

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 6 March 2008 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

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

Apologies for Absence: Councillors McDermott and Harris

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: G. Cook, C. Halpin, I. Leivesley, G. Meehan, D. Parr and D. Tregoe

Also in attendance: Janet McDonald, Halton & St Helens PCT

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

EXB98 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2008 were taken as read and signed as correct record.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB99 CITY EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment seeking authority to proceed with the implementation phase of the City Employment Strategy (CES) through Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council acting as the accountable body for the CES Partnership.

It was advised that the CES concept was that local consortia were formed of public, private and voluntary sectors, which work together to target those wards with the highest levels of worklessness. In Halton, the Department of Work and Pensions had identified Windmill Hill, Castlefields, Riverside, Halton Lea, Grange and Kingsway. The six local authorities in Merseyside had submitted a joint business plan to the Department of Work and Pensions that was

Action

successful and the area was now one of the national pilots.

Progress to date was outlined for the Board's information and it was noted that the first meeting of the CES Board had recently taken place. The Halton representative on the Board was the Operational Director – Economic Regeneration. It was advised that the North West Development Agency (NWDA) was formally considering a funding application for £3m made by Knowsley Council on behalf the Partnership. The cash flow had £2.7m in 2008/9 and £700,000 in 2009/10 and the key project within the application was aimed at reducing child poverty by working with both the unemployed and the low paid. A team was to be established to work across all six local authorities to implement the project.

Issues and next steps were also outlined for the Board's consideration. In particular, it was noted that the CES Partnership would be making a number of funding submissions to the NWDA in the future and, as such, there needed to be a formal agreement as to which organisation should be the accountable body. Given that Knowsley was the lead in the Multi Area Agreement (MAA), and was overseeing the management of the CES, it was proposed that it should be designated as the accountable body.

RESOLVED: That Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council be designated as the accountable body for the Liverpool City Region City Employment Strategy.

Strategic Director
- Environment

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE PORTFOLIO

EXB100 WORKING ARRANGEMENTS TO ALIGN PCT CHILD HEALTH SERVICES WITHIN THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DIRECTORATE; AND CHILDREN'S TRUST ARRANGEMENTS IN HALTON – KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Children and Young People's Directorate, and the Operational Director – Halton and St. Helens Primary Care Trust (PCT), seeking agreement on the next steps in the integration of services in Halton for children and young people through new working arrangements between Halton and St. Helens PCT and the Children and Young People's Directorate of Halton Council. Agreement was also sought to place those new arrangements and their governance within the context of Halton's Children's Trust Arrangements (Alliance Board).

The report outlined how the proposals were intended to improve outcomes for children and young people, seeking to build on the integration of Education and Children's Social Care Services that formed the Children and Young People's Directorate in 2006. The proposals focused on the way the Children and Young People's Directorate and its partners would do business together in future. An integrated approach would enhance the Council and its partner's ability to deliver the key objectives of the Community Strategy under the umbrella of the Local Strategic Partnership. All the services within that Partnership would continue to be directly accountable to their parent body for the quality and effectiveness of their services. However, the proposals enhanced the Council's ability to fully discharge its new statutory duties to children and young people in the Borough.

The Health Services referred to were outlined for the Board's consideration and it was advised that health services for children were focused on three on three principal groupings:

- The Sick Child – children who required specific medical interventions due to illness or injury;
- The Vulnerable child – children who had a particular set of circumstances that made their health vulnerable, for example hearing loss, a chronic condition, or their welfare or safety; and
- The Well Child – routine health matters that all children needed.

Integration of those services would be complemented by the further alignment of other health-related services and a dialogue would be established with General Practitioners in the Borough on the "best fit" with General Practice. It was advised that Dentistry Services were not part of this arrangement.

Members noted that the PCT was moving towards being a commissioning organisation and, in light of this, the PCT would explore a relevant NHS provider to deliver services to the "sick" child, whilst entering into this management arrangement with the Council for health services for the "well" and "vulnerable" child.

The proposed structure for the joint new arrangements were attached at Appendix 1 of the report. It was advised that NHS staff would not be subject to TUPE or seconded to the Council and so there would be no change to the terms of employment or conditions of any NHS employee affected by

these arrangements. Lines of accountability were outlined for consideration and it was advised that the PCT would identify a named individual (Assistant Director, Children and Family Health, Halton) to become part of the Children and Young People Directorate's Senior Management Team. This post would have direct line management responsibility for all PCT staff in the new working arrangements. The post would report directly to the Council's Strategic Director of Children's Services for day to day management of services and would also report to the Operational Director, Children, Families and Maternity Services for NHS accountability purposes.

The Alliance Board (Children's Trust Arrangement) would act as the Governance Body for the PCT and Council, cementing the Children's Trust arrangements that had to be in place by April 2008. A formal agreement was to be developed over the next three months which would be presented to both the Executive Board of the Council and the Primary Care Trust Board. The proposals were initially for one year and then to be reviewed. Information on how arrangements would be dovetailed with services for adults was outlined for the Board's information, together with options on how the geographic footprint could be used for the future deployment of children's services.

Reason(s) for Decision

- To bring together a full range of services (Education, Health and Social Care) for Children and Young People within one directorate under the auspices of Halton's Children's Trust arrangements;
- The further integration of services would enable the Council and its partners to provide better tailored and co-ordinated services, particularly for vulnerable groups of young people.
- They would provide, over time, the opportunity to create a series of "Teams Around the Child" delivering services in a much more effective and efficient way and one that was much more accessible and understandable to the public.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Alternative options regarding the development of integrated services with the NHS and the proposals on Children's Trusts arrangements included:

- No change, that is, current management arrangements and strategic oversight would remain

the same. The principal reason for this option being rejected was that the Council would miss an ideal opportunity to bring together the principal services for Children and Young People under one operational umbrella. It was a requirement that the Council-led Children's Trust arrangements and that this should be fully in place no later than April 2008. It was therefore a requirement that Children's Trust arrangements were cemented within the Borough.

Implementation Date

The Children's Trust arrangements would become effective by 30th April 2008. The new arrangements for aligning NHS services would come into effect at the same time. During 2008/09, work would be undertaken on the development of new structural arrangements at the front line in close consultation with operational staff. Also during 2008/09, a formal agreement would be developed. The new arrangements would be reviewed in April 2009.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the development of new working arrangements for PCT staff working with the "well" and "vulnerable" child within the Council's Children and Young People's Directorate be agreed;
- (2) it be noted that Health Services for the "sick" child remains the exclusive responsibility of the PCT and thus outside these arrangements;
- (3) it be agreed that work be undertaken to use the Alliance Board (Halton's Children's Trust arrangement) as the Governance Body for the new partnership arrangements with the PCT;
- (4) all Council services within the new working arrangements continue to be accountable to the Executive Board;
- (5) it be noted that the geographic footprint that would be used for the future deployment of Children's Services would need to be agreed from the following options depending on the nature of the service:
 - a) Boroughwide delivery;
 - b) Runcorn or Widnes based delivery;
 - c) Locality based delivery, perhaps building on the area networks or other recognised locality; and

Strategic Director-
Children & Young
People

- (6) Appendix 2 be approved as the structure for the Children's Trust arrangements.

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB101 HOUSING GROWTH POINTS

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment advising of progress made in respect of the Council's Expression of Interest for Halton for Growth Point Status since the previous report of 13th December 2007.

It was noted that, following publication of proposals to extend the Government's Growth Points and Eco Towns Programme to cover the north of England in the Housing Green Paper (July 2007), the Council was invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) to Government Office by 31st October. The Merseyside Policy Unit (MPU) co-ordinated submission of a joint EoI on behalf of Halton and the other Merseyside authorities, divided into two potential growth areas centred on Liverpool and Wirral Waterfronts, and Halton and St. Helens.

Following post submission advice from Government Office North West (GONW), agreement had been reached with Warrington to co-ordinate its proposals with those from Halton/St. Helens under the "Mid Mersey" banner.

It was advised that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had subsequently requested significant post submission reassurances and information, principally in respect of flood risk, transport, affordable housing and governance. Significant joint working had therefore been undertaken involving colleagues from St. Helens, Warrington, GONW, the Environment Agency, the Highways Agency, Mersey Travel and United Utilities to furnish the additional material requested.

Members noted that Halton's EoI was dependent upon bringing forward sites within the Runcorn and Weston Docklands Regeneration Area (Halton UDP). The landowner, Peel Holdings was intent on bringing this site forward as a matter of urgency and had indicated that they wished to work in partnership with the Council to produce a Masterplan to be incorporated into Planning Policy as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in a manner similar to the joint working with English Partnerships on

Sandymoor.

RESOLVED: That

Strategic Director
- Environment

- (1) the actions taken following the submission of the Growth Point Expression of interest be ratified;
- (2) officers be authorised to work with the Council's partners in the Mid-Mersey area and, where appropriate, private landowners to further work on the successful delivery of the Growth Point agenda;
- (3) it be approved that Halton offer to act as "Lead Authority" for the Mid-Mersey Growth Point; and
- (4) the intention to work with Peel Holdings to produce a Masterplan and Supplementary Planning Document to inform the development of the Runcorn Docklands site, in advance of the previously proposed date of 2010 for production of this SPD as contained in the 2007 Local Development Scheme, be noted.

EXB102 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

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

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the

meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, REGENERATION AND RENEWAL PORTFOLIO

EXB103 MERSEY GATEWAY - LAND ACQUISITION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment regarding land that needed to be acquired in order to complete the Land Assembly Package for the construction of the Mersey Gateway Scheme.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy, in consultation with the Mersey Gateway Project Director and the Executive Board Member for Corporate Services, be authorised to acquire the former Anglo Blackwell site as detailed in the report; and
- (2) the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy, in consultation with the Mersey Gateway Project Director and the Executive Board Member for Corporate Services, be authorised to acquire other sites required for the implementation of the Mersey Gateway Bridge where such a course of action had been agreed by the Mersey Gateway Project Officers Board and approved by the Operational Director – Finance.

Strategic Director
- Environment

MINUTES ISSUED: 11th March 2008

CALL IN: 18th March 2008

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 18th March 2008

Meeting ended at 2.43 p.m.