

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



*Municipal Building,
Kingsway,
Widnes.
WA8 7QF*

13th February 2007

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

You are hereby summoned to attend an Ordinary Meeting of the Halton Borough Council to be held in the Runcorn Town Hall on Wednesday, 21 February 2007 commencing at 6.30 p.m.. for the purpose of considering and passing such resolution(s) as may be deemed necessary or desirable in respect of the matters mentioned in the Agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W. R.', is centered on the page.

Chief Executive

-AGENDA-

- 1. COUNCIL MINUTES**
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3. THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

N.B. If the item in which you have an interest is contained in minutes of a Committee or Board coming to full Council it is only necessary to declare an interest in the following circumstances:

- where the specific minute in question is actually discussed at full Council (in which case the interest needs to be declared at the point at which someone mentions the specific item);
- where the item is one of those coming to full Council specifically for a decision (e.g. a recommendation from Executive Board) - these will be listed separately to the rest of the minutes.

- 5. LEADER'S REPORT**
- 6. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**
 - a) 7th December 2006
 - b) 21st December 2006
 - c) 25th January 2007
- 7. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB-COMMITTEE**
 - a) 7th December 2006
 - b) 21st December 2006
 - c) 11th January 2007
 - d) 25th January 2007
- 8. QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 8**

9. MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION BY COUNCIL

a) Executive Board Sub-Committee - 21st December 2006 (ES62 refers) - The Use of Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 by the Consumer Protection Service

The Executive Board Sub-Committee considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That

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

b) Executive Board - 25th January 2007 (EXB76 refers) - Capital Programme 2007/2008

The Executive Board considered the attached report.

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

c) Executive Board - 8th February 2007 - Local Transport Expenditure Settlement 2007/08 and Local Transport Plan Implementation Programme 2007/08

The Executive Board considered the attached report.

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

d) Monitoring Officer

A report on this matter will be given orally at the meeting.

10. CHANGE TO APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Council is advised of the following change in appointments to outside bodies, which has been made in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation (Matters Relating to Council Policy – 17):

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

11. MINUTES OF POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY BOARD

- a) Children and Young People - Cream Pages
- b) Employment, Learning and Skills - Yellow Pages
- c) Healthy Halton - Grey Pages
- d) Safer Halton - Pink Pages
- e) Urban Renewal - Green Pages
- f) Corporate Services - Salmon Pages
- g) Business Efficiency Board - White Pages

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES

- a) Development Control - Pink Pages
- b) Standards - White Pages
- c) Regulatory - Blue Pages
- d) Appointments - White Pages

13. MOTION RECEIVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 6

The following motion has been received for consideration:

Council Tax

To be moved by Councillor C Inch and seconded by Councillor Redhead:

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

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

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

Energy Savings	190
The Council proposed a 10% reduction in energy in reference to the appointment of an Energy Officer. This should be implemented as agreed by the Corporate PPB.	
Cost of Energy Officer	(50)
Executive Board	56
This should be re-organised to match the directorate structure. Last year the Opposition position was removed but the Board decided to re-allocate responsibilities and maintain 11 posts. A structure with 6 posts is recommended.	
Councillor Allowances	12
The council should vote to freeze councillors’ allowances to protect front line services.	
Joint Area Review	90
We do not believe the addition of two posts to prepare for the audit next March is a justification for an increase in council tax. Hence these posts if necessary must be self-financed.	
Advertising, Marketing and Promotion	120
A 15% reduction is proposed, to protect council services and employment. The £931,000 the council spent on this area last year is not appropriate in the current climate.	
Citizens Advice Bureau	(60)
Cutting the grant to the CAB will impact those with the most severe hardships and concerns. The CAB provides an essential front line service, which should be protected.	
Totalling at least a 1% reduction	358”