



**Executive Board Sub Committee**

**Thursday, 5 November 2009 10.00 a.m.  
Marketing Suite, Municipal Building**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R'.

**Chief Executive**

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**PART 1**

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<b>1. MINUTES</b>	
<b>2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST</b>	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or personal and prejudicial interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached and, with personal and prejudicial interests (subject to certain exceptions in the Code of Conduct for Members), to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.	
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***In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.***

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee

**DATE:** 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Environment

**SUBJECT:** CLG Grant – Extra Support for Town Centres

**WARDS:** Kingsway, Appleton, Mersey

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

**To present proposals for the use of the recently awarded DCLG Grant – Extra Support for Town Centres.**

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- (1) The Board agrees the approach to implementing a support programme for Runcorn and Widnes Town Centres, funded by this new DCLG Grant.

### **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

#### **3.1 CLG Grant – Extra Support for Town Centres**

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced in August 2009 a £3million funding package to support town centres in the current economic downturn. Halton Borough Council is now in receipt of £52,632 from this grant to support our town centres.

Guidance on how Local Authorities can support town centres is provided in the “Looking after our town centres” document. One of the key issues addressed in this, that led to the grant is the re-use of empty units in town centres, although the grant is flexible for use by Local Authorities to spend in the best way to combat issues in their locality.

It is yet to be ascertained as to whether this funding must be used within this financial year or whether a scheme can be developed over this year and next. Until we are certain of the conditions of the grant (particularly the timescales), there is an element of over programming at 12% built into the proposals presented although expenditure will not be allowed to exceed the grant of £52,632

#### **3.2 Existing Town Centre Improvement Activities**

There are already a number of ongoing initiatives to regenerate and support the town centres in Halton. It is suggested that the CLG grant should be used to augment, develop and complement ongoing activities.

£130,000 of WNF funding has been secured for Town Centre Improvements this year as part of the Urban Renewal WNF allocation. The prime outcome of this funding, agreed by the LSP and the Urban Renewal SSP, is to improve Widnes Town Centre in anticipation of the opening of the new Widnes Shopping Park. Some of this funding is also being utilised in Runcorn in support of the development of the Canal Quarter scheme.

A number of key issues and solutions were proposed for the Town Centre Improvement scheme, with the primary activity being a Widnes Town Centre Branding Strategy and Action Plan to inform the improvements programme. URBED were commissioned to undertake this work in August with a final report expected in November 2009. The strategy will provide a brand image for Widnes which will be used to produce promotional material, update the promotional maps and location plans, identify improvements to pedestrian routes and provide solutions for the treatment of empty shop units.

Officers have undertaken an audit of street furniture in Widnes to advise on improvements and possible replacements. WNF funding will be used to action the findings of the audit, following the outcome of the branding strategy. A similar audit is scheduled for Runcorn.

In Runcorn work has focussed on the ongoing development of the Canal Quarter scheme, including ongoing property purchases and negotiations with developers. However it is acknowledged that work is required to improve the wider town centre, in particular to address the issue of vacant properties.

Vacancy and condition surveys have been undertaken in both Widnes and Runcorn town centres to ascertain the number of vacant properties and to identify properties in need of improvement. The surveys revealed vacancy rates of 13% in Widnes and 16% in Runcorn.

The street market has been a great success in Runcorn, increasing footfall in the town and improving perceptions of the town as a shopping destination. This now needs to be augmented with further support for local businesses to improve the attractiveness of Runcorn as a district centre.

The Shop Local scheme is currently being rolled out across the borough to encourage residents to shop in Halton's three town centres. Further elements of the marketing strategy for this scheme could be rolled out with additional funding from the CLG grant.

There are also a number of schemes provided in previous years by the Town Centre Manager which currently have no funding for 2009/10.

### 3.3 Proposals for use of CLG Grant

In the first instance it is important to recognise that £52,632 is not going to achieve a 'big bang' impact on the town centres as it is a relatively small pot of funding. Therefore, it is important to achieve the maximum impact over a

variety of schemes. Whilst there will be no new developments, we will be seeking an improvement in trading conditions and levels of trade through a number of schemes.

It is proposed that the grant is split between Runcorn and Widnes according to need. Given the commitment to WNF spend in Widnes and the relative vacancy rates in the two town centres, it is proposed that the grant is split approximately 40% for Widnes and 60% for Runcorn, with a number of the proposed 'town centre management' schemes covering both town centres.

"Looking after our town centres" notes the importance of working in partnership in order to create strong town centres and it is important that we utilise the existing Business Partnerships in Halton in order to progress plans for improvements.

As per the existing management of projects, a 7% (£3,500) fee for management of the grant has been applied.

An element of over-programming is recommended to ensure the full spend within the financial year.

As the CLG grant is a relatively small pot of funding, it is proposed that the principle is adopted of no more than 10% of the grant to be spent on any single individual scheme unless there is exceptional merit to that scheme.

All proposals for schemes are put forward on the following conditions:

- An evaluation of the impact of that scheme on the improvement of the town centres is completed in April 2010.
- Each scheme publicises appropriately the support from both CLG and Halton Borough Council.

A number of Town Centre Management proposals cover both Town Centres:

- Support for the ongoing promotion of the Shop Local Scheme. Further elements of the existing scheme could be rolled out, including advertising on buses and/or posters in vacant units. £5,000 (10%)
- Support for street cleansing activity as required by the Town Centre Manager, including gum removal or street washing. £5,000 (10%)
- Christmas Music for both town centres, including the installation of the system and all required licenses. £5,000 (10%)
- Support for market events as prioritised by the Market Manager, including one off events to promote the markets, in particular to be co-ordinated with the opening of Widnes Shopping Park. £5000 (10%)
- Contribution towards works required to update the CCTV system in the town centres, to be prioritised by Principal Engineer (Traffic and CCTV). £5,000

**Sub-Total £25,000 (47% of total grant)** split 50/50 across both town centres.

## Proposals for Widnes Town Centre

- Implementation of Victoria Road strategy (to be prioritised and costed) £5000
- Christmas grotto to be jointly provided with Morrison's and Town Centre Manager. £3,500 with further match funding required.
- £5,000 to fund a community arts group's Community Film Theatre initiative, working with the community to display historic materials and show films collected from the community in a shop unit converted into a 'cinema for a day'; the scheme to be run in conjunction with other events to be held to promote the Town Centre and coincide with the opening of the Widnes Shopping Park in 2010.

### **Sub-Total £13,500 (26% of total grant)**

## Proposals for Runcorn Town Centre

- Treatment of empty units, to provide improvements to the paintwork and possibly signage. This is estimated at between £250 and £750 per property. Properties will be prioritised based on the vacancy and condition survey. £5,000 (10%)
- Grant support for other units in poor condition units for property improvements and structural improvements £5,000 (10%).
- An extension of URBED's recommendations for the treatment of empty units to cover Runcorn Town Centre. £5,000 (10%)

### **Sub-Total £15,000 (29% of total grant)**

A final proposal, covering both town centres is to hold a competition for the public to suggest possible improvements. It is suggested that a small prize could be offered, and that £2,000 is set aside to allow the implementation of some of the winning suggestions. This would enable community consultation, particularly via the local press, and would also help to promote the other activities to improve the town centres.

### **Sub Total £2,000**

### **Total (including programmed over-spend) £59,000**

## **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The delivery of actions under the CLG grant to support the town centres are in line with the strategic management of the Town Centres. The aims and objectives of the grant have been identified by both Major Projects Department (responsible for regeneration of the town centres) and the Town Centre Manager. It is important that the recommendations for use of this grant are also in line with the recommendations for further town centre improvements following the URBED commissioned strategy. Both pieces of work will feed into the long term planning for the strategic management of the town centres.

Where any re-use of empty units is proposed consideration will have to be given to the current Business Rates policy. Where the re-use is community based, for example local artists, then business rates need to be waived in order to encourage owners to participate in the scheme. This policy is promoted in the 'Looking after our Town Centres' document.

## **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The financial implications for the CLG grant relate to the use of the grant in terms of the conditions and monitoring. *(It has not yet been clarified as to whether there are any conditions attached to the grant, or how it will be drawn down from CLG.*

*Similarly it needs to be confirmed whether the grant must be spent within this financial year. It is imperative that the grant is maximised so as to avoid the loss of any funding that has been provided to assist the town centres in the current economic climate.)*

It is also important to acknowledge that other funding may be available for some of the key actions required to improve the town centres. Where possible, any scheme utilising art to re-vitalise the town centres is eligible for Arts Council funding as identified in the offer letter for the CLG grant. The activities identified above and in the URBED strategy will also stimulate discussions regarding the allocation to town centre improvements for 2010/11 WNF.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

The improvement of the town centres is important in improving opportunities for everyone in Halton, including Children and Young People. A more attractive town centre will attract visitors and businesses, improving the offer to all parts of the community.

### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

The improvement of the town centres and the re-use of empty shop units are vital in supporting the local economy and businesses based in the town centres. Supporting businesses leads to increased employment opportunities.

### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The improvement of the town centres will contribute to an improved quality of life in Halton. The attractiveness of the town centres will impact on the range of cultural and leisure opportunities in the town centres, as well as access to a range of services.

### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

This scheme will support the improvement of the town centres, ensuring pleasant, safe and secure environments and good quality local amenities. Attractive town centres will help people to enjoy where they live, work and shop.

### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

This scheme complements Halton's Urban Renewal objectives by improving the urban fabric of the town centres, creating exciting and vibrant centres for people to live, work and shop. One of the key objectives for the Urban Renewal priority is to revitalise the town centres, which has become a key focus in the current economic climate.

## **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

Failure to commit grant in financial year – conditions of grant need to be advised by financial services. If the grant is only available for 2009/10 then action must be taken to implement each scheme within the next 5 months.

Schemes provide limited improvement to the town centres – schemes have been identified through consultation, and further negotiations are required with local business partnerships to ensure that each has the maximum impact. An evaluation of each scheme is also necessary to assess the level of impact in order to inform the continuation or roll out of individual schemes.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

No issues.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Looking After our Town Centres	Major Projects Department, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Municipal Building	Helen Baxter, Ian Goodall



**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee

**DATE:** 5 November 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – ICT

**TITLE:** ICT Capital Spend Profile 6 Month Review

**WARDS:** Borough Wide

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To outline the current spending profile for the current ICT infrastructure requirement for 2009/2010.

**2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the Board approves the spend profile.**

## 3.0 BACKGROUND:

### 3.1 ICT spend profile April 2009 – September 2009

Spend	Cost	Revenue Increase
SAN & Virtualisation Upgrade	£150'000	£11'000
Server Farm Patching and Security Hardening	£220'000	£40'000
Domain Upgrade	£50'000	None
Encryption	£60'000	£17'000
Network Upgrade	£100'000	£10'000
Secure Gateway	£70'000	None
<b>Total</b>	<b>£650'000</b>	<b>£78'000</b>

3.2 The April to September 2009 spend profile required a clear focus upon the completion of the technical aspects related to the Code of Connection requirement for the authority.

3.3 The vast majority of this work has now been undertaken. With the main focus related to the deployment of the Microsoft Active Directory services, a new central control platform that will allow greater efficiencies through the centralisation of software and hardware control solutions such as security lockdown and deployment of new software. This 1<sup>st</sup> phase of this development saw the introduction of the server and the network permissions management aspect of the control solution that is due for completion by the end of October. Testing is currently underway prior to a corporate deployment.

3.4 **ICT requirement: infrastructure programme Sept 2009 – March 2010.**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Revenue Increase</b>
Renew Server Room Air-conditioning (2 Units)	£28'000	£3'000
Renew Watch Guard Firewall Replacement	£36'000	No increase in current commitment
Academic Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (LEA)	£70'000	N/A
Renew Back-Up Tape Library	£60'000	£12'000
Decommission Citrix XPe – replace all devices with PC or Laptop (if required)	£245'000	No increase in current commitment
<b>Total</b>	<b>£439'000</b>	<b>£15'000</b>

- 3.5 Phase 2 of the 2009/10 ICT Infrastructure Capital Programme will be aimed at the removal of Citrix 3, the authorities ageing desktop devices, and the upgrade of the new Citrix remote access solution 4. Complimenting this project it is proposed the authority brings the Children and Young People's licensing arrangements for all desktop Microsoft software applications in line with the corporate Microsoft enterprise agreement allowing greater flexibility during the upgrade process and delivering further savings upon the already heavily discounted licensing within this environment.
- 3.6 Additional infrastructure projects will include the replacement of the back-up library device. This is needed due to its age and the inability to now purchase spares for this essential device. Again within this environment the replacement of the main Watch Guard firewall, a system that stops any unwanted external access to the network is essential. Again replacing out of date devices.
- 3.6 Effective Air conditioning is a crucial within a data centre environment, this may seem unusual within a technology based environment but with over 286 server devices housed within such a confined space the heat generated by these devices is considerable. Given the heat sensitive nature of the devices within this environment If the ambient temperature within this room starts to rise the efficiency and the potential breakdown of the servers starts to become a considerable risk to the authority. The current air-conditioning has suffered a number of recent failures. The age of the current devices mean there is a genuine risk to the reliability of the data provision throughout the

borough, as such it is essential that these devices are replaced as soon as possible.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The authority through its many initiatives holds a considerable reliance upon the efficiency and the development of this hidden base infrastructure platform; without this platform key applications and PC's would not work in the manner expected.

4.2 This hidden infrastructure supports all of the authority's services and delivery mechanisms and as such requires a dedicated investment programme to support it.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The constant maintenance of this platform limits the risks associated with failure as in many cases departments and front line services cannot operate without the use of integrated technologies.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

All departmental strategies and objectives are underpinned by the use of technology, systems such as Care first, Tribal and Agresso support this service. The effective secure distribution of these services is essential.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

As above the front line services the borough provides rely upon the technology platform to manage and distribute services.

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

.As above the services the borough provides rely upon the technology platform to manage and distribute services.

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

As above the services the borough provides rely upon the technology platform to manage and distribute services.

**6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

As above the services the borough provides rely upon the technology platform to manage and distribute services.

**7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The risk of little or no technology replacement provision to the services within the borough is considerable.

7.2 The 2703 desktop devices used by the authority are underpinned by the corporate infrastructure 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Many services enjoy almost 100% service provision with the exception of planned down time for maintenance, generally undertaken out of the normal working hours.

7.3 Basic services such as email are managed within this environment with over 3.7 Million spam emails being stopped at source before they reach the recipient. The authority manages in excess of 40'000 network connections within the current infrastructure; the vast majority of which are controlled and terminate within the Municipal building.

7.4 IT provision is no longer just about the PC on the desk, the growing complexity expected and placed upon the infrastructure is now a business critical shared service for many of the councils partners and services alike. This business support solution now manages the vast majority of our services and daily transactions. Regular updating and maintenance is essential.

**8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The infrastructure supports the delivery and management of support services.

**9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub-Committee

**DATE:** 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Operational Director – Financial Services

**SUBJECT:** Treasury Management 2009/10  
2nd Quarter: July –September

**WARDS:** Borough Wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Sub-Committee about activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Policy.
- 1.2 CIPFA issued an interim Treasury Management guidance document in March 2009, highlighting Best Practice recommendations for Local Authorities to follow. The document suggests that members should be informed of Treasury Management activities at least twice a year, but preferably quarterly. This report therefore ensures this Council is embracing Best Practice in accordance with CIPFA's recommendations. It is expected that CIPFA will issue an updated Treasury Management Code of Practice in the autumn of 2009.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the report be noted.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **3.1 Economic Background**

The following has been provided by Sector, the Council's treasury management advisors:

Highlights of the quarter:

- There are some signs of recovery in the market, with some sectors showing growth
- Concerns remain about the fragile state of any recovery with the impact of rising unemployment, therefore bank rate/investment rates expected to stay lower for longer
- House prices rise at the fastest rate in over five years;
- An extension of the Bank of England's quantitative easing programme...
- ...but have limited success in boosting credit or money supply growth;

- Unemployment continue to rise and pay growth weaken further;
- Inflationary pressures in the economy ease further, but more slowly than had been expected;
- Conditions in financial markets improve further, and equity prices rally strongly;
- The pound fall back, yielding much of the gains made in the first quarter;
- Other major economies exit the recession, including the US.

At its meeting in August, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) increased the amount of asset purchases under the Bank's quantitative easing (QE) programme by £50bn to £175bn.

Net lending to businesses increased in August for the first month since March, however, the household sector as a whole reduced unsecured debt in August. Banks are likely to remain reluctant to lend while conditions in the labour market are still deteriorating. The claimant count rose by 25,200 in July and 24,400 in August. While these were smaller rises than in the first quarter, they were enough to take the claimant count above 1.6m, the highest level since Q2 1997.

Inflationary pressures in the economy eased further in the quarter, although at a slower rate than in the previous quarter, and more slowly than many expected. CPI inflation fell from 1.8% in June to 1.6% in August, largely as a result of falls in the annual rate of food and utility price inflation. However, core inflation rose from 1.6% in June to 1.8% in August – a higher rate than in other advanced economies. The rise most likely reflects the lagged impact of the pound's depreciation last year, and so should prove temporary.

The most upbeat news was from the housing market. The Nationwide house price index rose 3.8% in Q2, the largest quarterly rise since Q2 2004. House prices by this measure are now only 13.5% below their peak. And while the Halifax measure remained more downbeat, it too posted increases in the quarter. However, the rise in house prices appeared to be largely driven by the scarcity of homeowners putting their homes up for sale, suggesting that

### 3.2 Economic Forecast

The following forecast has been provided by Sector;

	Dec-09	Mar-10	Jun-10	Sep-10	Dec-10	Mar-11	Jun-11	Sep-11	Dec-11	Mar-12	Jun-12	Sep-12	Dec-12	Mar-13
Bank rate	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%	1.25%	1.75%	2.50%	3.00%	3.75%	4.00%	4.25%	4.50%	4.50%	4.50%
5yr PWLB rate	2.80%	2.90%	3.10%	3.20%	3.30%	3.55%	3.85%	4.15%	4.55%	4.60%	4.80%	4.80%	4.85%	4.85%
10yr PWLB rate	3.75%	3.80%	3.90%	4.00%	4.15%	4.30%	4.55%	4.75%	4.95%	5.00%	5.10%	5.15%	5.15%	5.15%
25yr PWLB rate	4.35%	4.45%	4.55%	4.60%	4.70%	4.90%	5.00%	5.00%	5.10%	5.20%	5.30%	5.30%	5.35%	5.35%
50yr PWLB rate	4.50%	4.55%	4.70%	4.75%	4.90%	5.00%	5.15%	5.15%	5.20%	5.25%	5.40%	5.40%	5.45%	5.45%

- The forecast is based on moderate economic recovery and moderate MPC concerns about inflation looking 2 years ahead
- The first Bank Rate increase is expected to be in Q2 of 2010/11
- Bank Rate to reach 4.5% in Q2 of 2012/13
- Long term PWLB rates to steadily increase to reach 5.45% by the end of 2012 due to high gilt issuance, reversal of QE and investor concerns over inflation
- There is a high level of uncertainties in all the above forecasts. This is due to the difficulties of forecasting the timing and amounts of QE reversal, fiscal contraction after the general election expected by May 2010, speed of recovery of banks' profitability and balance sheet positions, changes in the consumer saving ratio and rebalancing of the UK economy towards exports.

### 3.3 Short Term Rates

The bank base rate remained at 0.5% throughout the quarter. Investment rates continued to fall.

	Start	July		August		September	
		Mid	End	Mid	End	Mid	End
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call Money (Market)	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
1 Month (Market)	0.65	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.55	0.55	0.55
3 Month (Market)	1.25	1.10	1.00	0.90	0.85	0.70	0.65

### 3.4 Longer Term Rates

	Start	July		August		September	
		Mid	End	Mid	End	Mid	End
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1 Year (Market)	1.95	1.80	1.90	1.55	1.35	1.35	1.30
10 Year (PWLB)	3.68	3.90	4.12	3.85	3.71	3.78	3.80
25 Year (PWLB)	4.47	4.51	4.76	4.33	4.21	4.19	4.19

The PWLB rates are for new loans in the "lower quota" entitlements.

### 3.5 Temporary Borrowing/Investments

Turnover during period

	No. Of Deals Struck	Turnover £m
Short Term Borrowing	3	7.20
Short Term Investments	47	64.70

## Position at Month End

	July £m	August £m	September £m
Short Term Borrowing	2.50	0.00	0.00
Short Term Investments	42.75	42.00	42.95

## Investment Income Forecast

The forecast income and outturn for the quarter is as follows:

	Cumulative Budget £'000	Cumulative Actual £'000	Cumulative Target Rate %	Cumulative Actual Rate %
Quarter 1	500	578	0.49	5.56
Quarter 2	940	1,105	0.45	5.00
Quarter 3	1,180			
Quarter 4	1,335			

The investment income return for the half year exceeds the target. This reflects the action taken last year to lock a large proportion of the investment portfolio into longer dated fixed rate investments. However as these deals unwind and current advice and practice is to keep investments of a much shorter duration, the lower replacement rates will see the average rate of return decrease dramatically during the rest of this financial year. Since short term rates are forecast to remain at historic lows for some time the investment income next year will be considerably lower.

The target rate is based on the 7 day libid rate. For comparison purposes the 1 month average rate was 0.43%, 3 month rate 0.67% and 6 months averaging 0.89%.

### 3.6 Longer Term Borrowing/Investments

The authority did not borrow any new long term money. Due to the economic climate and interest rates available the authority did not enter into any long term investments and has continued with the policy of funding the effect of the 2009/10 year capital programme by running down it's investments.

### 3.7 Policy Guidelines

Interest Rate Exposure – complied with.

Approved Counterparty List – complied with.

Borrowing Instruments – complied with.

Prudential Indicators – complied with:

- Operational Boundary for external debt;
- Upper limit on interest rate exposure on fixed rate debt;
- Upper limit on interest rate exposure on variable rate debt;



- Maturity structure of borrowing as a percentage of fixed rate borrowing;
- Total principal sums invested for periods longer than 364 days;
- Maturity structure of new fixed rate borrowing

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None.

#### **5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None.

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

None.

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

None.

##### **6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The main risks associated with Treasury Management are security of investment and volatility of return. To combat this, the Authority operated within a clearly defined Treasury Management Policy and an annual borrowing and investment strategy, which set out the control framework.

#### **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no issues under this heading.

#### **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.

**REPORT:** Executive Board Sub

**DATE:** 5 November 2009

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Environment

**SUBJECT:** Waiver of Standing Orders to Enable Procurement of CCTV Monitoring Services

**WARDS:** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To request approval to waive Standing Orders to enable procurement of specialist CCTV monitoring services.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 2.1 Standing Orders are waived to procure a two year extension to existing CCTV Monitoring Services contract with Remploy Managed Services, the terms of which will be agreed with the Strategic Director for Environment in consultation with the portfolio holder for Corporate Services.**

## **3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 Following implementation of the Housing Stock transfer and associated staff changes in October 2005, Remploy Managed Services was awarded the Town Centres and Local Areas CCTV Monitoring Contract. A new 3 year contract was negotiated in November 2006 to incorporate 24 hours/7 days a week monitoring. Since that time the monitoring service has developed a more proactive approach to CCTV surveillance. The Remploy team have worked hard over the past four years to improve relationships with all partners including Cheshire Police, Cheshire Fire Service and the Pubwatch and Shopwatch organisations in the borough.
- 3.2 The Remploy control room staff have been instrumental in building the confidence of our partners. Without statistical information being provided by the police it is difficult to quantify the effectiveness of CCTV, but feedback from Cheshire Police and other partners indicates that the reputation of Halton's Town Centres and Local Areas CCTV programme has been raised and the service is now seen as a key tool in the fight against crime in Halton.
- 3.3 Remploy Managed Services employs 7 fully trained and Security Industry Authority licensed operators and has been successful in retaining keen and capable staff for the period of the contract. All staff live locally, indeed all but one live in Halton and there has never been a

shift during the 4 year contract when the control room has not been manned.

- 3.4 Remploy Managed Services is a public body employing people with disabilities. Therefore, apart from the operational benefits of employing Remploy there are social gains to be made in employing the organisation.
- 3.5 In the past the organisation received large grants from the government for employing people with disabilities. This helped to reduce its charges and as a result the contract costs offered to Halton 4 years ago was much lower than offered by other companies. These grants have now been substantially reduced and as a result the contract costs that Remploy can offer to its customers have increased.
- 3.6 The contract cost for 24 hour, 7 day monitoring is currently £97,215.24 but is due to end in November 2009. Remploy has confirmed that should the contract be renewed, costs will increase to £109,510.64.
- 3.7 Remploy Managed Services offer excellent terms and conditions to its employees. Should the contract be tendered, TUPE conditions would apply and based on informal discussions with other local authorities it is unlikely that competing contractors would be able to offer a lower tender price than that offered by Remploy, should staff choose to transfer.

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The increase in contract costs of £12,295.54 will require additional funding to be met from existing resources.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct policy implications from this report.

#### **6.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct sustainability, best value, or legal implications resulting from this report.

#### **7. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES.**

- 7.1 Children & Young People in Halton – The CCTV operation could assist the police in incidents involving children. These include incidents related to missing children, underage drinking and bullying.
- 7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton – It could be argued that the presence of CCTV encourages economic growth as businesses may be attracted to areas where they feel more secure.

7.3 A Healthy Halton – Violence related incidents are a priority and the CCTV control room staff and Cheshire Police work in partnership to prevent assaults and injury by identifying potential incidents at an early stage.

7.4 A Safer Halton - The Town Centres and Local Areas CCTV programme contributes to make Halton safer and works closely with partners to tackle crime and provide public reassurance in the areas of CCTV coverage.

7.5 Halton’s Urban Renewal - The assurance that CCTV can offer to retail premises can encourage economic growth especially in the town centres.

**8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 There are no direct risks associated with this report

**9.0 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY ISSUES.**

9.1 Remploy Managed Services have pioneered equality and opportunity for all by assisting disabled people seeking, and wishing to remain in sustainable mainstream employment opportunities.

**10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Background information	Traffic Section, Rutland Hse.	Steve Johnson,. x 3010