democratic
Services

MINUTES ISSUED: 21 March 2023

CALL-IN: 28 March 2023 at 5.00 pm.

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 28 March 2023.

Meeting ended at 3.05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 20 April 2023 in the Boardroom -
Municipal Building, Widnes*

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, S. Young, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, G. Ferguson and
A. Lewis

Also in attendance: One member of the press

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

Action

EXB104 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2023,
were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

*N.B. Councillor M. Lloyd Jones declared an Other Registerable
Interest in the following item of business as her husband Councillor P.
Lloyd Jones is a trustee of Citizens Advice Bureau.*

EXB105 HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND NO.4 2023/24

The Board considered a report of the Operational
Director – Finance, which sought approval for a proposed
Scheme and Spending Plan, regarding how the Council's
grant allocation of £2.6m from the Government for the
2023/24 Household Support Fund might be utilised. The
grant allocation would provide continuation of the Household
Support Fund for a further twelve months from 1 April 2023
to 31 March 2024.

A Spending Plan had been prepared, as set out in the
Appendix, regarding how the grant funding might be utilised
via a combination of Council departments and the voluntary
sector, to deliver help and assistance to vulnerable

households over the twelve month period. The Plan would also provide a basis for monitoring spending against the grant, as required by the DWP and ensure that it was fully utilised in accordance with the grant guidance by 31 March 2024.

The Spending Plan must be submitted to the DWP by 17 May 2023. It was proposed that any subsequent revisions to the Plan would be approved by the Operational Director, Finance, in consultation with the Leader. Regular monitoring reports would be presented to the Corporate Policy and Performance Board.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Scheme and Spending Plan for the 2023/24 Housing Support Fund, as outlined in the report and appendix, be approved;
- 2) regular progress reports be presented to the Corporate Policy and Performance Board; and
- 3) any subsequent revisions to the Spending Plan be approved by the Operational Director, Finance in consultation with the Leader.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB106 DISCRETIONARY NON-DOMESTIC RATE RELIEF

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

The report outlined details of the application from SHAP Limited in respect of their premises and the potential annual cost to the Council of granting discretionary rate relief to the organisation.

RESOLVED: That the application for discretionary rate relief for SHAP Limited be approved at 15% with effect from 11 January 2023.

Operational
Director - Finance

EXB107 ANNUAL REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION 2023

The Board received a report of the Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services, which sought the approval of Council to a small number of changes to the Constitution.

The revised version of the Constitution picked up the

changes to the Council's working arrangements that had taken place during the year, as well as other changes which were intended to assist the Council to operate more effectively.

Members were referred to Appendix one where the proposed amendments were listed; these had been considered by the Chief Executive and the Leader, in accordance with Article 16.02.

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

Operational
Director, Legal
and Democratic
Services

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

N.B. Councillor M. Lloyd Jones declared an Other Registerable Interest in the following item of business as her husband Councillor P. Lloyd Jones is a trustee of Citizens Advice Bureau.

EXB108 SERVICES FOR EARLY HELP, EMPLOYMENT, DEBT AND BENEFITS ADVICE SERVICE: REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF STANDING ORDERS

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director, Children's Services, that requested a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (iv) of part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders was sought for the direct award to support the introduction of a contract with Halton Citizens Advice Bureau to deliver, on behalf of the Council, the provision of Early Help, Employment, Debt and Benefits Advice Service, for a period of two years from 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2025.

The value of the contract would be £200,000 for two years and would be supported by the Supporting Families and Family Hub programmes. It was noted that undertaking a tender process would delay the introduction of the specialist service provision and would reduce the impact on the most vulnerable children, young people and families. In addition, Citizens Advice Bureau was a well-established partner in Halton and had the skills and knowledge to provide this service.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the contents of the report; and
- 2) in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (iv), Executive Board approve a Waiver of Part

Executive Director
Children's
Services

3 of Procurement Standing Orders, for a direct award of a Contract for Early Help, Employment, Debt and Benefits Advice Service, to be delivered by Halton Citizens Advice Bureau for a period of two years from 1 June 2023 to 31 May 2025.

EXB109 HIGH NEEDS PROVISION CAPITAL ALLOCATION - PROPOSED EXPANSION OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY PROVISION - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director, Children's Services, which advised that in March 2022, the Council had received notification from the Department of Education that it would be allocated £3.3m in capital funding over a two year period to support the provision of new places and/or to expand existing provision for pupils and students with high needs. The report set out the progress to date and sought approval for the proposals made with regard to expanding the special educational needs and disability provision in Halton.

Reason(s) for Decision

The Council is required to demonstrate appropriate identification of need against spend from the High Needs Capital Allocation Grant. To deliver and implement the capital programmes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

It is intended that the first phase of additional provision could be offered from September 2023, the next phase from January 2024, and the remainder from September 2024.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Board approves in principle the proposals for the additional Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) provision and the issuing of statutory notices for those schools where applicable – detailed in Appendix A.

Executive Director
Children's
Services

EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING, SKILLS AND COMMUNITY PORTFOLIO

EXB110 CULTURAL STRATEGIC VISION

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Community and Greenspace, which sought approval for the adoption of the Cultural Strategic Vision, a copy of which was attached to the report as an appendix.

It was noted that Art Reach had been commissioned to write a Cultural Strategy in 2022. Consultation with various organisations and workshops took place prior to a draft strategy being submitted to the Council. Following the document being shared with the Cultivate Partnership, a Cultural Report and a Cultural Strategic Vision had been prepared, to which all Partners had signed up to. The Action Plan contained within the Cultural Report would be developed further in consultation with Cultural partners across Halton.

The Board was advised that a temporary externally funded Culture Officer post had been created, utilising UK Share Prosperity Funding. The Officer would be responsible for developing the Action Plan and would facilitate Culture in the Borough over the next two years.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) gives delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio for Employment, Learning, Skills and Community, to finalise of the Cultural Strategic Vision ready for adoption; and
- 2) approves the adoption of the Cultural Strategic Vision 'The Crucible of Culture – The Cultural Vision for Halton Borough'.

Operational Director -
Community &
Green Space

EXB111 BRINDLEY THEATRE EXTENSION

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Community and Greenspace, which provided an update on the progress of the Brindley Theatre Extension project. The Runcorn Old Town Investment Plan was previously reported to the Board on 14 April 2022 (EXB91).

Since that time, the Council had secured Town Deal Funding of £23.6m. The Brindley was one of 7 projects to improve Runcorn Old Town and had received £6,606,232.

The project was split into two phases, the Brindley Theatre Extension £5,608,613 and the development of the Brindley Green £997,618. The report highlighted the following:

- the Council's intention to procure a contractor via The Chest Procurement Portal. The current estimate remained within budget;
- the planning application for the project was submitted in August 2022. Following feedback from consultees, amended plans had been submitted in March 2023;
- in order to avoid the Brindley's peak period, construction work would commence on 8 January 2024, with a view to completing the works early December 2024;
- the plans to replace the existing Education room at the Brindley; and
- discussions were ongoing with Peel to make temporary alterations to the tow path to allow safe access to all customers during the works.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) approves the utilisation of £5,608,613 of the Town Deal funding for the Brindley Theatre Extension;
- 2) approves the tendering of project and gives delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Portfolio Holder for Employment, Learning, Skills and Community to take all reasonable steps to award the contract to the successful contractor; and
- 3) authorises the submission of external funding bids to support the delivery of the project, where necessary.

Operational
Director -
Community &
Green Space

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB112 CREATION OF CAFÉ FACILITY AT PICKERINGS PASTURE

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Community and Greenspace that sought approval to provide a café facility at Pickerings Pasture Local Nature Reserve (LNR) which would be operated as a franchise.

The cost of the café facility was estimated to be £520,000 and it was proposed that an application would be submitted to the INEOS Environment Fund for £87,500 for a period of seven years to cover the capital financing costs.

The franchise would be on a Full Repair and Insuring (FRI) lease to avoid the Council having any ongoing revenue liabilities in respect of the building. Once completed and opened the café would generate income for the Council from the franchise rental, which could be used to offset the running costs of Pickings Pasture.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the proposal to open a café facility at Pickering's Pasture Local Nature Reserve which would be operated as a franchise opportunity, as outlined within the report, be approved; and
- 2) Council be asked to include £520,000 within the Council's Capital Programme to fund the construction of the café facility.

Operational
Director -
Community &
Green Space

MINUTES ISSUED: 26 April 2023

CALL-IN: 4 May 2023 at 5.00 pm.

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 4 May 2023.

Meeting ended at 2.20 p.m.

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EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Tuesday, 16 May 2023 in the Boardroom -
Municipal Building, Widnes*

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, S. Young, M. Reaney, S. Wallace-Bonner and
G. Ferguson

Also in attendance: None

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

EXB113 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2023
were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

Action

EXB114 APPOINTMENT OF THE LEADER AND DEPUTY LEADER
OF THE COUNCIL

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to
appoint Councillor Mike Wharton as the Leader and
Councillor Dave Thompson as the Deputy Leader of the
Council for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

Chief Executive

EXB115 APPOINTMENT OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND
SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR AND APPOINTMENT OF
HEALTH PPB CO-OPTEE

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive,
regarding appointments to the Council's Boards,
Committees and Scrutiny Co-ordinator post, and the re-
appointment of a non-voting co-optee to the Health Policy
and Performance Board, for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

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

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

- 1) to the Council's Boards, Committees and Scrutiny Co-ordinator post, for the 2023/24 Municipal Year; and
- 2) Mr David Wilson - Healthwatch Halton, be re-appointed as non voting Co-optee to the Health Policy and Performance Board, for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

Meeting ended at 2.05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 15 June 2023 in the Boardroom, Municipal Building

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor T. McInerney

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: None

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

EXB1 MINUTES

Action

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2023, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CORPORATE SERVICES PORTFOLIO

N.B. Councillor J. Lowe declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as she has a family member employed at St Lukes Care Home.

EXB2 DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW REPORTS FOR QUARTER 4 2022 - 23

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, on progress against key objectives/milestones and performance targets for the fourth quarter period to 31 March 2023, for the People Directorate (Social Care Health); and the Enterprise, Community and Resources Directorate.

The Board was advised that the Directorate Performance Overview Report provided a strategic summary of key issues arising from the relevant quarter for each Directorate and was aligned to Council priorities or

functional areas. The Board noted that such information was key to the Council's performance management arrangements and Executive Board had a key role in monitoring performance and strengthening accountability. Performance Management would continue to be important in the demonstration of value for money and strengthening accountability.

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

EXB3 TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Corporate Director: Chief Executive's Delivery Unit, which provided an update on the following progress made within the Council's Transformation Programme:

- a structure had been developed and appointed to. Further appointments would be made as projects progressed;
- projects had been set up and scoping completed. Appendix A set out a list of the projects and Appendix B set out a list of the initial savings estimated for the programme;
- reporting and governance arrangements had been agreed and a monthly report would be provided to the Board; and
- bi-monthly briefings would be provided to all Members.

The Board noted that all Members would receive bi-monthly updates on the work of the Transformation Team and update reports would also be submitted to Scrutiny Chairs' meetings. It was therefore recommended that for the near future, the Budget Working Group meetings would not be required.

RESOLVED: That the Board noted the contents of the update.

EXB4 2022/23 FINANCIAL OUTTURN POSITION

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, advising of the Council's overall revenue net spending outturn position for the year 2022/23.

It was reported that preparation of the statutory statement of accounts for 2022/23 was nearing completion. The revenue spending position for each Department was

shown in Appendix one; which presented a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget. Appendix two provided detailed figures for each individual Department. In overall terms, the outturn position for the year showed that operational net spend was over the approved budget by £5.161m. Appendix 3 contained the Capital Programme for each Directorate as at 31 March 2023.

The outturn position was a significant improvement on the forecast overspend of £7.586m reported at the end of quarter 3. There were a number of reasons for the improved financial position; these were detailed in the report. The key budget variances for the quarter were outlined for the Board, from the following Departments:

- Children and Families Department;
- Adult Social Care Department;
- Education, Inclusion and Provision;
- ICT & Support Services; and
- Corporate and Democracy;

Members were also advised on the reasons for the reliance on agency employees over the past year and the cost to the Authority for 2022/23.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the Council's 2022/23 outturn position as presented in the report be noted, along with the importance of early delivery of the Re-imagine Halton Transformation Programme, to help reduce future costs and provide a balanced, sustainable budget position;
- 2) the proposal to replenish Council reserve balance within the Medium Term Financial Strategy, be noted; and
- 3) consideration is given by relevant Departments to utilise external enforcement agencies to help reduce the value of outstanding debt and improve debt recover times.

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PORTFOLIO

N.B. Councillor J. Lowe declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as she has a family member employed at St Lukes Care Home.

EXB5 DRAFT SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT - ADULT SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE NEEDS

The Board considered a report on the recent Scrutiny Review undertaken by the Health Policy and Performance Board (PPB). On behalf of the PPB, Councillors P. Lloyd Jones and Baker attended the meeting to present to the Board the outcomes of the Review of Adult Social Care Workforce Needs.

The Board was advised that a scrutiny topic was commissioned by the PPB in response to the continued pressures across the Adult Social Care system, in relation to recruitment and retention and considerations around opportunities for development and progression within the sector. The topic group had met on a number of occasions and as a result, the PPB had identified a set of recommendations which were set out in Section 7 of the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the findings of the Scrutiny Review and its recommendations.

EXB6 HALTON SENSORY SERVICE

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Adult Services, which sought a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.4 (v) and 1.14.5 of Parts 2 and 3 of Procurement Standing Order to extend the Halton Sensory Service from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

It was noted that following a procurement process undertaken in 2018, a 3 year contract with the option to extend for a one plus one year period was awarded to Vision Sensory Services. In July 2022, the final available extension was awarded with the contract due to end in June 2023.

Over the pandemic, the Sensory Service continued to be provided but in a different way. It was considered that a review was required to inform the service delivery model and future commissioning. A one year extension was requested to allow the work to be undertaken.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the contents of the report; and
- 2) approve a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.4 (v) and 1.14.5 of Parts 2 and

Executive Director
of Adult Services

3 of Procurement Standing Orders to extend the Halton Sensory Service from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB7 PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR PASSENGER TRANSPORT CONTRACT TENDERS

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which advised that the aggregate value of the proposed passenger transport contracts through a revised Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) was projected to be in excess of £1m.

The passenger transport DPS process was a mechanism that enabled the Council to identify transport providers who were capable of delivering the specialist nature of transport contracts on its behalf and to the standard identified in the current conditions of the contract. The current DPS would expire in August 2023 and the replacement would be required for September 2023.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the procurement of passenger transport contracts through a revised DPS is approved; and
- 2) the Operational Director – Planning, Policy and Transportation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Environment and Urban Renewal, be delegated to deal with any matters relating to the procurement and operation of this contract.

Executive Director
Environment &
Regeneration

EXB8 BUS SHELTER SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which sought a waiver of Part 2 and or Part 3 of Standing Orders, for the award of a contract for the provision of bus shelter supply, installation and maintenance for an initial period of four years with the option to extend for a further two years.

The Board noted that Commutaports were the current contractor and had provided the public transport infrastructure for approximately 20 years. During this period, they had won the competitive tender process on a number of occasions, providing competitive pricing on each occasion. They had also proven to be a thoroughly professional,

reliable and punctual organisation and had demonstrated a willingness to work and make necessary adjustments to schedules to accommodate requests made by the Council.

All 301 bus shelters within Halton had been supplied and maintained by Commutaports, and approving the proposed waiver would ensure continuity and standardisation of the public transport infrastructure.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the contents of the report; and
- 2) in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4(v) approve a waiver of Part 2 and/or Part 3 of Standing Orders, for the direct award to Commutaports Ltd for the supply, installation and maintenance of bus shelters across the Borough, for an initial period of four years with the option to extend for a further two years; and
- 3) supports the overall process.

Executive Director
Environment &
Regeneration

EXB9 PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES FOR THE PROVISION OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES & PLANT COMPONENTS

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which advised that the aggregate value of the proposed contract for the provision of commercial vehicle and plant components was projected to be in excess of £1m.

The existing contract would come to an end on 8 August 2023 and it was proposed that any new contract arrangements should provide for a greater level of flexibility and allow the Council at any time, to be able to choose to place orders with other suppliers. It was proposed that the new arrangements would be for a 5 year period with the potential for up to 5 one year extensions (10 years in total), subject to satisfactory performance and pricing agreement.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the procurement of a new contract for commercial vehicle and plant components be approved; and
- 2) the Operational Director – Planning, Policy and Transportation, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Environment and Urban Renewal, be delegated to deal with any matters relating to

Executive Director
Environment &
Regeneration

procurement and operation of this contract.

EXB10 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 Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

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

DEPUTY LEADER PORTFOLIO

EXB11 RUNCORN STATION QUARTER PHASE 2

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which provided an update on the Runcorn Station Quarter Masterplan. The update outlined the next steps in the programme including, feasibility studies, option development and funding requirements for Phase 2.

RESOLVED: That

Executive Director

Environment &
Regeneration

- 1) Phase 2 is noted;
- 2) approval is given for the Station Building Development project to use Utilities Regulations 2015 as required in Procurement Standing Order Regulations 1.4.2 iii;
- 3) funding bids/business cases are submitted with a view to securing funding for additional phase of the Runcorn Station Quarter Masterplan and wider Runcorn Vision; and
- 4) the Board note that funding for main design and build contract would be sought from the Sustainable Transport Fund.

MINUTES ISSUED: 20 June 2023

CALL-IN: 27 June 2023 at 5.00 pm.

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 27 June 2023.

Meeting ended at 2.35 p.m.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board on Wednesday, 22 March 2023 at the Bridge Suite - Halton Stadium, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wright (Chair), J. Lowe, T. McInerney and Woolfall.
K. Butler, M. Crilly, R. Foster, T. Knight, C. Mackie, A. Major, A. Leo,
W. Longshaw, M. Lynch, D. Nolan, I. Onya, K. Parker, S. Patel and S. Woods.

Apologies for Absence: L. Gardner and D. Wilson.

Absence declared on Council business: None

Also in attendance: One member of the press.

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

HWB29 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2023 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

HWB30 LIFE ROOMS (PRESENTATION FROM MICHAEL CRILLY, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL HEALTH & COMMUNITY INCLUSION, MERSEY CARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST)

The Board received a report and presentation from the Director of Social Health and Community Inclusion, Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, which provided an overview of the Mersey Care Life Rooms Social Model of Health and the activity across Halton.

Life Rooms was launched in Walton in May 2016 and offered an open door community-based approach, supporting recovery, prevention and overall population health. Over the last 6 years, the service had evolved and now comprised over 100 staff and provided a range of services across a number of locations and communities. Life Rooms had achieved award successes at both regional and national level.

Mersey Care invested in a 12 month Pilot Programme

Action

in Halton and the project commenced on 23 September 2022. To date, there had been 160 referrals which resulted in 159 new registrations; 116 people attended appointments and received 230 social prescriptions. The service would focus predominantly on supporting Mersey Care service users accessing Recovery, Early Interventions & Crisis Resolution Home Treatment Services.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HWB31 ACCESS TO NHS DENTAL SERVICES IN HALTON

The Board received an update report from Healthwatch Halton on access to NHS dental services in Halton. The report provided an update on the difficulties that residents of Halton had experienced in getting access to dental services.

The report set out the enquiries that Healthwatch Halton had received from residents and outlined what they would like to happen going forward to improve the services.

In response to the report, Tom Knight, Head of Primary Care, NHS England – North West, delivered a presentation which addressed some of the concerns and provided an update on dental commissioning in Halton.

RESOLVED: That the report and presentation slides be noted.

HWB32 ANNUAL REPORT PRINCIPAL SOCIAL WORKER ADULTS

The Board received an annual report from the Adults Principal Social Worker (APSW) which outlined how the role of social work supported the One Halton Based Partnership in order to meet its priorities and objectives.

The APSW was a statutory requirement under The Care Act 2014 and had a key role in representing and promoting the social work profession.

Appendix A within the report provided some case studies and illustrated the nature of social work practice, that at an operational level, supported the One Halton Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HWB33 HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL AND NHS CHESHIRE & MERSEYSIDE: JOINT WORKING AGREEMENT (BETTER CARE (POOLED) FUND)

The Board considered a report from the Executive Director – Adults, which provided a brief overview of the Joint Working Agreement between Halton Borough Council (HBC) and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside (NHS-CM) which would take effect from 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 and would replace the existing agreement which was due to expire on 31 March 2023.

The agreement provided the legal framework in which HBC and NHS-CM worked together in order to achieve their strategic objectives of commissioning and providing cost effective, personalised, quality services to the people of Halton. As part of the Agreement, HBC and NHS-CM entered into a Pooled Budget arrangement which would contain the expenditure to deliver care and support services for adults with complex needs.

By working together, HBC and NHS-CM would achieve and sustain good health and wellbeing for the people of Halton and provide a range of options to support people in their lives by jointly designing and delivering services around the needs of local people.

The joint approach would also provide future opportunities and retain commitment to develop an integrated approach to service delivery and transformation to improve the health and wellbeing of Halton residents.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HWB34 JOINT FORWARD PLAN

The Board received a presentation from the Director – Halton Place, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, which outlined the duty placed on the Integrated Care Boards and their partner Trusts to prepare a Joint Forward Plan by 30 June 2023. The presentation also provided details of the approach to the development of the Joint Forward Plan and its draft strategic objectives and priorities.

Director of Public Health

The presentation outlined:

- The key plans and how they fit together;
- National Guidance – the Joint Forward Plan principles and the role of Health and Wellbeing

Boards;

- Health Care Partnership Interim Strategy – strategic objectives;
- Determining the Health Care Partnership priorities; and
- Next steps in developing the Joint Forward Plan.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) note the draft Cheshire and Merseyside Joint Forward Plan strategic objectives and priorities; and
- 2) delegate responsibility to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board to provide a collective response to the Joint Forward Plan by 31 May 2023.

Meeting ended at 4.20 p.m.

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

At a meeting of the Children Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 12 June 2023 in the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Logan (Chair), Baker, Begg, Goodall, Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, McDermott, Rowe and Ryan

Apologies for Absence: Councillors C. Plumpton Walsh and Skinner

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: P. Murphy, J. Farrell, A. Jones and C. Finch

Also in attendance: None

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

	<i>Action</i>
CYP1 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
CYP2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
<p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
CYP3 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	
<p>The minutes relating to the Children and Young People Portfolio taken from Executive Board meetings held since the last meeting of this Board, were attached at Appendix 1 for information.</p>	
CYP4 THE BIG CONVERSATION UPDATE	
<p>The Board received a report presenting the approach being taken to 'The Big Conversation', which was integral to formulating a new Council Corporate Plan, to take effect from April 2024.</p> <p>Further to agreement at Executive Board in March,</p>	

the Council would provide adequate opportunity for meaningful public consultation and ultimately produce a Corporate Plan, which was unique and meaningful to the people of Halton.

'The Big Conversation' was all about engaging with the public so that they understood the challenges the Council is facing. The approach being taken was between the Council and everyone who lived or worked in Halton, to work together in order to create an improved Borough in all aspects of everyday life. It was noted that feedback would be welcome in all formats; paper submissions, electronically or face to face, between now and the end of the year.

The report and accompanying presentation outlined the survey themes and questions, the process of data analysis and gave the timescales the project will take, up to the launching of the new Corporate Plan.

Following the presentation and Members' discussions and comments, the following was noted:

- The consultation would include the Council's workforce – it was noted that two thirds of the workforce lived in Halton;
- The survey was anonymous but responses will be monitored, to show where they were coming from – this would help to ensure an even representation, as areas that were under represented could be encouraged to take part;
- A good level of engagement will be identified by the Council's Central Intelligence Unit (CIU) who record the numbers of responses;
- Doubt was raised as to where schools, children's social services and SEND would be in the next 5 years so it was difficult to see how the five themes applied to these areas;
- Children and Young People would be invited to participate and a simplified version of the survey is available for them to complete;
- The Council was working with individual groups across Halton to ensure the survey was cascaded down to the people belonging to them;
- All schools will be included as part of the engagement process;
- It was thought that the five themes were aspirations;
- The wording of the themes would need to be clear to ensure they were understood by everyone;
- The five themes were taken from evidence based data from within the Council on the challenges the

Borough currently faced and comparisons with other LA's Corporate Plans across the Country; and

- The transformation is how we support each other to make the changes agreed in the communities and what we need to do to achieve these.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) that the Children, Young People and Families Policy and Performance Board endorses the approach to facilitate 'The Big Conversation'.

Operational
Director Policy,
People,
Performance and
Efficiency

CYP5 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE UPDATE

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Children's Social Care, detailing the work undertaken to date in relation to the Children's Services Improvement Plan.

It was noted that Children's Services continued to operate under the auspices of a Notice of Improvement issued by the Department for Education (DfE) in January 2022 – this followed the Ofsted Focused Visit in October 2021. The Council is required, under the conditions of the Notice of Improvement, to have an Improvement Plan, whilst also operating with a Children's Improvement Board.

It was reported that the Improvement Plan was currently being reviewed to ensure that it was aligned with the findings from the most recent Ofsted Focused Visit completed in November 2022, along with the DfE 12-month review of the Improvement Notice that was reported to the Council in March 2023. It was noted that the findings from the latest Ofsted Focused Visit were reported to Members of the Board in January 2023.

The outcome of the DfE's 12-month review of the Children's Service Improvement Plan was reported on 14 March 2023; the report provided the main highlights from this. They set several priorities for the Council, which included workforce capacity and stability, partnership working, practice model and social work practice, and communication and engagement.

Members were advised that the Children's Services Improvement Plan was being refreshed to ensure it covered the latest findings and priorities as set out in the DfE review. The refreshed Plan and road map would be brought to the

next Board meeting.

The following information was provided in response to Members questions:

- The possibility of offering permanent employment to agency workers to offer them job security – this was an employee driven market due to demand exceeding the supply of qualified social workers, so they had many employment options to choose from;
- Social workers were generally a younger transient workforce – this was the case in the region and nationally;
- Recommendations on ways to retain staff had been made to central Government following the national review of Children's Social Care completed by Josh McAllister – for example tying in Council newly qualified social workers for 3 years;
- The 'Halton offer' for social workers was discussed – this was being improved and promoted to help with recruitment and retention of social workers;
- An improved employment offer was also important in such a highly competitive market – neighbouring authorities were also struggling with retention of staff;
- A local arrangement was suggested whereby social workers had to accept permanent employment with an authority if they worked there for a certain length of time;
- The Council was currently operating with a full complement of social workers, with vacancies being covered by agency staff;
- The 'Front Line Practice Unit' was a national apprenticeship programme by the Department for Education (DfE) starting in September and would offer one year training for 4 trainee social workers;
- An improvement in staff morale was identified by annual surveying and health assessments as well as feedback given to the Improvement Board;
- The need to have 'systematic social work practice' embedded throughout all areas of the service was recognised – this would also help with the reputation of Halton and be attractive to staff who were used to working under these principles; and
- The importance of partnership working was discussed, especially since the dissolution of the Safeguarding Board.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the current position on progress in relation to the

Executive Director
Children's

requirements as set out by the Department for Education in the Notice of Improvement; and Services

- 2) supports the key priorities and actions outlined in the Children's Improvement Plan.

CYP6 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) SUFFICIENCY

The Board received a report on the progress to date on expanding the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision within Halton and the next steps, following receipt of a £3.3m capital allocation from the Department for Education (DfE).

It was reported that the DfE notified Halton it would be allocated £3.3m of capital funding to support the provision of new places or to expand existing provision for pupils and students with high needs. Officers then wrote to all schools to seek expressions of interest from them to offer new or additional SEND provision, based against need identified within the Local Authority. Out of nine expressions of interest received seven met the need identified and were agreed for progression and consideration to Executive Board; Appendix A listed the seven schools and the provision offer made by them.

It was noted that the Executive Board agreed to progress to statutory consultation for five schools where the SEND provision would be new; agreed to the expansion of provision at two further schools that already had existing SEND provision; and agreed to the progression of capital works at those two primary schools that already offered specialist provision and were not subject to statutory consultation. It was reported that approximately 100 additional SEND places would be made available through this new provision.

Members discussed the information presented regarding the expansion of SEND provision and queried whether 100 additional places would be enough. Discussions also took place on the following:

- The increasing pressures on SEND provision and the costs associated with this;
- The inclusivity of schools - not all children with an ECHP needed specialist provision and could stay in mainstream schools with support;
- Delays with the opening of Raise Academy, the Free School – the new opening date is June 2024 and

- regular meetings were being held with the DfE;
- The loss of the *English as an Additional Language* (EAL) service at a time when numbers requiring this type of support were increasing;
- The time limits of EHCP assessment, which was 20 weeks, however this was not being met currently for various reasons; and
- The EHCP ‘pre’ assessment and the reasons behind these – Senco staff provided support to parents and schools to help with the preparation of these, however staff shortages existed in the area since the pandemic.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the information provided.

Executive Director
Children's
Services

CYP7 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT FOR QUARTER 3 OF 2022/23

The Board received the Performance Management reports for quarter 3 of 2022-23 (1 September 2022 to 31 December 2022).

The key priorities for development or improvement in 2022-23 were agreed by Members and included in the Local Authority’s Business Plan for the following Departments:

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

The reports detailed progress made against objectives, milestones and performance targets and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period. Members were requested to consider the progress and performance information and highlight any areas of interest and/or concern, where further information could be reported at a future meeting of the Board.

The Chair informed the Board that he would be meeting with the Interim Director of Children’s Services to plan future agendas around the performance issues highlighted in the report.

From the information presented, issues relating to transformation costs, children in care, school exclusions, child exploitation, realism of performance measures and targets and benchmarking with neighbouring authorities were discussed.

In response to queries, it was reported that a new Family Hub service was being introduced, operating from buildings in Runcorn and Widnes and would offer services out in the community. Further information on the delivery of this would be sent following the meeting.

The expression '*edge of care*' was described generally as when a child is considered to be at risk of becoming a child in care. The focus is to maintain the child within their birth family where this is considered safe to do so.

RESOLVED: That the Performance Management reports for quarter 3 of 2022-23 be received.

Executive Director
Children's
Services

Meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.

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

At a meeting of the Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Policy and Performance Board on Monday, 19 June 2023 in the Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Jones (Chair), Teeling (Vice-Chair), Ball, Garner, S. Hill, Hutchinson and Ryan

Apologies for Absence: Councillors C. Plumpton Walsh, Rowe, Stretch and Wall

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: W. Rourke, A. Jones, S. Saunders, S. McDonald, T. Booth, K. Arrowsmith and J. Gallagher

Also in attendance: Sally Yeoman – Halton & St Helens Voluntary Action

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

		<i>Action</i>
ELS1	MINUTES	
	The Minutes from the meeting held on 30 January 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
ELS2	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
	The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.	
ELS3	EMPLOYMENT, LEARNING, SKILLS AND COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23	
	The Board received the Employment, Learning and Skills and Community Policy and Performance Board's Annual Report for 2022/23.	
	The Chair conveyed his thanks to all Members of the Board for their support over last year. He also gave thanks to the previous Vice Chair, Councillor Ellen Cargill, who has since retired.	

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report for 2022-23 be received.

ELS4 THE BIG CONVERSATION UPDATE

The Board received a report presenting the approach being taken to 'The Big Conversation', which was integral to formulating a new Council Corporate Plan, to take effect from April 2024.

Further to agreement at Executive Board in March, the Council would provide adequate opportunity for meaningful public consultation and ultimately produce a Corporate Plan, which was unique and meaningful to the people of Halton.

'The Big Conversation' was all about engaging with the public so that they understood the challenges the Council is facing. The approach being taken was between the Council and everyone who lived or worked in Halton, to work together in order to create an improved Borough in all aspects of everyday life. It was noted that feedback would be welcome in all formats; paper submissions, electronically or face to face, between now and the end of the year.

The report and accompanying presentation outlined the survey themes and questions, the process of data analysis and gave the timescales the project will take, up to the launching of the new Corporate Plan.

Following the presentation Members' discussions and comments included the following:

- Hard to reach groups such as children and young people – QR codes should be included on the advertising so that the survey is accessed instantly by them on their phones;
- Paid advertising on Facebook will also encourage engagement;
- The themes suggested are expected to be provided by the Council anyway so what are we asking for;
- Requests to know the costs of the project;
- The engagement of those with disabilities, eg sight impaired or illiterate, how are they accessing the survey;
- Understood that engagement from the public as a whole was key for the success of the project;
- Targeted engagement was also important for hard to reach groups;
- Some questions need to be changed to make them

clearer and the purpose of them understood – noted that the survey had now progressed and some questions had been updated;

- It would be wrong to raise the public's expectations; and
- Suggested that one theme per month should be addressed by the survey.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) endorses the approach to facilitate 'The Big Conversation'

ELS5 PRESENTATION HALTON AND ST HELENS VOLUNTARY ACTION

The Board received a presentation from the Chief Executive of Halton and St Helens Voluntary Action, Sally Yeoman, who outlined the Organisation's strategic priorities, training, development and capacity building, and the support given to local groups.

Her presentation provided Members with information on:

- The Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector in the Liverpool City Region (LCR);
- The LCR VCFSE Infrastructure Partnership;
- The LCR VCFSE Manifesto 2021-24 – the three priority areas;
- Equality and diversity in the region for all;
- The generation of economic growth locally and investing in communities;
- Employment and skills opportunities for all;
- Recent investment; and
- Opportunities for collaboration.

Members' discussed the information presented and requested further details on associate organisations from Halton, as well as website links to the manifesto and other particular areas of interest. The presentation would be sent to Members.

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

ELS6 LIBRARY STRATEGY 2023-2028

The Board considered a report, which presented the Council's Draft Library Strategy for 2023-2028.

It was reported that the new Strategy had been produced in house by the libraries team and all library staff had been given the opportunity to comment and provide input. The Strategy provided useful information for the customer on what the Library Service offered and set objectives for the next 5 years, to improve the service and ensure it moved forward and widened the customer base. Following the Board's consideration of the draft Strategy, it would be taken to Executive Board for adoption.

Members also received information on the good work within the service that had taken place in 2022-23. The report presented attendance figures for the Library Services for 2022-23, which would be used as a comparison from one year to another going forward. It also gave information on new service offers and one off events carried out, as well as outreach service details and numbers relating to social media site visits.

The following responses were noted in response to Members' questions:

- The word 'employment' did not appear in the Strategy – this would be feedback and taken on board;
- Staff offered support to customers who were able to use the facilities free of charge and held workshops etc for public to attend;
- The lower numbers using the PC's in Widnes Library was probably due to demographics and the ability of customers to attend when the Library was open;
- Usage of the Borrowbox service was low – the service needed publicising to raise awareness;
- Memory Box Delivery as part of the outreach service – this was welcomed by Members and considered an important service for the Borough's care home residents;
- Staff welcomed suggestions from Members regarding authors for the Borrowbox – these could be emailed to the libraries' or Leisure Manager directly;
- Access to the service for full time workers was considered limited – the libraries division was undergoing a restructure, with the aim of all sites' opening hours being the same – this would avoid confusion in the communities;
- Runcorn Library on Granville Street would be moving

to the Old Police Station in the interim before The Brindley extension is complete; and

- All Library customers were able to subscribe to the monthly newsletter.

RESOLVED: That the draft Library Strategy be taken to Executive Board for adoption.

Executive Director
Environment &
Regeneration

ELS7 THE BRINDLEY THEATRE

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which set out the financial position of The Brindley since its opening in 2004. The report also requested that Members delegate the full commercial programming of the Brindley Theatre to the Brindley Manager and Leisure Services Divisional Manager.

The report outlined details of the Theatre's finances since 2004 when it was running at a loss up to 2011; the commercial management review carried out in 2012; its increased income following the review; the impacts of Covid Government grants; and the plans for a large extension as part of the Town Deal Fund, in 2024.

It was recognised that the commercial programming of the venue was critical to maximising income and to maintain the Venue's break even position, in what was a highly competitive and challenging marketplace.

Members discussed the programming for past years and the complaints that had been raised by some Members regarding two acts in particular. It was the opinion of some that the Borough's cultural and moral bar was not being reached in these cases and consideration should be given to future appearances of these acts. Although not in favour of censorship, Members suggested exploring the legalities within contracts, although it was recognised that this may be difficult. Members requested their views and sentiments in relation to the programming of these acts be forwarded to Executive Board for consideration. It was noted that no complaints had been received from the public so far this year regarding any act and Members suggested a further exploration of the complaints procedure.

Board Members presented reasons both in favour of and against the proposal and emphasised the need to take into account the wider views of Members, who had not attended the meeting.

In the meantime it was agreed by the Board that the

Brindley Manager and the Leisure Services Divisional Manager would resume full responsibility for the programming and when required, consult the Operational Director for Community and Greenspace and the Executive Director for Environment and Regeneration.

RESOLVED: That the report is submitted to Executive Board for approval.

Executive Director
Environment &
Regeneration

ELS8 PROGRESS ON PATHWAYS TO TEACHING PROGRAMME (CO-ORDINATED ON BEHALF OF THE LCRCA)

The Board received a report of the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which provided an overview of the *Pathways to Teaching Project*, co-ordinated by HBC's Employment, Learning and Skills Division, on behalf of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA).

It was reported that the six local authority Adult Learning Services in the LCRCA were experiencing a shortage of good quality adult learning tutors to deliver their services, which caused a reliance on agency staff. Following discussions a pilot Programme was proposed, whereby each service would 'grow their own' tutor base. The LCRCA agreed to grant fund this and Halton Adult Learning Service agreed to act as the co-ordinator for the Programme – Pathways to Teaching, from September 2022.

Members were provided with detailed information on the Programme including its key four principles, as well as performance data and income and expenditure. The accompanying presentation gave examples of real case success stories and outlined the challenges faced and the next steps to the Programme planned for next year.

Members welcomed the Programme which could respond to the needs and aspirations of people in the community. It was hoped that the number of participants from Halton could be increased next year, as there were only currently four. As the infrastructure was now already there and the continuation of funding confirmed, it was hoped that more Halton residents would come forward and join the Programme.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

ELS9 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 3 OF 2022/23

The Board received the performance management reports for quarter three of 2022-23 (1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022) and were requested to consider and raise any questions or points of clarification in respect of these.

It was noted that the key priorities for development or improvement in 2022-23 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans for the various function areas reported to the Board as follows:

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

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

Members discussed issues relating to Bonfire Night fireworks, Kingsway Learning Centre and refuse/recycling bins.

RESOLVED: That the quarter three 2022-23 performance management reports be received.

Meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

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HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Health Policy and Performance Board held on Tuesday, 27 June 2023 at the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors Dourley (Chair), Baker (Vice-Chair), Begg, Davidson, Fry, Garner, Goodall, C. Loftus, L. Nolan, Stretch and Thornton and D. Wilson – Healthwatch Co-optee

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Salaman, A. Jones, D. Nolan, L Wilson, H. Moir and J. Gallagher

Also in attendance: A. Leo, Halton Place – NHS Cheshire & Merseyside

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

HEA1 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 February 2023 were signed as a correct record.

HEA2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public question had been received in relation to Item 6 (e) Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Review:

I'm contacting you on behalf of the Motor Neurone Disease Association. We are the national charity focusing on funding research, improving access to care and campaigning for people living with or affected by MND in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We have read item 6e on tomorrow's agenda - the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) review - with interest. During 2022 and 2023 we have been in regular correspondence with Halton Council on this issue, with your colleague Helen Moir having been our main contact. I have copied her into this message.

Action

We note that the recommendation to the Board in the accompanying paper for 6e is to form a steering group to “further review policy and processes in the light of the published DFG guidance”

In response, as a charity supporting people with and affected by MND in the Borough, we would like to table a question under item 3 of the agenda asking:

What provision would be made to meet and engage with external stakeholders such as the MND Association in this planned review of DFG policy and process?

Response:

We are currently working with Think Local Act Personal (TLAP) to develop a co-production framework and charter whereby everyone works together on an equal basis to influence the way services are designed, commissioned and delivered.

On this basis it is anticipated that this value based approach will influence the review and that representation from key stakeholders will be part of the process with everyone having a vital equal contribution in order to improve the quality of life for people and communities.

We would therefore welcome input not only from the Motor Neurone Disease Society but from other people and charities that will be affected by decisions made as a result of the review.

HEA3 HEALTH AND WELLBEING MINUTES

The minutes from the Health and Wellbeing Board’s meeting held on 18 January 2023 were submitted to the Board for information.

HEA4 HEALTH PPB ANNUAL REPORT

The Vice Chair, Councillor Baker, presented the Health Policy and Performance Board’s Annual Report for April 2022 to March 2023.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report for 2022-23 be received.

HEA5 THE BIG CONVERSATION

The Board received a report presenting the approach

being taken to 'The Big Conversation', which was integral to formulating a new Council Corporate Plan, to take effect from April 2024.

Further to agreement at Executive Board in March, the Council would provide adequate opportunity for meaningful public consultation and ultimately produce a Corporate Plan, which was unique and meaningful to the people of Halton.

'The Big Conversation' was all about engaging with the public so that they understood the challenges the Council is facing. The approach being taken was between the Council and everyone who lived or worked in Halton, to work together in order to create an improved Borough in all aspects of everyday life. It was noted that feedback would be welcome in all formats; paper submissions, electronically or face to face, between now and the end of the year.

The report and accompanying presentation outlined the survey themes and questions, the process of data analysis and gave the timescales the project will take, up to the launching of the new Corporate Plan.

Following the presentation and Members' discussions, the following comments were made:

- Reference was made to a similar exercise that took place previously called Halton 2000 facilitated by lecturers from Edge Hill University;
- The five themes were taken from evidence based data from within the Council on the challenges the Borough currently faced and comparisons with other LA's Corporate Plans across the Country;
- The themes were about getting the conversation going and it was important to engage everyone in the Borough;
- Residents' contribution to a Corporate Plan had not been done before;
- Suggestions regarding the engagement of 'hard to reach' or 'hidden' communities were welcome – please contact officers with these;
- The consultation would also include a range of stakeholders, who will be asked to raise awareness of the survey amongst their organisations;
- Social media platforms are being used to promote the survey;
- The onus is on everyone including Councillors to engage people in all walks of life, so that the opportunity to contribute is given to all;

- Full engagement of the public was crucial to the success of this as the Council cannot do it on its own; and
- The Pride event taking place on 8 July at Norton Priory was noted.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) endorses the approach to facilitate 'The Big Conversation'.

Operational
Director Policy,
People,
Performance and
Efficiency

HEA6 CARE WORKERS PETITION

The Board received details of a recent petition received by the Council from Halton Care Workers and the associated response to this.

At the Health PPB on 29 November 2022, the Board received a public question in respect to the payment of the Foundation Living Wage to all care workers across Halton, following receipt of the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund. The Board's response to this was presented in the report.

Subsequently, a petition was received by the Council in February 2023, from Halton Care Workers, requesting a pay rise; details listed in the report. Following receipt of this Councillor Wharton, Leader of the Council, responded to the petitioners; this was also presented in the report.

Further to debate from Members, it was noted that work on consulting with other local authorities in the area on this matter had begun, under the previous Chair of the Board, Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones.

One Member shared his aspirations for the Council to have its own 'domiciliary care hubs' so that the consistency of care for residents in the Borough could be improved. The difficulties being faced by care providers and local authorities with the recruitment of staff was highlighted at a care provider conference that took place last year.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted.

HEA7 SCRUTINY TOPIC BRIEF 2023/24

The Board received a report from the Director of Public Health, which presented the topic brief for the Health

Policy and Performance Board 2023-24 scrutiny review.

At the February meeting of the Board, and as part of Member involvement in the business planning process, Public Health was discussed as an area for consideration for the next scrutiny review. It was agreed that '*Health inequalities across Halton and approaches to reducing them*' would be the focus of the 2023-24 scrutiny review.

The report outlined the main areas to be considered and a detailed Topic Brief, explaining the rationale and scope of the group, was appended to the report.

It was agreed that all Members of the Board be invited to participate in the scrutiny review.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the report; and
- 2) approves the topic brief.

Executive Director
of Adult Services

HEA8 MARKET SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director – Adults, informing of the Market Sustainability Plan (MSP) for care homes for older people (65+) and Domiciliary Care for adults (18+).

It was reported that the Government set out its vision for adult social care in its white paper '*People at the Heart of Care*' in December 2021 which proposed a range of reforms and initiatives to improve care and support for vulnerable people.

In relation to care provided for older people who needed a care home admission and vulnerable adults requiring care in their own home, the Government set out plans for all local authorities with adult social care duties to undertake a 'fair cost of care exercise' (FCOC) with providers of these types of care, and to utilise this information to publish a 'Market Sustainability Plan' in March 2023.

The requirements of the Market Sustainability Plans were set out in the report with the key plans to address market sustainability issues for Halton.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HEA9 DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT (DFG) REVIEW

The Board received a report of the Executive Director – Adults, which presented the results of the benchmarking exercise of current practice against the new Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) Guidance.

The DFG was established 34 years ago and were mandatory capital grants that were available from local authorities, to pay for essential housing adaptations to help disabled people live an independent life and stay in their own homes. It was available to owner occupiers, private sector tenants and housing association tenants.

The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) issued new DFG Guidance (part of the National Disability Strategy) in 2022, to advise local authorities how they could effectively and efficiently deliver the DFG funded adaptations. This brought together existing policy frameworks, legislative duties and powers, and recommended best practice to help local authorities best serve disabled tenants and residents in their area.

The report set out the current issues faced in Halton relating to the demand for the service and described the benchmarking exercise carried out. This had provided assurance that current DFG practice was working well for the people of Halton however, a further review of the policy and processes were still required, in light of the published DFG Guidance. A steering group would be established to explore these options and the item would return to the Board at a future date.

Further to Members' questions on the results of the exercise, the following additional information was provided:

- There were two options available for residents who were awarded funding for adaptations – the Council would carry out the 'best value' exercise and invite tenders for the work from 3 providers; or, the private route, whereby the resident arranges their own work and the money is provided to them;
- Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) were already building new houses that were adapted for people with disabilities;
- In cases where older/traditional homes could not be adapted, the resident would be moved to a suitable home; and
- The length of time a grant application took varied due to the specific requirements of the resident, eg a

house extension would take longer than someone who required minor adaptations.

It was noted that the steering group would be inclusive and groups such as the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND), who had submitted the public question today, would be invited to join.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the contents of the report.

Executive Director
of Adult Services

HEA10 COUNCILLOR CARE HOME VISITS GUIDANCE

The Board received a report from the Executive Director – Adults, which presented the recently revised *Councillor Visits to Care Homes: Guidance for Elected Members* document – this was appended to the report.

Members were advised that revised guidance had been developed to support elected Members undertake visits to local care homes. Previous guidance dating back to 2016 was used as the basis for the revised document, but the approach now focussed more on the engagement and relationship building role of Councillors, and less on an inspection type approach.

It was noted that the guidance aimed to support and facilitate the important role that Councillors had in developing relationships with, and advocating (as appropriate) on behalf of care home residents and their families. As explained in the report the document covered many subject areas, including information about safeguarding procedures.

The guidance included a list of care homes by Ward with contact details and a feedback form that Councillors should complete following a visit, in order to ensure that any issues identified during the visit were addressed accordingly. The feedback form would be sent separately from the guidance to Members', so this can be done easily.

The Board discussed the importance of the need to be trained properly before entering a care home and that these visits should be made regularly for the sake of the residents. E-learning relating to safeguarding is available for Councillors to complete, but it was also important for them to know what to look for on a visit and the best time of the day to make a visit.

Officer support is always available to Members who

want to visit the care homes and Members were invited to contact them if this is required in future.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) note the contents of the report; and
- 2) endorses the guidance attached.

Executive Director
of Adult Services

HEA11 HEALTH BASED PRIORITY PERFORMANCE REPORTS
Q4 2022/23

The Board received the Performance Management Reports for quarter 4 of 2022/23.

Members were advised that the report introduced, through the submission of a structured thematic performance report, the progress of key performance indicators, milestones and targets relating to Health in quarter three of 2022-23. This included a description of factors, which were affecting the service.

The Board was requested to consider the progress and performance information; raise any questions or points for clarification; and highlight any areas of interest or concern for reporting at future meetings of the Board.

Officers advised that the quarter 4 data being presented was subject to some data validation. They also highlighted some service areas that were doing well, with a positive direction of travel.

RESOLVED: That the Performance Management reports for quarter 4 of 2022/23 be received.

The Chair gave thanks to his predecessor, Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones, who was Chair of the Board for two years and generously shared his experience and knowledge in the health field with him and other Members.

Meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

SAFER POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Safer Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 20 June 2023 at the Boardroom - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors N. Plumpton Walsh (Chair), Carlin (Vice-Chair), Baker, Bevan, Bramwell, Cargill, Goodall, A. Lowe, Ratcliffe and Wallace

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Skinner

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Butler, N. Goodwin and J. Gallagher

Also in attendance: A. Norton (North West Regional Crime Unit) and one member of the press.

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

	<i>Action</i>
SAF1 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
There were no Chair's announcements to be made.	
SAF2 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
SAF3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	
It was reported that no questions had been received.	
SAF4 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23	
The Annual Report of the Safer Policy and Performance Board was received which outlined the contributions made to the ongoing work of the Board.	
RESOLVED: That the report be noted.	
SAF5 THE BIG CONVERSATION UPDATE	
The Board received a presentation on "The Big Conversation" which was the Council's approach to	

formulating a new Corporate Plan to take effect from April 2024.

“The Big Conversation” would engage with the public so that they understood the challenges of the Council. It would be an approach between the Council and everyone who lives or works in Halton to work together in order to create an improved Borough in all aspects of everyday life.

The Corporate Plan Survey would consist of 5 themes and 6 questions. There would be different consultation methods depending on the audience. Responses will be monitored during the consultation period and any low response area will be targeted with iWalkers which proved to be an effective consultation method during the elections. Staff within the One-Stop-Shops and Libraries would be able to offer assistance to anyone who required help to complete the survey.

All feedback and responses would be scrutinised and evaluated and then in conjunction with North West Employers, be summarised accordingly to establish a number of key objectives to form the Council’s new Corporate Plan.

Following the presentation, Members’ discussions and comments included the following:

- Consideration to be given to re-wording the term “hard to reach groups” to “under-served groups”;
- Members offered assistance to provide links with community groups via the NHS;
- Queried if the survey would be available in other languages;
- Suggested that a stall in the market be opened to engage with shoppers;
- Suggested linking with the Community Development Network, Housing Providers and the Voluntary Community Action.

RESOLVED: That the Board endorse the approach to facilitate “The Big Conversation”.

SAF6 PRESENTATION ON COUNTY LINES

The Board received a presentation from Adam Norton from the North West Regional Organised Crime Unit on County Lines.

County Lines is a term used to describe organised

distribution of illegal drugs across networks. This is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another and often across police and local authority boundaries, usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs.

The presentation provided an insight into County Lines and the work going on in Halton and the wider footprint to tackle county lines and its impacts.

Following the presentation, Members' discussions and comments included the following:

- More education needed for communities and more opportunities in early educational settings regarding healthy relationships;
- It was suggested that the most vulnerable children were those with parents with few parenting skills;
- Examples were given how older people could also be victims of crime;
- Any Members with concerns regarding problem addresses, were invited to contact the Community Safety Team; and
- Mr. Norton offered to speak to local landlords and housing providers.

The Board thanked Mr. Norton for an interesting and insightful presentation.

SAF7 DOG CONTROL

The Board received a report from the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration, which described the Council's measures to help tackle irresponsible dog ownership and dog control within the Borough.

In 2019 and under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, the Council introduced a Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to help deal with a particular nuisance or problem in a particular area that was damaging to the local community's quality of life. Legislation required that PSPO's need to be periodically reviewed and approved. The PSPO, attached in Appendix 1 of the report, contained the following control measures:

- Dog Fouling;
- Exclusion of Dogs;
- Dogs on Leads;
- Dogs on Leads by Direction;
- Restriction on Number of Dogs Walked at a Time;

and

- Evidence of the Means to Pick Up Dog Faeces.

The Board were also advised of the issues of dealing with dangerous dogs i.e.

- Dog attacks and dogs out of control;
- Banned Breeds;
- Stray Dogs; and
- Dog Breeding.

Following discussions, Members raised the following comments and questions:

- There was lack of dog fouling signage in some parts of the Borough and the signs that did exist were not big enough;
- Members asked why was it not an offence for a dog to attack another dog?
- How many dog wardens did the Council have?
- There was not enough dog waste bins;
- Why was some areas not included where dogs must be on a lead e.g. tennis area and bandstand at Victoria Park; and
- It was suggested that some information surrounding responsible dog ownership should be promoted via the One Halton magazine.

Officers agreed to look into the above queries and respond directly to Members after the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) endorsed the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order;
- 2) support that a report be presented to the Executive Board to recommend that the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order remains in force in Halton; and
- 3) endorse that the Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order presented to Executive Board be amended, as may be necessary, to reflect the outcome of the results of a planned public consultation exercise on the proposed Order.

*Operational
Director -
Community &
Green Space*

Meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 15 February 2023 at the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Burrows, K. Butler, T. Gibbs, W. Rourke and J. Unsworth

Also in attendance: Councillor Thompson

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>EUR26 MINUTES</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2022 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.</p>	
<p>EUR27 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</p> <p>It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.</p>	
<p>EUR28 EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES</p> <p>The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.</p>	
<p>EUR29 PRESTON BROOK PETITION</p> <p>The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, which provided information on the petition received from Preston Brook Parish Council, containing 52 signatures. The petition</p>	

requested the reduction of the speed limit on both Windmill Lane and Chester Road from 30mph to 20 mph and the removal of the section of Chester Road that was 40mph and the removal of unnecessary industrial signage.

Members were reminded that in respect of petitions, their role was to receive a report on any petitions received by the Council relating to their respective area and/or any action taken or proposed to be taken by the Executive (or Portfolio Holder, or an Officer acting under delegated powers).

The Board noted that Cheshire Police had stated that they would not support any speed reductions on the A56 Chester Road and they would only support a speed reduction on Windmill Lane alongside a full traffic calming intervention. There has not been an injury accident on the road in question in the past 5 years, and therefore in line with the criteria in the Council's Traffic Calming Assessment Policy, this location does not meet the criteria for intervention.

The report set out the position in the Department for Transport Circular 01/2013 (Setting Local Speed Limits) which states "*it is government policy that a 30 mph speed limit should be the norm in villages*" and that the Council's approach was also consistent with the policies in Local Transport Plan 3 on 20mph Zones. The Board was reminded that they received the Annual Road Safety Report in November 2022 and this analysis did not highlight this location for intervention. Based on these reasons, there was no recommended action.

The Board also noted the reasons for retaining the industrial signage, as outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That the requests set out in the petition not be supported for the reasons given in the report.

EUR30 WORKING PARTY REVIEW OF COPPICING WORKS

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Community and Greenspace, which provided an update on the outcome of the Working Party Review of the Council's Coppicing Works Programme.

The report outlined that coppicing was a pruning technique where a tree or shrub was cut to ground level which resulted in regeneration of new stems from the base.

Coppicing was a popular conservation practice that was an excellent way to stimulate and increase the life of the tree, amongst other benefits including those to wildlife.

In March 2022, a Working Party was established to undertake a review of the Council's coppicing works programme. In September 2022, Members attended a field visit and visited sites to observe structure planting works that had been carried out at a number of locations across the Borough that had been subject to previous enquiries from members of the public following coppicing works.

In order to improve communication and understanding, it was a recommendation of the Working Party that a dedicated page be established on the Council's website that would provide general information and regular updates on the coppicing works.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the report be noted;
- 2) a dedicated page be established on the Council's website that would display:
 - i) General information on the principles of coppicing and the Council's coppicing work programme;
 - ii) Timeline photographs of plantations subject to coppicing works by Council operatives; and
 - iii) Information on plantations that would be subject to up and coming coppicing works by Council operatives.

Operational
Director -
Community &
Green Space

EUR31 UPDATE ON MERSEY GATEWAY REGENERATION

The Board considered a report of the Operational Director – Economy, Enterprise and Property which provided an update on how the construction of the Mersey Gateway had contributed to the development and delivery of the Borough's regeneration priorities.

The report outlined that a number of strategic benefits had emerged post Mersey Gateway construction including the improvements to the Silver Jubilee Bridge, funding for the regeneration of Runcorn and the Runcorn Station Quarter.

Positive feedback had also been received from

businesses, for example, improvements in nimble and rapid movement within and beyond Halton, which subsequently improved economic activity. There had also been reports of positive impacts on individuals and the labour market, particularly by supporting attracting highly skilled individuals to highly skilled vacancies and reinforcing workforce resilience with retaining those individuals in the post.

It was noted that work was ongoing to deliver the following Key Impact Areas:

- West Runcorn Employment Growth Area;
- Astmoor;
- Halton Lea;
- West Bank;
- Widnes Waterfront;
- 3MG Ditton Corridor;
- Runcorn Old Town; and
- Southern Widnes.

The report demonstrated that the Council's main policy objective was to ensure that the Mersey Gateway project was more than the construction of a bridge. Whilst there had been undoubted productivity gains and improved journey times that had resulted from the new bridge, it had served as the catalyst for wider regeneration and investment in the Borough.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EUR32 REVOCATION OF HALTON'S AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS IN WIDNES TOWN CENTRE

The Board received a report from the Director of Public Health which provided an update on proposals to revoke the current air quality management areas in Widnes Town Centre.

Halton's Air Quality Management Areas were declared in 2011 when routine monitoring identified exceedances of the Nitrogen Dioxide limits. This was a result of town centre congestion in Widnes and emissions from road vehicles. Since then, there had been notable improvements in traffic flows through the town centre as a result of the Mersey Gateway Bridge and the re-opening of the Silver Jubilee Bridge. Further actions included changes to sequencing of traffic lights to reduce congestion as well as improvements in vehicle emission technology which had also contributed to the reduced levels.

The Board noted the information outlined in the report which demonstrated the improvement in air quality between 2011 to date and also the sustained improvement in air quality over the last 5 years.

Given the improvements to air quality, it was proposed to revoke the air quality management areas and approval would be sought from Executive Board. It was also suggested that a 4 week public consultation be carried out in March 2023 where the public would be invited to submit comments to a dedicated air quality mailbox. Further information would be made available on the Council's website and consultation would be publicised via media channels.

The Board would receive a further report on the outcome of the public consultation in due course.

RESOLVED: That the proposal to proceed with a public consultation be endorsed.

Director of Public Health

EUR33 HMO WORKING PARTY UPDATE

The Board received a report which provided Members with an update on the progress of the Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) Working Party. The last meeting took place on 14 February 2023 where the Police were in attendance.

RESOLVED: That the updated action plan, presented in Appendix 1, be endorsed.

Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

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ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN RENEWAL POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on Wednesday, 21 June 2023 at the Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Woolfall (Chair), P. Lloyd Jones (Vice-Chair), Abbott, Ball, Hutchinson, K. Loftus, Ryan, Stockton and Thornton

Apologies for Absence: Councillor L. Nolan and Skinner

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Burrows, K. Butler, J. Gallagher, T. Gibbs and R. Taylor

Also in attendance: None

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

		<i>Action</i>
EUR1	MINUTES The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2023 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.	
EUR2	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME It was confirmed that no public questions had been received.	
EUR3	EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES The Board considered the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board relevant to the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board. RESOLVED: That the Minutes be received.	
EUR4	ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23 The Board considered a copy of the Annual Report from the Chair of the Environment and Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board for 2022/23. The Board had met four times during the year and the report set out the work carried out during the Municipal Year April 2022 to March 2023.	Operational Director - Community & Green Space

A question was raised about the completion date for the Coppicing Programme.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report be endorsed.

EUR5 THE BIG CONVERSATION UPDATE

The Board received a presentation on “The Big Conversation” which was the Council’s approach to formulating a new Corporate Plan to take effect from April 2024.

“The Big Conversation” would engage with the public so that they understand the challenges of the Council. It would be an approach between the Council and everyone who lives or works in Halton to work together in order to create an improved Borough in all aspects of everyday life.

The Corporate Plan Survey would consist of 5 themes and 6 questions. There would be different consultation methods depending on the audience. Responses will be monitored during the consultation period and any low response area will be targeted with iWalkers which proved to be an effective consultation method during the elections. Staff within the One-Stop-Shops and Libraries would be able to offer assistance to anyone who required help to complete the survey.

All feedback and responses would be scrutinised and evaluated and then in conjunction with North West Employers, be summarised accordingly to establish a number of key objectives to form the Council’s new Corporate Plan.

Following the presentation, Members’ discussions and comments included the following:

- It was noted that at another meeting of Members, a suggestion had been made to using the term “under-served groups” instead of “hard to reach groups” and this was debated. It was suggested that “hard to reach” was a much more universal term;
- Members asked about the possibility of resurrecting “Halton 2000” which in the past had consisted of hard copy surveys but would now be much easier to compile as an online survey;
- There was some concern that some voices could be lost in the survey and therefore suggested that one theme each month be given some focus.

The comments and suggestions would be considered as part of the consultation process.

RESOLVED: That the Board endorse the approach to facilitate “The Big Conversation”.

EUR6 REVOCATION OF HALTON'S AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS IN WIDNES TOWN CENTRE - RESULT OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Board received a report from the Director of Public Health which provided an update on the outcome of a public consultation on the revocation of the air quality management areas in Widnes Town Centre.

The public consultation ran for 3 weeks from 17 May 2023 – 7 June 2023. In total, 7 responses were received and these were outlined in appendix 1 of the report.

In 2011, the high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide measured $49\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ against the UK legal limit of $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Since then, a number of developments have resulted in a significant improvement in air quality. These included improvements in vehicle emission technology and the opening of the Mersey Gateway Bridge in 2017 i.e. reduced traffic congestion in Widnes Town Centre. Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide were now consistently below the UK legal limit.

The proposal was therefore to revoke the air quality management areas, which included Deacon Road Albert Road and the Peelhouse Lane area, and the area around Milton Road and Simms Cross.

The Board discussed the information presented in the report and the following comments were noted:

- The Liverpool City Region have a zero output target by 2040, however, it was suggested that as Halton is a much smaller Authority it should looking to reach this goal by 2035;
- Members asked what the Council did to make air quality better. It was noted that there was an Air Quality Action Plan which included improving the fuel efficiency of buses, preventing delivery vehicles from leaving engines running and timing of traffic light sequences.

RESOLVED: That the Board:

- 1) consider the consultation responses alongside the observations of the Council's Environmental Protection Team;
- 2) endorse the proposal to revoke the air quality management areas in Widnes Town Centre;
- 3) support that a report be presented to the Council's Executive Board recommending that the air quality management areas in Widnes Town Centre are revoked; and
- 4) note that should the air quality management areas be revoked there will be a requirement for Halton to produce a Borough-wide Air Quality Strategy.

EUR7 HMO - WORKING PARTY UPDATE

The Board considered a report from the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration which provided a progress update on the Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) Action Plan which had been endorsed by the Board in February 2023.

It was noted that currently, a HMO does not need a licence if it is occupied by less than 5 people. Therefore, the Council has started to gather intelligence to understand how many HMO's are in the Borough.

Meta Street and ORS had been commissioned to undertake some of the actions outlined in the Action Plan and to investigate and assess the following factors across the Borough:

- Accurate information on the current levels of private rental sector properties and tenure change over time by ward;
- Accurate information on the current level of unlicensed smaller HMO's (3-4 Occupants) by ward;
- Levels of serious hazards that might amount to a Category 1 hazard or high scoring category 2 hazard (HHSRS) across the private rented sector by ward;
- Ward level information on housing related stressors, including antisocial behaviour (ASB), crime, deprivation, and population changes including migration linked to the private rented sector in general and houses in multiple occupation specifically; and

- A detailed survey of properties within the West Bank area to identify the number of private rental properties and the number of smaller and unlicensed HMO's. The survey should identify tenure, property type e.g. self contained flat, HMO, the number of unrelated occupants who do not form the same household, the number of bedrooms and details of the landlord and letting agent.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the progress against the Action Plan contained in appendix 1 of the report.

EUR8 TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

The Board received an update report from the Executive Director – Environment and Regeneration on the improvements being made to the Borough's transport infrastructure.

It was noted that the Council was leading on a number of major transport interventions including the following:

- Highway Network;
- Silver Jubilee Bridge;
- East Runcorn Connectivity;
- Runcorn Town Deal;
- Electric Vehicle Charging Points;
- Network Models;
- Traffic Management and Road Safety; and
- Cycling and Walking Infrastructure.

Appendix 1 of the report outlined the future transport pipeline schemes and Appendix 2 outlined the current schemes.

Members of the Board considered the report and noted the following comments:

- A number of charging points across the Borough not working;
- Quality of bus journeys e.g. noise, heat etc.
- Consideration to be given to a consistent supplier of EV charging points to prevent the need for various Apps;
- Runcorn East Station – a lot of people from Cheshire West and Frodsham use this station as car parking is free. Suggested free car parking be limited to Halton residents only; and

- Concerns raised regarding the roads and delays surrounding the Redrow building sites.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the report and endorse the list of schemes set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

EUR9 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 4 OF 2022/23

The Board received the Performance Monitoring Reports for Quarter 4 of 2022/23.

The key priorities for development of improvement in 2022/23 were agreed by Members and included in Directorate Plans for the various function areas reported to the Board as detailed below:

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

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

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

Meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.

CORPORATE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board on Tuesday, 6 June 2023
in the Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors Gilligan (Chair), Philbin (Vice-Chair), J. Bradshaw, Leck, Logan, A. Lowe, Thornton and Wainwright

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Hutchinson, A. McInerney and N. Plumpton Walsh

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Butler, E. Dawson, J. Gallagher, P. Garnett, C. Hill and M. Reaney

Also in attendance: None

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

		<i>Action</i>
CS1	MINUTES The Minutes from the meeting held on 24 January 2023 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
CS2	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME The Board was advised that no public questions had been received.	
CS3	EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES The Board was presented with the Minutes relating to the Corporate Services Portfolio which had been considered by the Executive Board since the last meeting of this Board. RESOLVED: That the Minutes be noted.	
CS4	ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23 The Board considered a copy of the Annual Report from the Chair of the Corporate Policy and Performance Board for 2022/23. The Board had met four times during the year and the report set out the work carried out during the Municipal Year April 2022 to March 2023.	

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report be noted.

CS5 CORPORATE ACCIDENT/INCIDENT REPORT - 01.04.22 - 31.03.23

The Board was provided with a report from the Interim Divisional Manager – HR Operations Division, Chief Executive’s Delivery, which presented details of health and safety management within the Authority from 1 April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

The report highlighted health and safety incidents that had taken place over the past 12 months and as a result of those incident, proposed actions for the future. In addition, the report included information around the number of actual near misses, accidents that had resulted over 7 day absences, together with significant accidents.

It was noted that in December 2022, the authority changed from 2 to 5 Directorates. The figures quoted in the report were given as overall figures. It was anticipated that a more detailed picture would emerge in the next report.

RESOLVED: That the contents of the report be noted including the recommendations and actions for 2023/24.

CS6 THE BIG CONVERSATION UPDATE

The Board received a presentation on “The Big Conversation” which was the Council’s approach to formulating a new Corporate Plan to take effect from April 2024.

“The Big Conversation” would engage with the public so that they understand the challenges of the Council. It would be an approach between the Council and everyone who lives or works in Halton to work together in order to create an improved Borough in all aspects of everyday life.

The Corporate Plan Survey would consist of 5 themes and 6 questions. There would be different consultation methods depending on the audience. Responses will be monitored during the consultation period and any low response area will be targeted with iWalkers which proved to be an effective consultation method during the elections. Staff within the One-Stop-Shops and Libraries would be able to offer assistance to anyone who required help to complete the survey.

All feedback and responses would be scrutinised and evaluated and then in conjunction with North West Employers, be summarised accordingly to establish a number of key objectives to form the Council's new Corporate Plan.

Following the presentation, Members' discussions and comments included the following:

- The 5 themes were broad; consideration to be given to linking transport with the work of the Liverpool City Region;
- The Council needed to manage expectations and to not become unrealistic on what it could deliver;
- Work with forums already in existence e.g. children and young people.

The new Corporate Plan would be launch in April 2024.

RESOLVED: That the Board endorse the approach to facilitate "The Big Conversation".

CS7 HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

The Board received a report which provided an update regarding delivery of the Government's Household Support Fund from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023 and spending plans for the Fund during 2023/24.

The Board noted the final expenditure of the Household Support Fund from 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023. £167,314 was awarded by the Discretionary Support Scheme through its telephone application process. £536,592 was spent on school meal vouchers which were issued during school holidays and £405,500 was spent on supporting those vulnerable pensioner households who were in receipt of a council tax reduction.

The Benefits Division co-ordinated the use of the grant on behalf of the Council and Appendix A outlined how the grant funding was utilised via a combination of Council departments and the Voluntary Sector.

In February 2023, it was confirmed that Halton had been allocated grant funding of £2.6M. In April 2023, the Council's Executive Board approved a Spending Plan on how the allocation would be utilised. It was agreed to allocate £356,000 to the Discretionary Support Scheme

which would cover a wide range of low income households in need, including families with children, pensioners and people with disabilities. It was estimated that the free school meals vouchers would cost approximately £1,170,000 and this would provide approximately 7,500 children with free school meals throughout all of the school holidays over the next 12 months.

In order to support vulnerable pensioner households, it was decided that all those in receipt of a Council Tax reduction would be provided with a one-off award of £120. It was estimated that 4,181 pensioner households would benefit from this award, at a total cost of £501,720.

In 2023/24, there would be additional funding allocations to Public Health, Care Leavers and Voluntary Sector Partners. It was agreed to allocate £100,000 to Public Health who would support vulnerable households who may fall outside those covered by the rest of the Spending Plan. They would also target support to those families who had pre-school aged children and who were flagged on the Income Deprivation Index affecting children. In addition, families who had disabled pre-school aged children. £82,126 was allocated for this project.

£82,127 was allocated to make a cost of living award to recent care leavers and to those young people who would become care leavers in the next 12 months.

Voluntary Sector partners would be again, asked to assist the Council with the delivery of support to residents. The grant allocations made for the previous 6 month period to Citizens Advice, Food Banks, Affordable Warmth etc had doubled for the coming year. Each organisation would be asked to provide a detailed proposal of how they intended to utilise the funding and provide a regular update to the Council with monitoring information for submission to the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP).

The Benefits Division would co-ordinate use of the grant on behalf of the Council and progress with delivery of the Household Support Fund during 2023/24 would be reported regularly to the Board. If the grant was not fully spent by 31 March 2024, and/or not spent in accordance with the grant guidance, it would be clawed back by the DWP.

RESOLVED: That:

- i) The actual delivery of the Household Support

Fund for the period 1 October 2022 to 31 March 2023, as outlined in the report, be noted; and

- ii) The Spending Plan for the Household Support Fund for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 as presented in Appendix 2, be noted.

CS8 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT GROUP NOTES

The Board considered the minutes of the Member Development Group meeting held on 28 November 2022.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted.

CS9 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS FOR QUARTER 3 OF 2022/23

The Board received the Performance Management Report for Quarter 3 of 2022/23. The reports related to the following functional areas which reported to the Board and detailed progress against service objectives and milestones and performance targets, and provided information relating to key developments and emerging issues that had arisen during the period:

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

Members of the Board subsequently commented on the report which included the following:

- Living Wage - It was suggested that in the next tranche of tender contracts for Domiciliary Care, consideration should be given as to whether there should be a stipulation regarding the Living Wage. However, it was stressed that this would inevitably result in significantly increased contract costs for the Council, which could not be funded.
- Recruitment Issues – concerns were raised about recruitment issues. It was noted that in order to address the problems, some roles have moved a rolling advert recruitment method. This would mean that any interested candidates would be asked to provide their CV, instead of completing an online

application, and thereafter any suitable applicants would be invited for an interview. So far, this operation has proved to be successful in the Adults Directorate, by speeding up recruitment processes and appointing candidates more quickly. These job opportunities are advertised on LinkedIn but Members also suggested that they could promote them via their social media sites.

RESOLVED: That the Quarter 3 Performance Management report be noted.

Meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Audit and Governance Board held on Wednesday, 22 March 2023
at the Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn*

Present: Councillors A. Lowe (Vice-Chair), J. Bradshaw, E. Cargill, Jones, McDermott, L. Nolan and Philbin

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Polhill, Garner, Harris and Wallace

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: S. Nixon - Grant Thornton UK LLP

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

	<i>Action</i>
BEB21 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2022, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
BEB22 STANDARDS UPDATE	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services/Monitoring Officer, which provided an update on Standards issues for the Municipal Year 2022/23. The Board had assumed responsibility for the work of the former Standards Committee in 2021 and it was agreed that a report on Standards issues would be brought each year.</p> <p>A verbal update was given on three local matters that had been considered since the last meeting. It was reported that the Boards' Independent Persons had been consulted on these cases.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the report be noted.</p>	
BEB23 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2023-2024	
<p>The Board considered a report of the Divisional</p>	

Manager, Audit, Procurement and Operational Finance, which sought approval for the planned programme of internal audit work for 2023/24.

A risk based Audit Plan had been prepared, designed to enable internal audit to deliver an overall opinion on the Council's risk management and control and governance arrangements. A copy of the draft Audit Plan for 2023/24 was attached as an appendix to the report.

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

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

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the proposed Internal Audit Plan for 2023/24.

BEB24 EXTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS & SECTOR REPORT

The Board considered the external audit progress and sector report presented by the Councils' external auditor Grant Thornton UK LLP.

It was reported that the external audit of the Council accounts for 2020/21 and 2021/22 had now both been signed off. An update was also provided on the progress on the Value for Money audit - 2021/22 and the external audit of accounts for 2022/23.

RESOLVED: That the verbal progress update by the Council's external auditor Grant Thornton UK LLP be received.

BEB25 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- 1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in

accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and

- 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

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

N.B. Councillor A. Lowe declared a Disclosable Other Interest in the following item of business as he has a family member employed at St Lukes.

BEB26 INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

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

Members were referred to appendix one, which listed all the planned work for the year and its current status. The schedule of audits had been updated to reflect the progress made in completing audits since the last update to the Board. By the end of October 2022, 696 days of audit work had been completed, which represented 68% of the total planned days for the year. Planned work continued to progress but it was noted that as reported previously, planned work remained behind target due to staff turnover and delays in filling vacancies.

Appended to the report were the executive summaries of the reports issued numbering 2 to 11, as listed in the report.

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

Meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

*At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Tuesday, 7 March 2023
at the Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn*

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

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Jones, T. Gibbs, A. Plant, G. Henry, L. Wilson-Lagan, K. Butler and L. Crampton

Also in attendance: Four members of the public

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

	<i>Action</i>
DEV29 MINUTES	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2022, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.</p>	
DEV30 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 below.</p>	
DEV31 22/00548/FUL - PROPOSED ERECTION OF SINGLE STOREY WAREHOUSE AT CRODA EUROPE LTD, FOUNDRY LANE, WIDNES, WA8 8UB	
<p>The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site.</p> <p>Officers advised the Committee that a number of conditions relating to construction management, ecology, site investigation and drainage were considered 'prior to commencement of development' conditions. In order to</p>	

avoid delay, the applicant requested that they be allowed to submit this information for consultation prior to determination. It was requested therefore, that authority be delegated to the Operational Director, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair, to determine the application on that basis. Any additional conditions would be worded appropriately based on consultation responses received. The Committee agreed this.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Planning, Policy and Transportation, to determine the application in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee, following the satisfactory consultation regarding the prior to commencement of development conditions. Any additional conditions recommended by them to be added to the list below:

1. Standard time limits condition (GR1);
2. Plans condition listing approved drawings (GR1);
3. Submission and agreement of a construction method statement including HRA avoidance measures and timing of development (GR1/GR2/HE1);
4. External facing materials (GR1);
5. Submission and agreement of ground investigation report and remediation strategy (HE8);
6. Submission of validation report (HE8);
7. Foundation design (GR1);
8. Submission and agreement of drainage scheme (HE9);
9. Foul and surface water on a separate system (HE9);
10. Provision of bird nesting boxes (HE1);
11. Trees – methodology and timing of tree removal (HE1); and
12. Protected mammals – pre construction investigation / protective construction techniques (HE1).

DEV32 22/00374/FUL - PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF 16 NO. 1 BED APARTMENTS WITH ASSOCIATED AMENITY SPACE, CAR PARKING, BIN AND CYCLE STORAGE AT THE CROFT, 1 HALTON LODGE AVENUE, RUNCORN, WA7 5YQ

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

Officers advised Members that the description of the development had been amended to say '*one bed affordable apartments*' as the development would provide 100% affordable housing. An additional condition was

recommended to secure this and an appropriate mix of dwellings.

The applicant had requested that submissions be allowed for any conditions that would be 'prior to commencement of development' conditions, in order to minimise delay. Officers requested delegated authority to the Operational Director, in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair, to determine the application on this basis. Any additional conditions would be worded appropriately based on consultation responses received. This was agreed.

Members commented that this proposal would benefit the local community and make use of a derelict site.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Planning, Policy and Transportation, to determine the application in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee, following the satisfactory consultation regarding the prior to commencement of development conditions. Any additional conditions recommended by them to be added to the list below:

1. Time;
2. Approved plans;
3. Site levels;
4. Material details;
5. Landscaping details;
6. Boundary treatments;
7. Vehicle access, parking and servicing to be constructed prior to occupation / use;
8. Cycle parking details;
9. Drainage scheme;
10. Drainage verification report;
11. Contaminated land;
12. Breeding birds;
13. RAMs for hedge hogs;
14. Tree protection; and
15. Soft tree felling technique.

DEV33 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

It was noted that the following appeals had been received / were in progress:

21/00629/COU

Proposed change of use from dwelling (Use Class C3) to dental practice (Use Class E (e)) with onsite parking provision for 8 vehicles at 34 Cronton Lane, Widnes, WA8 5AJ.

22/00292/FUL

Proposed erection of a secure replacement 2.4m high brick perimeter wall to vehicle impound yard at DVLA Pound, Waterloo Road / Barn Street, Widnes, WA8 0QF.

22/00019/PLD

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed use of development for the installation of a solar farm (ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels) at Liverpool John Lennon Airport, land bounded by Dungeon Lane, Hale Road and Baileys Lane, to the East of Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Speke, Liverpool, L23 1YD.

22/00103/FUL

Proposed construction of front dormer and rear dormer to newly formed first floor at 265 Hale Road, Hale, Liverpool, L24 5RF.

22/00285/ADV & 22/00284/FUL

The retrospective application for planning consent for the installation of a car park management system on existing car park comprising 4 no. pole mounted automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras and 6 no. park and display machines at car park at Green Oaks Shopping Centre, Widnes, WA8 6UA.

21/00016/OUT

Outline application with all matters other than access reserved for the erection of two semi-detached dwellings and four detached dwellings on the existing Church field and the retention of the existing scout hut at Hough Green Scout and Guide Group Hall and Church Field Hall Avenue, Widnes.

It was noted that the following appeal had been determined:

22/00113/COU

The proposed ground floor and first floor flats to be changed into 5 bed Home of Multiple Occupation (HMO), 65 Widnes Road, Widnes – refused and appeal dismissed.

Meeting ended at 6.42 p.m.

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Monday, 15 May 2023 at the Civic Suite - Town Hall, Runcorn

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors J. Bradshaw and Philbin

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: 27 members of the public and one member of the press

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

Action

DEV34 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

DEV35 PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE

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

DEV36 22/00178/FUL & 22/00179/FUL - PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT INCLUDING SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC OPEN SPACE, LANDSCAPING, SUSTAINABLE URBAN DRAINAGE AND CAR PARKING ON LAND SOUTH OF MILL GREEN FARM, MILL GREEN LANE, WIDNES (22/00178/FUL) AND LAND TO THE SOUTH OF SOUTH LANE AND EAST OF BARROWS GREEN LANE, WIDNES (22/00179/FUL)

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

The Chair reminded the Committee that although the applications tonight may be discussed together, they are separate applications and must be determined individually.

The case officer presented the applications and advised of the following clarifications to the report:

- Page 5 – The location of planning application 22/00179/FUL should read '*land to the south of South Lane and east of Barrows Green Lane*'; and
- Page 40 – The S106 Chapter concludes with a total value of Infrastructure spend; the bus subsidy of a 12 month travel plan is in addition to this total.

Since the publication of the report the following updates were provided:

- Two further objections had been received – one raising issues already covered in the report and the other concerning the siting of a substation. Redrow has responded to say that the location of the substation was requested by the service provider, as it needs to be located as near to the grid connection as possible;
- Natural England has stated it has no objection to application 22/00178/FUL; however a response relating to application 22/00179/FUL remained outstanding; and
- An additional condition is recommended for each application concerning the numbers of residential units approved.

The Highways Officer outlined the highways impacts of the development on local junctions. This included further work carried out by the Applicant since the submission of the original Transport Assessment; details of a sensitivity test; details of a scheme of interventions including new cycle and pedestrian routes; and off site interventions.

The Committee was addressed by Chief Inspector Pyke, objecting to the applications on behalf of Cheshire Constabulary. He argued that both applications failed to provide mitigation for the impacts on policing in the area. He stated, *inter alia* that:

- The concerns of the Constabulary had been disregarded by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and the reason given for the dismissal of the objections made by the Police was weak;
- The resulting increase in population of circa 1,200

residents from both developments would cause additional demands on the Police service;

- The Local Plan did not account for any additional policing that would be required;
- The Police precept applied did not cover the additional resources (infrastructure and staff costs) that would be needed, so there is no funding;
- Policy CS(R)7 requires where deficiencies in infrastructure occur, they are adequately mitigated;
- The infrastructure requirements of the sites must be identified before approval can be given;
- The requests made by Cheshire Police met the legal tests;
- No evidence or information was requested from the Force by the LPA;
- The ongoing demands being made on the Force is unacceptable; and
- The Committee was requested to show its support for the Police for the reasons stated by either deferring the decisions or refusing the applications.

Mr Harper then addressed the Committee objecting to the proposals. He spoke about the following issues, *inter alia*:

- Green Belt compensatory measures – the NPPF requires quality improvements and these applications do not meet the NPPF;
- The profits being made by Redrow from the developments;
- Concern that the Council is exceeding its rate of housing trajectory delivery that would put pressure on green field sites;
- The numbers of dwellings per annum being built in Halton – 7 year plan not being followed;
- The lack of consideration to the capacity of the area in relation to schools, GP's etc; and
- The travel needs of pupils going to schools was not being addressed.

A second objector, Mr Farrell, then addressed the Committee citing the following *inter alia*:

- The community has not been engaged at any time during the whole planning process; efforts have been mere gestures of public consultation;
- Infrastructure does not exist to support the proposals (GP's, Schools etc) information on school provision is not accurate;

- The reports were out of touch and biased and the use of phrases such as 'acceptable' and 'tolerant' were questionable;
- The proposals would exacerbate traffic issues such as emissions, parking and electrification;
- The Section 106 monies; the viability of property prices and Redrow profits were queried;
- A viability report of the sites was not requested by the Council;
- Farnworth will have no identity other than to be a showroom for Redrow – should be renamed 'Little Redrow';
- Vehicle movements will increase;
- Noise and disturbance would impact on residents for 4 to 5 years during development – no consideration has been given to them; and
- There is no green belt land remaining.

The Committee was then addressed by Mr Gilbert, the Agent for the applicant. He thanked the planning officers for their support over what has been an 18-month process to bring the applications forward. He stated the following, *inter alia*:

- Redrow has an excellent track record of building high quality housing in Halton and these applications were no exception. The agenda report concerned two high quality schemes that were both allocated sites, Part of SRL7 in North Widnes, and that the development was proportionately in line with this allocation;
- The proposed development will include 20% affordable homes, including the first homes being available to first time buyers at 30% below market value;
- The sites would benefit from high quality landscaping, bespoke play areas and have other local enhancements such as semi natural green spaces and a linear park that will link to new and existing cycle routes;
- The Applicant has agreed to a S106 package that would result in local enhancements, off site green space, highway improvements, active travel and free bus passes for new site residents; and
- The Applicant acknowledged the remarks made by Cheshire Police at the meeting. However they supported the Council's view with regard to their request for S106 contributions as set out in the Officer's report.

One Member's concern regarding the request from

Cheshire Constabulary for Section 106 money was noted. In response to Members' queries, the following information was provided:

- Compensation for loss of Green Belt (page 16) – the inspectors note on this was read out to Members;
- Cheshire Police – pages 40-44 sets out why the request for Section 106 money was declined;
- Education Authority – no additional monies were requested; they had stated that there was sufficient capacity within Halton for primary and secondary school provision;
- Three exits from application proposal 22/00179/FUL that lead out to the A57 – the Council has applied to Cheshire Police to drop the speed limit to 30mph on this road; and
- Legal advice was given with regards to the principle of the development and the requirement on the Committee to establish whether the proposals accord with the development plan as a whole.

After listening to the speakers, responses to concerns and queries, and consideration of the information before them, both applications were moved and seconded and the Committee voted to approve both applications.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation, to determine the application in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Committee, following the satisfactory resolution of the outstanding issues relating to Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) compliance for both applications and subject to the following:

- a) S106 Agreement that secures the terms set out in the Legal Agreement section of the report;
- b) the schedule of conditions set out below; and
- c) that if the S106 Agreement is not signed within a reasonable period of time, authority is given to refuse the application.

Recommended conditions as follows with any additional conditions recommended through the resolution of the HRA compliance issue to be added to the list below:

22/00178/FUL

1. Standard 3 year permission;
2. Condition specifying plans;

3. Bird nesting boxes scheme;
4. Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and additional reasonable avoidance measures;
5. Lighting scheme;
6. Vehicle access and parking to be constructed prior to commencement of use;
7. External materials;
8. Drainage condition(s) to include culvert survey, ownership details, drainage calculations, verification of SuDS implementation, maintenance and management;
9. Levels;
10. Hard and soft landscaping;
11. Public Open Space (POS) implementation and management;
12. Grampian style condition securing off site highways works;
13. Submission and agreement of traffic calming works;
14. Waste audit;
15. Site investigation, remediation and mitigation;
16. Relating to unidentified contamination;
17. Protection of water infrastructure;
18. Landscape and ecological / habitat management plan;
19. Removal of permitted development rights HS/fencing;
20. Hard and soft landscaping;
21. Submission and agreement of ecological enhancement features;
22. Submission and agreement of boundary treatments;
23. Securing ecological and habitat protection through a CEMP;
24. Restriction construction and delivery hours;
25. Requiring implementation of scheme of noise mitigation;
26. Submission and agreement of play facilities; and
27. Submission, agreement and implementation of measures for reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climatic conditions.

22/00179/FUL

1. Standard 3 year permission;
2. Condition specifying plans;
3. Bird nesting boxes scheme;
4. Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and additional reasonable avoidance

- measures;
5. Lighting scheme;
 6. Vehicle access and parking to be constructed prior to commencement of use;
 7. External materials;
 8. Drainage condition(s) to include culvert survey, ownership details, drainage calculations, verification of SuDS implementation, maintenance and management;
 9. Levels;
 10. Hard and soft landscaping;
 11. POS implementation and management;
 12. Grampian style condition securing off site highways works;
 13. Submission and agreement of traffic calming works;
 14. Waste audit (WM8);
 15. Site investigation, remediation and mitigation;
 16. Relating to unidentified contamination;
 17. Protection of water infrastructure;
 18. Landscape and ecological / habitat management plan;
 19. Removal of permitted development fights HS/fencing;
 20. Hard and soft landscaping;
 21. Submission and agreement of ecological enhancement features;
 22. Submission and agreement of boundary treatments;
 23. Securing ecological and habitat protection through a CEMP;
 24. Restriction construction and delivery hours;
 25. Requiring implementation of scheme of noise mitigation;
 26. Submission and agreement of play facilities;
 27. Securing a scheme of archaeological works; and
 28. Submission, agreement and implementation of measures for reducing carbon emissions and adapting to climatic conditions.

Meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

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DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Development Management Committee on Monday, 5 June 2023 at the Civic Suite, Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors S. Hill (Chair), Leck (Vice-Chair), Bevan, Carlin, Davidson, C. Loftus, Philbin, C. Plumpton Walsh, Polhill, Thompson and Woolfall

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: Councillors M. Lloyd Jones and P. Lloyd Jones and 4 members of the public

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

		<i>Action</i>
DEV1	MINUTES The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2023, having been circulated, were taken as read and signed as a correct record.	
DEV2	PLANNING APPLICATIONS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE The Committee considered the following applications for planning permission and, in accordance with its powers and duties, made the decisions described below.	
DEV3	22/00041/COU - RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF USE OF FIELD TO DOG WALKING AND DAY CARE FACILITY AND ERECTION OF FIELD SHELTER AT WHITEHOUSE FARM, BARKERS HOLLOW ROAD, PRESTON BROOK, WA4 4LW The consultation procedure undertaken was outlined in the report together with background information in respect of the site. The Committee was informed that in order to address	

concerns over access arrangements, the Applicant had made changes to the proposed site layout plan; these were outlined. The Applicant had also undertaken an independent stage one and two Road Safety Audit based on the amended scheme. The Highway's Officer now considered that the proposal was acceptable subject to the attachment of conditions securing the off-site highway improvements and a travel plan detailing drop off, pick up, parking and manoeuvring protocols and visibility splays.

It was noted the Environmental Health Officer raised no objection to the proposal as noise nuisance was not likely to cause a significant increase in ambient noise levels for either day or night time conditions.

Since the publication of the agenda, it was reported that a photograph showing 15 dogs on the site had been submitted to the Council by an interested party. Members were advised this number corresponded with the current restriction imposed by Environmental Health in the Applicant's licence, under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 for the boarding of dogs as set out in the report.

Mrs Reid, who owned and lived in the neighbouring property, addressed the Committee. She opposed the application stating that it hindered her peaceful enjoyment of her property, where she has lived for over 30 years. She stated that she was not aware of the publication of the agenda until last Friday. She argued the following, *inter alia*:

- There were 15 dogs not 10 as stated in the submission;
- Only one handler was in charge of 15 dogs;
- News reports indicated that there had been a 37% increase in dog attacks;
- There was noise disturbance from barking dogs in the field and music being played to calm them;
- Loss of privacy – dogs were constantly being walked and there is excrement left behind;
- The powerful floodlights on the site also lit her garden and cottage;
- A tree at Keepers Cottage was cut down without permission;
- She can no longer access her septic tank due to the erection of a new fence; and
- Paragraph 4.3 referred to – she was the complainant referred to but it was not just one complaint she had made.

She stated that she has endured this for the past two

years before the application was submitted to the Council. She urged the Committee to refuse the application.

Councillor Martha Lloyd Jones, Local Ward Councillor for Preston Brook, addressed the Committee objecting to the proposal, in support of Mrs Reid.

She reiterated Mrs Reid's objections; stating that she had lost the peaceful enjoyment of her property between the hours of 8am and 6pm due to the noise disturbance from barking dogs. She also commented:

- That for the Applicant to say she has a '*strict anti-bark policy*' was ludicrous – how do you stop dogs from barking;
- The lighting system on the site also lit up Mrs Reid's property, causing light disturbance;
- Mrs Reid was the only neighbouring property owner to the facility;
- The Applicants were allegedly planning to extend the business to include boarding kennels in the future;
- There should be a condition restricting the use beyond 6pm and the conditions should be monitored; and
- This was a retrospective application – the business had operated for two years without permission.

Councillor Lloyd Jones urged the Committee to reject the application on the basis of the total loss of enjoyment for Mrs Reid of her property during daytime hours.

Following a Member's query regarding consideration of Article 8 of the Human Rights Act, the Committee heard a quote from the Inspectorate regarding the '*Right to Privacy*' in its context with planning laws. It was confirmed that Article 8 was not sufficient grounds to warrant the refusal of the application.

Further to Members' questions, clarity on the requirement for evidence of noise nuisance was provided. The objector cited noise nuisance but there was no evidence to support this from the Environmental Health Officer, so an abatement Notice could not be served. Environmental Health concluded therefore, that an objection to the proposal on the grounds of noise disturbance could not be sustained, as outlined in the report.

After considering the application before them and comments provided by the speakers, the Committee agreed to approve the application by majority.

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

1. Soft landscaping scheme;
2. Implementation of offsite highway improvements;
3. Travel plan;
4. Visibility splays; and
5. Implementation of boundary treatments.

DEV4 MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

It was noted that the following appeals had been received or were in progress:

22/00019/PLD

Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed use of development for the installation of a solar farm (ground mounted solar photovoltaic panels) at Liverpool John Lennon Airport, land bounded by Dungeon Lane, Hale Road and Baileys Lane to the East of Liverpool John Lennon Airport, Speke, Liverpool, L24 1YD.

22/00103/FUL

Proposed construction of front dormer and rear dormer to newly formed first floor at 265 Hale Road, Hale, Liverpool, L24 5RF.

22/00285/ADV & 22/00284/FUL

The retrospective application for planning consent for the installation of a car park management system on existing car park comprising 4 no. pole mounted automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras and 6 no. park and display machines at Car Park at Green Oaks Shopping Centre, Widnes, WA8 6UA.

21/00016/OUT

Outline application, with all matters other than access reserved for the erection of two semi-detached dwellings and four detached dwellings on the existing Church field and the retention of the existing scout hut at Hough Green Scout and Guide Group Hall and Church Field Hall Avenue, Widnes.

It was noted that the following appeals had been determined as follows:

21/00629/COU

Proposed change of use from dwelling (Use Class C3) to dental practice (Use Class E (e)) with onsite parking provision for 8 vehicles at 34 Cronton Lane, Widnes, WA8

5AJ – Allowed.

22/00292/FUL

Proposed erection of a secure replacement 2.4m high brick perimeter wall to vehicle impound yard at DVLA Pound, Waterloo Road / Barn Street, Widnes, WA8 0QF – **Allowed.**

Meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

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APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Tuesday, 28 March 2023 at the Karalius Suite - Halton Stadium, Widnes

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor

Absence declared on Council business: Councillor

Officers present: S. Young and S. Wallace-Bonner

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

	<i>Action</i>
<p>APC21 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985</p> <p>The Board considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 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. <p>RESOLVED: That, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption</p>	

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

APC22 SELECTION INTERVIEWS FOR THE POSTS OF OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR COMMISSIONING AND PROVISION AND OPERATIONAL DIRECTOR CARE MANAGEMENT SAFE GUARDING AND QUALITY

Following a long-listing recruitment process and the drawing up of a shortlist, the Committee considered candidates for the posts of:

Operational Director Commissioning and Provision
Operational Director Care Management, Safeguarding and Quality.

RESOLVED: That the following appointments were made:

- 1) Operational Director Commissioning and Provision – Mr Damien Nolan; and
- 2) Operational Director Care Management, Safeguarding and Quality – Ms M Lynch.

Meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Appointments Committee held on Monday, 24 April 2023 at the Karalius Suite - Halton Stadium, Widnes

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Ratcliffe

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Young

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

		<i>Action</i>
APC1	MINUTES The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023, having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and agreed as a correct record.	
APC2	SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985 The Board considered: 1) whether members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and 2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public	

interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

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

APC3 APPOINTMENT OF POST EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION

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

RESOLVED: That Wesley Rourke be appointed to the post of Executive Director, Environment & Regeneration

Meeting ended at 3.33 p.m.

TAXI LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee on Wednesday, 19 April 2023 in the Mersey Room - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Abbott (Vice Chair in the Chair), Teeling and D. Cargill (substitute)

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Wallace

Absence declared on Council business: None

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

Also in attendance: None

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

EXB13 MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 15 February 2023 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

EXB14 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

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

Action

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

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

EXB15 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

Case 769

RESOLVED: That the Restricted Single Status Drivers Licence is granted.

Meeting ended at 10:09am