

Public Document Pack



Executive Board

Thursday, 2 July 2015 2.00 p.m.
The Boardroom, Municipal Building

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David W R'.

Chief Executive

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

PART 1

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1. MINUTES	
2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST	
Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion or voting on the item.	
3. LEADER'S PORTFOLIO	
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4. CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO	

*Please contact Angela Scott on 0151 511 8670 or
Angela.scott@halton.gov.uk for further information.
The next meeting of the Committee is on Thursday, 3 September 2015*

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

PART II

In this case the Board has a discretion to exclude the press and public and, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, it is **RECOMMENDED** that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, having been satisfied that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

11. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

(A) SCI TECH DARES BURY

83 - 86

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

DATE: 2 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Policy & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Leader's

SUBJECT: Halton Foundation – Runcorn and Widnes Community Fund.

WARD(S) All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform Executive Board of progress made to date in the development of a Community Foundation for Halton and seek Executive Board approval, both for the Foundation itself and for the Council to continue to play a role as a founding partner.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1. Endorse the establishment of the Halton Foundation – Runcorn and Widnes Community Fund;**
- 2. Agree to the Council having an ongoing advisory role in the Halton Foundation as a founding partner;**
- 3. That an Elected Member be nominated to represent Halton Borough Council on any decision making boards; and**
- 4. Agree that, subject to trustee approval charitable funds named in the report, and currently administered by the Council, are administered in future by the Community Foundation for Lancashire and Merseyside as part of the Halton Foundation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In June 2014, Executive Board gave in principle approval to the development of a Community Foundation and Partnership Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) offer for Halton. Work has now taken place on planning and establishing this.

3.2 The Halton Foundation - Runcorn & Widnes Community Fund, referred to as 'The Halton Foundation' for the purpose of this report, will link individuals, businesses and organisations with their community to facilitate philanthropy across the borough of Halton, supporting community cohesion and prosperity.

3.3 The Steering Group for this activity has articulated a **Vision-** To

support the Halton community to enrich their lives through connecting them with funding, businesses and people to build a thriving, resilient and prosperous community; and a **Mission** - To provide social investment and strategic charitable grant-making that meets the needs of Halton's local community via a public, private and voluntary sector forum.

3.4 **Founding partners** for the Halton Foundation are the Halton Chamber of Commerce, Halton and St Helens VCA, the Community Foundation for Lancashire & Merseyside (CLFM) and Halton Borough Council. **Contributing partners** include Cheshire Connect and Business in the Community (BITC). The Founding Partnership has been established to create an independent cross-sector partnership of private, public and voluntary sector stakeholders to work together to ensure the social growth and economic development of communities across the Borough via The Halton Foundation.

3.5 The Foundation supports and promotes Halton's Five Strategic Priorities through its aims and proposed activities.

3.6 An overview document for the Halton Foundation is attached at Appendix 1.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Halton Foundation's focus will comprise four key elements:

4.2 **Halton Gives will:**

- Help Halton to become a thriving and prosperous community by prioritising issues such as poverty, health, unemployment, a safe and crime –free environment and promoting family values;
- Have a co-ordinated approach for receiving charitable donations across the borough;
- Provide a strategic approach to allocating funding;
- Maximise charitable donations;

4.3 The processes that will make Halton Gives work will be managed by Community Foundation for Lancashire and Merseyside (CFLM). CFLM is a registered charity and is a vehicle for charitable giving working with individuals, families and companies to design bespoke grant making strategies that target particular issues and/or focus on particular geographical areas. CFLM will be accountable for all the financial and legal matters, providing annual accounts and reports enabling 'The Halton Foundation' to focus on supporting their local community. CFLM will undertake the management and administration of the funds ensuring all due diligence is adhered to.

4.4 **Halton Supports will:**

- Create a time bank for employee volunteering;
- Businesses will be encouraged to pledge hours of support;
- CFLM will match philanthropists with local need ;
- Halton support will be co-ordinated through an established on-line portal;
- Incorporate business to business support.

Halton & St. Helen's VCA will co-ordinate the volunteering aspect of Halton supports.

4.5 **Halton Cares will:**

- Introduce an accreditation mark for businesses who can demonstrate good Corporate Social Responsibility practices;
- Companies will be encouraged to donate both time and money;
- Volunteering time will be used to support vulnerable people who meet qualification criteria.

Halton Chamber of Commerce and Halton Borough Council have co-ordinated this element to date.

4.6 **Halton Shares** will Promote and support the co-ordination of recycling items such as IT equipment, office furniture, meeting rooms etc. It is proposed that this element will be developed through the proposed online portal as part of the wider Halton Foundation development.

4.7 The Halton Foundation will operate across Runcorn and Widnes, enabling individuals, families, companies, entrepreneurs, and charitable trusts to support Halton's communities in a cost effective way. This philanthropy could take many forms, including funding, volunteering, donating goods and services, sharing expertise and providing in-kind support. By working with The Halton Foundation donors can choose the goal and direction of their philanthropy, charitable donations and volunteering. CFLM will share social data and case studies with donors to ensure that their giving has a social impact and connects with the right people in Halton's communities.

4.8 Businesses will be encouraged to make an investment into Halton as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) offer. This could comprise of:

- Making a donation to The Halton Foundation to support social priorities in the area;
 - Releasing employees to volunteer to support local community development and initiatives;
 - Providing in-kind support for local community businesses, charities and community groups;
 - Including local social enterprises , charities and community groups as part of the supply chain;
- 4.9 The Halton Foundation will sit as a fund under the registered charity number of CFLM (1068887), retaining its own identity and accounts for financial processing, social investment and charitable funding. The stakeholders of The Halton Foundation will direct all funding decisions for ratification to CFLM's trustees as part of their governance requirements. CFLM will provide six-monthly reports on the financial and grant performance of The Halton Foundation.
- 4.10 Funding panels will be established and facilitated by CFLM with Halton & St Helens VCA acting in an advisory capacity. These panels will make recommendations to disburse funds into the community.
- 4.11 Decision- making on the **activities** of The Halton Foundation will be made by senior representatives of the Founding Partners, in consultation with the Contributing Partners and other co-opted partners and local experts as and when required.
- 4.12 Decision-making on funding will be made by independent panel members for the individual funds comprising of representatives of the original donors, the founding partners and on occasions senior community leaders will also be invited to join these panels. There will be a combination of restricted and unrestricted funds i.e. depending on the funding source **some funds will retain their own identity and funding will be ring-fenced for a specific geographical area and/or fund objective.**
- 4.13 The financial investment made will be monitored and evaluated to demonstrate the impact of the funding. Social indicators will be used to measure impact. This will be led by CFLM and VCA Halton and St. Helens
- 4.14 The Halton Foundation, as it develops, has the potential to become the umbrella body for a large amount of CSR work across Halton. It could become the hub through which a number of work streams

could be co-ordinated including the coordination of charitable donations, volunteering, timebanking, business to business support, CSR accreditation and business to community resources.

- 4.15 The development of the Halton Foundation could be a key step in building a more resilient community and in helping us to manage demand on public services. It would encourage cross-sector joint working in providing support to vulnerable residents and link available skills and resources to those who need them most. Collaborating with partners on Corporate Social Responsibility would help the council connect with residents and neighbourhoods, support the communities we serve, and improve value for public money by maximising the public benefit of our services.
- 4.16 In order to guide this work it is suggested that Executive Board endorse the establishment of the Halton Foundation, approve continued council involvement and nominate an elected member to sit on the decision making panel.
- 4.17 Halton Borough Council currently administers a number of local charitable funds. These are:
- Knights House Charity
 - Widnes Educational Foundation
 - Runcorn General War Relief Fund
- 4.18 Due to issues of reducing resources, it has not been possible to make best use of these funds and administer them in the most effective way. CFLM has offered to take over the administration of these funds as part of the Halton Foundation. It is therefore recommended that Executive Board approve a decision to do this, subject to the consent of the trustees involved in the charities.
- 4.19 It is proposed that a website be put together to act as a portal to signpost the work of each organisation on this agenda, together with information about sources of help and support. Halton and St Helens VCA are exploring designing and hosting this website and are hopeful of committing some administrative resource to it.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 At this stage there are no resource implications for the council, other than a small amount of officer support and a commitment to being involved in the decision making process for activities and funding.
- 5.2 It is clear that the long-term implications of not developing an approach to community resilience are a continuing increase in demand on our services in a context of diminishing resources, which places pressure on the levels of service we can deliver, and

ultimately on the quality of life for our residents.

5.3 It is intended that this work also be reported to the Halton Strategic Partnership Board for their support and endorsement at the September Board meeting. The HSPB has previously given in principle support to this activity.

5.4 This activity also has strategic fit with the Council's Social Value Policy and approach and is being developed to complement and support that activity.

5.5 This activity has also been developed taking account of the Halton Borough Council and the Halton Strategic Partnership's strategic themes.

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

6.1 Each of the council's strategic priorities could benefit from the development of a Halton Foundation through increased access to funding sources, business support, volunteer hours and an increased level of community resilience. The Corporate Social Responsibility element of the Foundation could help in safeguarding the levels of service quality on offer through community empowerment, early intervention and demand management.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The development of a Halton Foundation has been undertaken as a partnership activity, and as such has the support of the Halton Strategic Partnership Board. The Halton Foundation therefore supports the aims of the Halton Sustainable Community Strategy, which Halton Borough Council has also endorsed as their aims through the Corporate Plan. There is therefore no risk with this work being in contradiction of approved policy agendas.

7.2 There will always be an inherent risk with activity of this nature that funds are not used as originally intended, or appropriately managed. By using an experienced, established body (CFLM) to manage this process, alongside decision making from strategic founding partners, the risk of this happening is minimised. Decisions on funding will be made by independent panel members alongside founding partners. In addition, some funds will be ring-fenced for specific areas or objectives as necessary to meet the original intent and criteria associated with that funding. All funding will also be monitored and evaluated.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no immediate equality and diversity issues arising from this report.

9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

9.1 To support the establishment of a Halton Foundation and to approve the council's continued involvement as a founding member.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 As this piece of work is a Partnership activity, it is not necessary for Halton Borough Council to be involved as the Foundation progress even without Council involvement as a partner. However, given the aims of the Foundation are a close fit with the aims of the Council and its community stewardship role, the continued involvement of the Council in endorsing and supporting this work is recommended.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 A launch for the Halton Foundation is proposed for around October 2015.

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

12.1 None.



The Halton Foundation -Runcorn & Widnes Community Fund

The Halton Foundation - Runcorn & Widnes Community Fund, referred to as 'The Halton Foundation' for the purpose of this document will link individuals, businesses and organisations with their community to actuate philanthropy across the borough of Halton, supporting community cohesion and prosperity.

The Vision- To support the Halton community to enrich their lives through connecting them with funding, businesses and people to build a thriving, resilient and prosperous community.

The Mission - To provide social investment and strategic charitable grant-making that meets the needs of Halton's local community via a united public, private and voluntary sector forum.

1. Founding Partners:

1.1 Halton Chamber of Commerce - as the private sector representative and 'voice' of local business, Halton Chamber of Commerce is an independent, non-profit membership based organisation that supports and promotes the overall economic wellbeing of the borough, and delivers an extensive range of services and support to its members and other businesses of all sizes and across all sectors. The Chamber has been in existence in its current format since the early 1990's and works closely with its partners and other stakeholders to ensure that the right infrastructure, services and support are available to assist business growth and further the development of the borough's economic regeneration plans. Having both a strategic as well as an operational role within the borough, it works closely with Halton Borough Council on a range of issues and is now co-located at the Municipal Building in Widnes. As the founding member and a donor of 'The Halton Foundation' the Halton Chamber of Commerce will act as an ambassador of the Foundation, and as a facilitator to introduce small, medium and large businesses to the Foundation and encourage them to become partners so that their donations will act as a catalyst for change and achieve the vision.

1.2 Halton Borough Council (HBC) - as the democratic authority in the borough, HBC has a wide range of partnerships and relationships throughout the borough. In their community leadership role HBC will promote 'The Halton Foundation', signpost to it where appropriate, play a 'critical friend' role in the strategic development of the Foundation, and will support the administration and facilitation of meetings where possible.

1.3 Halton & St Helen's VCA - is an infrastructure organisation that provides advice, information and development support services to voluntary, community and faith organisations and volunteers in Halton & St Helens. Together the organisation has more than 80 years' experience of co-ordinating voluntary action and of representing, developing and supporting the voluntary, community and faith sector in the St Helens and Halton Boroughs

The Halton & St Helen's VCA was set-up by local voluntary and community groups and is still run by its members. There are currently 2,456 members across both Boroughs and the VCA supports them and other voluntary, community, charity and faith organisations in ways such as: community accountancy, payroll, training, setting up and good governance, quality standards, voice and influence, recruiting volunteers, making connections with other sectors, raising money and marketing their work and responding to local needs. The Halton & St Helen's VCA also supports the recruitment of more than 2,500 volunteers every year through their accredited Volunteer Centres both in Halton & St Helens.

The above three founding partners have secured the support & expertise of the Community Foundations for Lancashire & Merseyside (CFLM) to administer the grant-making process.

Community Foundations for Lancashire & Merseyside (CFLM) - as Merseyside's philanthropy centre CFLM promotes and administers philanthropy acting as a funding facilitator ensuring valued investment into communities. CFLM is a registered charity and is a vehicle for charitable giving working with individuals, families and companies to design bespoke grant making strategies that target particular issues and/or focus on particular geographical areas.

CFLM will be accountable for all the financial and legal matters, providing annual accounts and reports enabling 'The Halton Foundation' to focus on supporting their local community. CFLM will undertake the management and administration of the funds ensuring all due diligence is adhered to and will support the local decision-making panels on funding recommendations and social investment, working alongside VCA Halton. The Halton Foundation will sit under the Community Foundation's own registered charity number (1068887), at the same time retaining its own fund identity.

2. Contributing Partners:

2.1 Cheshire Connect - Cheshire Connect's remit is to add value to the community by matching the skills and expertise to the needs of the voluntary sector with the skills and expertise generously offered free of charge by local businesses. As a contributing partner they will commit to encouraging the Halton business community to engage with and offer support to local voluntary, community, and faith organisations. For businesses, this is a way of demonstrating meaningful Corporate Social Responsibility, and offering valuable, measurable experiences to business owners and employees. Simultaneously the voluntary sector benefits from pro bono skills and expertise. As a partner of this initiative Cheshire Connect will be the bridge between the business community and the voluntary sector.

2.2 Business In the Community (BITC) – as a business connector within the Borough, BITC will aspire to offer support by helping to make the private sector aware of the aims and objectives of The Halton Foundation and where appropriate gain external support for community groups in the form of skills and resources from businesses. The BITC Business Connector Programme increases the positive impact of business in local communities by harnessing the expertise and energy of business people to tackle local challenges. The programme offers the opportunity for individuals, seconded from local business, to support the local community for a 12 month period. Connectors listen to local needs and help create mutually beneficial partnerships for communities and local businesses tackling social issues, focussing specifically on Education, Employment and Enterprise. The Business

Connector model of long term business secondments is creating deeper and more effective relationships between business and communities.

As a contributing partner of The Halton Foundation, BITC will commit to working alongside the founding partners to complement ongoing activity and ensure the business community are engaged in responsible business activities, sharing skills and resources appropriately to assist Communities.

3. The Partnership will:

- Promote Halton 's five strategic objectives:
 - **A Healthy Halton**
 - **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**
 - **A Safer Halton**
 - **Children and Young People in Halton**
 - **Environment and Regeneration in Halton**

These objectives are consistent with and are reflected in the CFLM's Vital Signs report for Halton (2013/2014)

- Support local community groups, charities and people by increasing access to support
- Promote Corporate Social Responsibility - the management of an organisation's positive impact on society and the environment through its operations, products or services and through its interaction with key stakeholders such as employees, customers, investors and suppliers
- Increase the amount of support, both financial and in-kind available from business, organisations and benefactors

4. How will the Foundation work?

The Halton Foundation's focus will comprise of four key elements:

4.1 Halton Gives will:

- Help Halton to become a thriving and prosperous community by prioritising issues such as poverty, health, unemployment, a safe and crime –free environment and promoting family values
- Have a co-ordinated approach for receiving charitable donations across the borough
- Provide a strategic approach to allocating funding
- Maximise charitable donations
- Maximise benefit to residents

The processes that will make Halton Gives work will be managed by CFLM

4.2 Halton Supports will:

- Create a time bank for employee volunteering
- Businesses will be encouraged to pledge hours of support
- CFLM will match philanthropists with local need

- Halton support will be co-ordinated through an established on-line portal
- Incorporate business to business support

Halton & St. Helen's VCA will co-ordinate the volunteering aspect of Halton supports

4.3 Halton Cares will:

- Introduce an accreditation mark for businesses who can demonstrate good CSR practices
- Companies will be encouraged to donate both time and money
- Volunteering time will be used to support vulnerable people who meet qualification criteria

4.4 Halton Shares will:

- Promote and support the co-ordination of recycling items such as IT equipment, office furniture, meeting rooms etc.

The Founding Partnership has been established to create an independent cross-sector partnership of private, public and voluntary sector stakeholders to work together to ensure the social growth and economic development of communities across the Borough via The Halton Foundation. The Halton Foundation aims to contribute to ensuring Halton supports its local communities and the local economy by assisting Halton to be a prosperous and thriving place to live, learn and work, and will:

- **Influence decision makers**
- **Provide volunteer opportunities**
- **Acquire expertise and services from across sectors**
- **Secure and distribute funding, maximising local giving to local causes**

The Halton Foundation will operate across Runcorn and Widnes, enabling individuals, families, companies, entrepreneurs, and charitable trusts to support Halton's communities in a cost effective way which they can direct. This philanthropy will take many forms, including funding, volunteering, donating goods and services, sharing expertise and providing in-kind support.

By working with The Halton Foundation donors can choose the goal and direction of their philanthropy, charitable donations and volunteering. CFLM will share social data and case studies with donors to ensure that their giving has a social impact and connects with the right people in Halton's communities.

Businesses will be encouraged to make an investment into Halton as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. This can comprise of:

- Making a donation to The Halton Foundation to support social priorities in the area
- Releasing employees to volunteer to support local community development and initiatives
- Providing in-kind support for local community businesses, charities and community groups

- Including local social enterprises , charities and community groups as part of the supply chain

5. Halton Foundation Management

The Halton Foundation will sit as a fund under the registered charity number of CFLM (1068887), retaining its own identity and accounts for financial processing, social investment and charitable funding. The stakeholders of The Halton Foundation will direct all funding decisions for ratification to CFLM's trustees as part of their governance requirements. CFLM will provide six-monthly reports on the financial and grant performance of The Halton Foundation.

5.1 Social Investment

Funding panels will be established and facilitated by CFLM with Halton & St Helens VCA acting in an advisory capacity. These panels will make recommendations to disburse funds into the community.

5.2 Decision- Making

- Decision- making on the **activities** of The Halton Foundation will be made by senior representatives of the Founding Partners in consultation with the Contributing Partners and other co-opted partners and local experts as and when required.
- Decision-making on funding will be made by independent panel members for the individual funds comprising of representatives of the original donors, the founding partners and on occasions senior community leaders will also be invited to join these panels. There will be a combination of restricted and unrestricted funds i.e. depending on the funding source **some funds will retain their own identity and funding will be ring-fenced for a specific geographical area and/or fund objective.**

5.3 Monitoring & Evaluation

The financial investment made will be monitored and evaluated to demonstrate the impact of the funding. Social indicators will be used to measure impact. This will be led by CFLM and VCA Halton and St. Helens.

6. Conclusion

The Halton Foundation -Runcorn & Widnes Community Fund) will connect philanthropists to the voluntary and community sector and to the Halton business community in order to make Halton resident's lives better, brighter, happier, greener, kinder and richer. These Philanthropists will have a commitment and passion for making a real difference to people's lives.

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	2 July 2015
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director – Children & Economy
PORTFOLIO:	Children, Young People & Families
SUBJECT:	Basic Need Capital Funding
WARDS:	Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report provides an update for the allocation and spending of Basic Need capital funding.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) the proposal to allocate Basic Need capital funding to Hale CE Primary School project be approved;**
- 2) the position in respect of the balance of Basic Need capital funding be noted; and**
- 3) the report is submitted to Full Council for approval.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Halton - Basic Need Capital Funding

The Basic Need allocation supports the capital requirement for providing new pupil places by expanding existing maintained schools, free schools or academies and by establishing new schools. In Halton pupil forecast data is used to determine if there is a need to provide additional school places in order to meet demand by comparing forecast data with school capacity data.

3.2 Basic Need Capital Allocations

The total Basic Need funding allocated to Halton for 2015/16 to 2017/18 is £1,898,909. Halton has used Basic Need capital funding to carry out building works to provide additional school places at Lunts Heath Primary (35 places), Windmill Hill Primary (28 places), St Bedes Infants (45 places) & Juniors (60 places), Weston Primary (35 places) and Beechwood Primary (35 places) therefore alleviating pressure for the demand for school places in these areas. Basic Need funding has also been used to provide vocational, 6th form and independent living facilities at Ashley School following the re-designation of the school.

Following a recent analysis of forecast and school capacity data there is not an immediate pupil place Basic Need issue to address and therefore it is proposed to use Basic Need capital funding to address significant modernisation and suitability issues within schools.

3.3 Capital Allocation for Hale CE Primary School.

Currently the school operates from six classrooms with mixed year groups in in Years 3 and 4. The school has a Planned Admission Number of 25. In September 2014 the reception class intake was 27 and following the current admissions process it is anticipated the intake in September 2015 will be 25. In future years, as reception class numbers are maintained at 25 and other year groups of high numbers work through the school, it will not be possible to accommodate mixed year groups and by 2017 the school will be short of classroom space. It is therefore proposed to provide an extension at one end of the school for an additional classroom at an estimated cost of £116,000. It is proposed to fund the works from Basic Need capital funding. The school will be required to make a contribution to the cost of the works.

3.4 Balance of Basic Need Capital Funding.

The balance of Basic Need capital funding will be retained to respond to any pupil place planning/demographic issues arising in either the primary or secondary sectors. A further report will be submitted to the Executive Board detailing any proposed expenditure.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The project will allow the Council to continue to meet its requirement to enhance learning environments through capital projects.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The project being funded from Basic Need capital funding will address condition and suitability issues within school buildings and will improve the learning environment for children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

As 6.1 above

6.3 A Healthy Halton

N/A

6.4 A Safer Halton

N/A

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Funding has been retained to enable the Authority to respond to future pupil changes.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Consideration to access issues is given in all building projects. The capacity of schools to meet the needs of children with more complex needs and disabilities will be developed further through building works at schools.

9.0 REASON FOR DECISION

9.1 The decision is required to deliver and implement the capital programme.

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

N/A

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

July 2015 following agreement from Full Council.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
DfE Schools Capital Announcement	C&E Directorate	P Dove

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 2 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Economy

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Contracted Services for Halton Domestic Abuse
Family Support Services - Waiver of Procurement
Standing Orders

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To request the suspension of the relevant Procurement Standing Orders 3.1 to 3.6 (tendering/ competitive requirements), under the exceptional circumstances set out in this report, which places a requirement on the Council to tender or obtain quotes for contracts set up with external providers in the voluntary and independent sector.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) In light of the exceptional circumstances set out below, for the purpose of standing order 1.8.3, (c) where compliance with Standing Orders would result in a clear financial or commercial detriment to the Council. The Procurement Standing Orders 3.1 to 3.6 be waived on this occasion in order to extend the contract for the provision of Domestic Abuse Family Support Services, in order to ensure continuous care and support.**
- 2) The Strategic Director, Children and Economy be authorised, in conjunction with the portfolio holder for Children Young People and Families, to enter into the above contract until 31st March 2016.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 In November 2013, Halton Borough Council commissioned Core Assets Children's Services to deliver a new domestic abuse service for children, young people and families experiencing domestic abuse to ensure a co-ordinated approach for families.

3.2 The service provides information, advice and direct support to families in a variety of methods. It works directly with parents to reduce the impact of domestic abuse on parenting capacity, helping them to understand and address the impact on the child's behaviour, both individually and in groups. It affords children and young people who have lived/ or are living with domestic abuse opportunities to share their feelings in an environment which is safe, through a discreet Art Therapy service as well as within Child Safety Planning work. The service also supports HBC Children's

Social Care with the Cheshire and Merseyside Local Authority Pre-Proceedings Protocol.

3.3 There continues to be a high level of identified need for children and young people in relation to domestic abuse. For a 12 months period the service received 96 referrals. Currently the service has offered 608 direct sessions with 97 parents.

- 50 children/young people completed one to one support aged 3 to 17
- 228 sessions have been offered to children/young people on a one to one basis
- 245 group sessions have been offered to parents.
- 171 sessions of Art Therapy have been offered to parents and children providing direct recovery work to deal with the trauma of domestic abuse.

3.4 Through the last 12 months the service has been working to capacity and has had to stop receiving referrals at times. The service does not hold a waiting list due to the levels of risk. As a result of the demand on the service, the criteria was further reviewed to work only with families who are open to Children's Social Care at a pre-proceedings level. This change both gave the service some capacity back as well as offering more scope to be able to attend professional meetings and become a more integrated part of the professional network.

3.4 The service has exceeded its contractual outputs and has added further value to the contract by drawing upon extra resources from across their organisation, thus providing a broader range of specialist skills and expertise to most effectively meet the needs of children and young people. During the life of the service, twenty two step downs have been achieved.

4.0 BUSINESS CASE FOR WAIVING STANDING ORDERS

4.1 Value for money and Competition

4.1.1 The current contracted service provider is a well-established organisation with an extensive knowledge and understanding of Halton and the needs of its local community. The current commission is less than £150,000 per annum and officers will keep the service under review to ensure desired outcomes continue to be achieved and that the method of service delivery remains the most cost effective option for the Council.

4.1.2 By recommending that existing arrangements continue the council will ensure continuous care and support will be offered to vulnerable children, young people and their families. This service supports the increased demand on to Children's Social Care particularly around the court pre-proceedings process, if the service is removed is it likely to increase the need of support from social workers. The extension will avoid disruption to service provision and allow sufficient time to further develop the highlighted points within the OFSTED action plan around the need to increase capacity of domestic abuse provision within the borough. The service contributes to both better outcomes for families as well as relieving pressure on public services, in particular children's social care.

4.2 Transparency

In order to ensure transparency it is proposed that the service will continue to submit performance reports to named lead Commissioning Manager. The frequency and detail will be agreed by the relevant Commissioning Manager as part of the contract compliance process. Subject to issues of commercial confidentiality information about the contracts would be accessible under the Freedom of Information Act and under the annual audit process.

4.3 Propriety And Security

The extension of this contract complies with Halton Borough Council's standing orders and procurement processes. The contract specification sets out requirements in respect to minimum standards for the delivery of care and support and will include comprehensive standards relating to the safeguarding of children and young people. The cost of entering into these contracts will be contained within existing available budgetary provision.

4.4 Accountability

Operational Director for Education, Inclusion and Provision would be responsible for the award of the contract. The contracts and the award process are open to PPB Scrutiny and the internal and external audit.

4.5 Position of the contract under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006

This contract is for educational and social care services, they are largely exempt from the 2006 Regulations so there is no need to advertise for expressions of interest in the official Journal.

5.0 POLICY ISSUES

5.1 The emotional health and well-being and risk taking behaviours of children and young people is a key priority for Halton Children's Trust and Halton's Health and Wellbeing Board, and within the range of plans that have been agreed by both Boards.

5.2 The service will assist with the key recommendations from the recent OFSTED inspection and subsequent action plan.

6.0 OTHER/ FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial implications of this contract will be met from existing budgetary provision.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children and Young People in Halton

This service directly relates to improving the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. The service supports key elements within

Halton's Safeguarding and Children and Young People's Plans.

7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills In Halton

A lack of sufficient service provision is likely to impact adversely upon children and young people with emotional health needs, which will subsequently impact upon their learning and future employment and skills development.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

The service support people to minimise reduce the risks of harm, and access relevant services to improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

7.4 A Safer Halton

The service provides support to vulnerable children, young people and families to assist them to access appropriate service provision within their local communities. This links to satisfaction with services and overall perception of the area in which people live.

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 The current contract for this service is due to end on 3rd November 2015; should the waivers not be agreed, the services will cease delivery of the provision.

Failure to have this service in place will additionally lead to vulnerable children, young people and families and services being placed under increased pressure.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 The contracts specified within this report relate to the needs of individuals and families with protected characteristics as defined within the Equality Act 2010

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Equality Impact Assessment (2011)	Contracts & Commissioning Team, Second Floor, Rutland House	Barbara Butterworth

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 2 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Supported Accommodation (Vulnerable Adults)
Tender

WARD(S) All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the granting of a Direct Award for the delivery of community based supported accommodation services from the 1st November 2015 to the 31st March 2016. To approve the procurement of the supported accommodation services for vulnerable adults (Learning Disabilities, Autism, Physical Disabilities and Mental Health) during 2015 with a contract start date of the 1st April 2016.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board

- 1) notes the content of the paper;**
- 2) supports the recommendation to grant a Direct Award to supported accommodation providers (listed in paragraph 3.3) from 1st November 2015 to 31st March 2016; and**
- 3) approves the procurement of the vulnerable adult supported accommodation services framework during 2015 with a contract start date of the 1st April 2016. It is proposed that the contract length is 3 years with an additional 2 year extension based on quality of service delivery.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Halton Borough Council is responsible for commissioning services to support vulnerable adults to live independently within the Halton community. The aim is to improve health and social care outcomes and improve life opportunities for individuals with Learning Disabilities, Autism, Physical Disabilities and/or a severe or enduring Mental Health condition (vulnerable adults).

3.2 Halton Borough Council provides a range of services and support for individuals with additional needs/vulnerability. Individuals are supported to live in their communities using a range of services to maximise independence.

Supported tenancies either single accommodation or shared accommodation for individuals with a tenancy agreement and receiving shared support and bespoke support packages to meet their needs within their home. Other services are based on a 'shared lives' model a person lives as part of a family receiving support. Some individuals require only low level support to enable them to effectively live in their homes and access their communities.

- 3.3 There are currently 55* services providing support to 163* vulnerable adults across the borough. Halton Borough Council contracts with 13* providers to deliver supported accommodation.

Provider	Number of services	Number of service users (including voids)
Alternatives Future Group	7	14 (1)
CIC	11	31
Creative Support	8	21 (4)
Embrace	15	32 (2)
Future Directions	3	6 (5)
Options for Supported Living	1	1
Sanctuary	1	8
Making Space	2	20
M-Power	1	2
1 st Choice Support	1	5
Focus on Care	1	9
PSS	2	1
United Response	2	1

(*excludes Halton Supported Housing Network)

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The current contracts for the supported accommodation framework are due to expire on the 31st October 2015. The 5 month Direct Award will enable the remodelling of the service and a contract start date of the 1st April 2016.

The current annual contract value for each provider including the proposed Direct Award cost for a period of 5 months is listed in the table below.

Provider	Current Cost (per annum)	Direct Award Cost 1st Nov 2015 to 31st March 2016
Alternatives Future Group	£1,646,577	£686,073
CIC	£1,497,798	£624,082

Creative Support	£687,455	£286,439
Embrace	£1,675,382	£698,075
Future Directions	£465,466	£193,944
Options for Supported Living	£198,925	£82,885
Sanctuary	£73,171	£30,488
Making Space	£108,849	£45,353
M-Power	£18753 (*2)	£7,813
1 st Choice Support	£61,793.94	£25,747
Focus on Care	£61,910.94	£25,795
PSS	£31,959.92	£13,316
United Response	£41,087.01	£17,119
Total	£6,569,128	£2,737,129

** The above figures are subject to change based on assessed needs.*

*(*2) Service is funded through ILF and Community Care funding (£70,000 represents a reflection of the cost)*

- 4.2 The current model of service delivery is based on providers being dispersed across the Borough. The remodelling of the services will create a cluster of houses in a geographical area to enable a provider to concentrate its resources.

During the tender process providers will be able to bid for a number of clusters, yet if the clusters are in both Runcorn and Widnes no increase in fees will be agreed to compensate the provider for any travel or toll costs incurred when the new bridge comes into service.

- 4.3 The cluster modelling will enable providers to implement assistive technology systems within services with a responsive staffing approach across the cluster.

A key part of the tender process will be to understand how providers will implement assistive technology within services, reducing the levels of staffing where appropriate, ensuring risk management plans are implemented.

- 4.4 The new contracts will have a performance framework implemented; ensuring outcomes for individuals are reviewed on a quarterly basis. The performance framework will also enable increases or decreases in support levels to be considered taking into account the 'just enough support' model to provide a foundation of promoting independence and improving life opportunities for individuals.

- 4.5 Care management teams have continued to review supported accommodation services in preparation for the procurement exercise. While support hours have been increased in some areas, in the main there have been decreases across most service areas, representing significant savings and ensuring the hours tendered are meeting the identified needs of the individuals within the

supported accommodation services.

4.6 An open tender process will provide an opportunity to stimulate the market and review the financial model of supported accommodation within the borough. There is an opportunity during the procurement exercise to remodel the services to achieve efficiencies across the period of the contract.

4.7 The existing framework agreement will continue to enable business continuity during the procurement process.

5.0 PROPOSAL

5.1 It is proposed that a Direct Award of a contract to 31st March, 2016 be given to the current providers list in section 3.3, using a 'Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notice' (VEAT). The contracting authorities must give sufficient information as to the justification for direct award of a contract without the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) advertising and observe a minimum 10 day standstill period before the contract is awarded.

5.2 If the proposal to provide a Direct Award to the providers (section 3.3) of a contract from 1st November 2015 to the 31st March 2016 is agreed, the procurement of a longer term contract will implemented from 1st April 2016.

5.3 If the proposal is not agreed, or if there is a significant challenge as part of the VEAT process, the procurement timescale will be amended and implemented with immediate effect.

5.4 To complete procurement exercise for a framework agreement for supported accommodation services with 9 clusters with an average contract value of £700,000 (this is subject to change). The proposed contract term is 3 years with an additional 2 years extension based on quality and service delivery. The contract start date will be the 1st April 2016.

5.5 The contracts awarded will be for a cluster. In circumstances where a provider defaults on a contract due to quality issues or safeguarding concerns then the entire cluster will be defaulted against, rather than a single service. If a provider terminates a contract this also will be a cluster approach rather than a single house/service.

The proposal will ensure providers are motivated to ensure a high quality of care and support is delivered across a range of services regardless of complexity of individuals accessing the service.

5.6 Once a cluster has been established any new accommodation services that are created within the geographical area during the term of the contract, will be tendered through a closed tender

process for providers within that area.

- 5.7 TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings (Protection Of Employment) regulations will apply to the supported accommodation services. TUPE will enable service continuity and also ensure the established relationships between the service user and the support staff is maintained; minimising disruption.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The method of procurement will comply with the Public Contract Regulations, 2015 and the Council's own Procurement Standing Orders and will utilise a VEAT Direct Award as described in section 5.1.

7.0 FINANCIAL/RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The financial implications are allocated within the Communities Directorate budget and highlighted in section 4.1.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

8.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Appropriate accommodation for some young people through the transition planning stage is essential, with a particular focus on young people in care.

8.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Halton's adult accommodation model works in partnership with other agencies to promote employment and skills, working towards promoting the independence of individuals.

8.3 A Healthy Halton

Individuals with additional needs/vulnerability can have disproportionate health related issues or life-long conditions that impact on individuals. The current and future modelling will continue to promote health equalities.

8.4 A Safer Halton

All providers will continue to safeguard individuals and will be ensure that individuals are aware how to stay safe, how to report incidents and to promote safe community inclusion.

8.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

n/a

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 9.1 The modelling and service delivery is based on assessed needs and risks identified through care management assessments.

9.2 Financial risks continue to be monitored as part of the annual review process by care management and Quality Assurance Teams. The open tender process will provide an opportunity for cost efficiencies through competition of providers. During the term of the contract, once the new cluster model has been implemented and embedded in practice further efficiencies can be identified and delivered.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 Equality and Diversity issues have been considered, the models of service delivery proposed will ensure personalised care and support to meet the identified needs of the vulnerable adults of Halton.

11.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

11.1 To ensure business continuity and maintain support and care for vulnerable adults requiring accommodation related support to live within the community.

12.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- To continue with the current model post April 2016.
- To continue with the current providers and pricing framework post April 2016.
- To award contracts from the 1st November 2015.

13.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

13.1 1 November 2015.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 2 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Economy

SUBJECT: Business Improvement Districts –
Future Management Arrangements

PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment and Economic Development

WARDS: Mersey & Ditton

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of a proposal by Halton Chamber of Commerce to take on the Management of the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in Astmoor and Halebank Industrial Estates.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) Members note the proposal for Halton Chamber to take on the management and delivery of the BIDs programmes in Astmoor and Halebank; and
- 2) Members agree to Halton Borough Council continuing its role as billing authority for the BIDs area.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Local Government Act in 2003 allowed partnerships between local authorities and the local business community to set up BIDs.

BIDs allow businesses in a specific geographic area to develop a business plan aimed at improving the area. The proposals contained within the Business Plan are funded by a levy on businesses and are subject to a ballot. The BID is operational for five years.

The BIDs schemes in Halton have been very successful and businesses have seen a number of improvements to the areas over the last seven years. The current BID programme runs until 2018.

BIDs provide a cost effective way for business to work collaboratively to achieve a series of common objectives and, given the businesses in the respective areas “speak with one voice”, it is easier for the Council to liaise with a number of businesses as a collective.

There are a number of mechanisms that can be used for managing and delivering BIDs. In some instances, BIDs can be a subsidiary company of an existing organisation or can choose to be an independent limited company.

Given that the Halebank and Astmoor BIDs areas are relatively small, the Council has acted the BID body for both areas, with the BIDs governed by Steering Groups and an Executive Committee chaired by business representatives.

Up until now, the Council has provided the following services to the BIDs Executive and Steering Group:-

Programme Administration

- A full time dedicate Estate Manger
- Administration support provided by a core member of the Business Improvement and Growth Team
- Regular Business Steering Group meetings
- Management of a dedicated website (Astmoor only)
- Production of an on-line business directories
- Quarterly estate news letters
- A specific Inward Investment brochure (Astmoor only)
- Accountancy and payroll service
- HR services
- Legal services
- BID collection services (costs recovered separately)

The BID Team have facilitated the delivery of the following initiatives:-

Crime Reduction and Community Safety Initiatives

- Estate wide CCTV systems
- SmartWater DNA forensic property marking equipment for every businesses on the estate
- A twenty four hour alarm or incident response service
- A 365 days per year key holding service
- Automatic alarm diallers linked to existing security systems and connected to the alarm response service
- High profile crime prevention signage
- Vacant property alarms and external PIR sensors
- An Auto Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) CCTV system link to Cheshire Police recording all vehicles entering and exiting the estate (Astmoor only)
- A dedicated mobile CCTV patrol vehicle (Astmoor only)
- Three mobile security patrols each day (Astmoor only)
- Day time guarding between Monday and Friday (Astmoor only)

Image Enhancement

- New gateway signage at each vehicle entrance
- Landscape improvements

- Enhanced cleansing regime
- The painting of gates and fences around the estate in a uniform style (Astmoor only)
- Paint the external cladding of a number of buildings (Astmoor only)

Business Support

- The BID Programme manages a comprehensive free training programme which is free to all BID companies. Training courses include : -
 - Health and Safety
 - First Aid
 - Forklift ITSSAR
 - Management Development
 - Marketing
 - Financial Management
 - Quality Assurance
- BID businesses can also take advantage of free membership of Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise

The cost of delivering these services is broken down as follows:-

Financial Year 2014\15	Halebank	Astmoor
Admin' & Support Services Recharge	£8,410.00	£7,890.00
BID Levy Collection Charges	£3,700.66	£8,634.88
Total	£12,110.66	£16,524.88

The Council has recovered this cost through the BID levy.

The Council has only charged the actual unit cost of delivering the service based on internal recharge calculations. The Council has never made a profit from this.

Nevertheless, in recent months, the BIDs Executive Committee has expressed the view that it believes that the BID programme can be delivered at a reduced cost by not using the Council as the BID body. The BIDs Executive has been in dialogue with the Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise and a proposal has been received from the Chamber to take on the BID body role as a "Project Management Organisation". The Chamber has set out a Service Level Agreement between Halton Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise, Halton Borough Council and the BIDs areas.

The BIDs legislation allows businesses to determine how they would wish the BIDS programme areas to be managed and they are not required to commission the Council to do this.

However, the Council would continue to take on the following responsibilities.

- Issuing of BID Levy bills.
- Collection of the BID Levies from liable BID Businesses.
- Provide BID Levy income statements on a monthly basis.
- Transfer BID Levy income to the PMO on a monthly basis.
- Second the BID Manager to the PMO, for the duration of the BID term, to deliver the BID Business Plans.
- Consult with Astmoor & Halebank BID and the PMO in the development of Council policies and strategies. In particular those that impact upon the activities of the BID and its businesses. i.e. Business Support and Grant assistance available
- Provide officer support to the BID Manager.
- Provide in-kind Officer Support to the BID Manager (as resources allow)

As mentioned, the BID Manager is currently a member of the Council's Business Improvement and Growth Team, and would be seconded to the Chamber.

An agreement would be drawn up between the Chamber and the Council confirming the secondment arrangements but, in summary, the BID manager would continue to be an employee of the Council and would be paid from the BID levy but day to day management of the post would rest wholly with the Chamber and Commerce and Enterprise.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposal will result in the private sector taking a more proactive role in leading and delivering the BIDs programme, with the public sector taking a reduced role in the day to day management of the programme. Seen objectively, the positive outcome is that businesses in the borough will continue to benefit from a BIDs programme.

5.0 OTHER FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The transfer of the responsibility for managing the BID programme from the Council to the Chamber will result in a loss of income of £16k to the Council.

However, it should be borne in mind that the management of the BIDs programme is time-consuming and, when undertaking a basic cost benefit analysis, the benefits of removing the burden of managing the BIDs programme far outweighs the loss of income received.

The Council will be reimbursed for the technical expertise and systems it provides to manage the Bid Levy and billing arrangements.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

Children and Young People

N/A.

Employment Learning and Skills

The BIDs programme works with businesses to provide an environment which assists businesses to retain and create jobs.

Healthy Halton

N/A.

Safer Halton

The BIDs programme has successfully implemented a number of crime prevention initiatives which have led to significant reduction in crimes in the respective industrial estates.

Halton's Urban Renewal

The BIDs programme has generated over £1m of private sector investment which has been invested in improving the overall environment and appearance of the BIDs areas.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There is an expectation that the Council will continue to provide support to the BID, but that the Council will lose overall control of how the BIDs areas will operate in the future. However, this risk will be reduced in the following way: Firstly, there are strong links between the Chamber and the Council and a common, shared purpose for supporting the business community in the Borough. These relationships have been further enhanced by the development of the Liverpool City Region Growth Hub which further promotes joint working between the Councils and Chambers. Secondly, the approved Business Plan that covers the BID programme to 2018 was developed with the Council as a key stakeholder. Any changes to the main focus of the Business Plan would require a re-ballot. Consequently, it is argued that the Council's interests and priorities are adequately reflected in the document.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

There are no equality and diversity issues arising from this report.

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

None.

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 2 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Finance

SUBJECT: 2014/15 Financial Outturn

PORTFOLIO: Resources

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To report the final revenue and capital spending position for 2014/15.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) the report be noted; and**
- 2) the information within the report is taken into account when reviewing the medium term forecast and saving proposals for future years.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Revenue Spending

- 3.1 The final accounts for 2014/15 are nearing completion and the revenue spending position for each Department, subject to external audit, is shown in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Overall the final outturn position shows an underspend of £0.2m against a budget of £108.2m. There have been a number of pressure areas against the Council budget throughout the year, the most considerable of these being within the Children in Care Division where demand on the Service has increased since last year.
- 3.3 Budget savings for 2015/16 were implemented over two tranches, the first of which consisted of savings of £11.5m which were approved by Council in December 2014. As a result of some of these savings being implemented early, it has provided part-year budget savings in 2014/15.
- 3.4 Staffing expenditure is below budget across the majority of Council Departments, as posts have been held vacant in order to restrict spending. Some of these posts have now had to be filled whilst some have been used to provide budget savings for 2015/16. Vacant posts

have also contributed to meeting the staff turnover saving target for 2014/15 and will continue to do so for the next year.

- 3.5 Expenditure on supplies and services is £0.5m below budget for all directorates as spend has been limited to only essential items required to provide services. Whilst this is an achievement, supplies and services budgets will come under more pressure in 2015/16 as one of the saving proposals approved in balancing the budget was to cut supplies and services budgets by 8%.
- 3.6 A number of underspends against the 2014/15 budget have been approved as one-off budget savings for 2015/16. These have been carried forward into 2015/16 when closing the accounts at year-end.
- 3.7 Within the overall net underspend the key budget variances are as follows;

- (i) **Children and Families Department (£4,376,000 overspend):-**
As highlighted throughout the year, a significant overspend against budget was expected for the Department although the actual outturn figure is greater than was forecast at quarter 3. There are a number of areas within the Department which are experiencing spend pressures.

Employee expenditure has exceeded the annual budget by £611,000 (7%). There is significant additional spend on agency staff especially within the Child Protection & Children in Need Division. There has been a high level of staff turnover which has led to the high level usage of agency workers.

Expenditure relating to out of borough residential placements was £1,756,000 (67%) higher than budget. Practice and appropriate thresholds for care has changed over recent times which have resulted in more children coming into care. The attitude of the Council to child neglect and child sexual exploitation has altered over the past two years with a lower acceptance of risk but this has come at a cost. This will continue to be a volatile budget over coming years and whilst costs will be projected and monitored, unforeseen demand will always have an impact.

Spend on out of borough fostering for the year is £424,000 (84%) above budget. Whilst every effort is made to use in-house foster carers, due to the needs of the child this is not always possible. An action plan for the Department going forward will have a particular emphasis on having a greater number of in house foster carers.

Special Guardianship Orders are having a huge impact on spend and it is considered that this will continue to be the case for many years. Spend on Special Guardianship Orders and Adoption was

£1,478,000 (105%) above budget for the year. The cost of Care Leavers was also £125,000 (40%) above budget at year-end due to increased numbers of children leaving care who require support packages to help them achieve semi-independence.

The number of users accessing the Direct Payment Service has increased over the past year which is having an adverse impact on the budget. Expenditure for the year was £349,000 (135%) above budget.

Since 2011/12 saving measures have been approved to budgets for out of borough residential placements and foster care, this was at a time when demand for the services was much less than is currently being experienced. Given the upturn in service demand and despite £1,000,000 of the Council's contingency budget being allocated to the Department, the pressures outlined above have resulted in the unprecedented overspend against budget. An action plan is being implemented which will evaluate and analyse the expenditure incurred by the Department and the budget for 2015/16 will be closely monitored with a forecast of the annual outturn produced monthly in order for action be taken as and when necessary.

- (ii) **Children's Organisation & Provision Department (£1,222,000 underspend):-** Due to a number of vacancies across the Department, staff reducing contracted hours and significant levels of maternity leave, employee costs for the Department are £231,000 lower than budgeted. Spend on supplies and services has been less than forecast for the year, this is due to a number of reasons including better procurement, limiting spend on supplies to what is essential and making use of grant funding where available rather than utilising the core budget.

Expenditure on school transport costs is £59,000 over budget due to increased demand for out of borough contracts. Charges from suppliers are also increasing due to many of them operating at full capacity with reduced competition.

As part of the implementation of the Children and Families Department Action Plan referred to above, consideration will also be given to where budget underspends within this Department can be made permanent and budgets realigned, in order to help meet the future pressures within Children and Families.

- (iii) **Community & Environment Department (£126,000 overspend):-** Whilst the Department's spend exceeds budget for 2014/15, the actual overspend is less than 2013/14 (£282,000). Less use of agency staff has helped with employee costs and

against a staffing budget of approximately £12,500,000 there was only a minor overspend of £20,000.

Waste disposal contract costs have increased over the year, with actual spend being 7% higher than what was forecast as part of the budget. These increased inflation costs have been taken into account when setting the 2015/16 budget.

The cost of the leisure management contract was £70,000 higher than the budget for the year, as budget savings from reductions in the contract cost could not be agreed with the contractor.

As in previous years income targets for fees and charges have not been achieved due to the current difficult trading environment. Catering fees are one of the areas where income generated fell short of the budget, other areas include stadium bar income, open spaces non-contract income and trade and bulky waste charges. The shortfall on these income targets has been partly offset by an increase on school meals income, with the service benefitting from the available grant for universal free school meals.

- (iv) **Prevention and Assessment Department (£87,000 underspend):-** Employee spend is £108,000 less than forecast for the year, as a result of vacant posts particularly in the Care Management Division. Income targets for the year were above forecast but these two areas have been offset by increased spending on aids and adaptations due to greater support to service users utilising their own homes rather than moving into residential care

Net Council expenditure on the Complex Care Pool budget was only £7,000 less than budgeted, a remarkable achievement against a total Council contribution of close to £18m and with a total Pool gross expenditure budget of £42m.

- (v) **Finance Department (£436,000 underspend):-** A number of posts have been held vacant during the year which have contributed towards the Department's underspend. A number of these posts have been written out of the 2015/16 budget as they were put forward as savings.

Concessionary travel costs have come in under £140,000 less than the budget for 2014/15. This is as a result of successful negotiations with bus operators. This has been approved as a permanent budget saving for 2015/16.

- (vi) **Legal & Democratic Services Department (£260,000 underspend):-** Over 50% of the Department's underspend is as a result of employee costs coming in under the approved budget. This was due to a number of vacancies, some of which have been

filled whilst others have been approved as budget savings required for 2015/16.

Other significant areas which have contributed towards the underspend include supplies & services resulting from a more efficient use of on-line resources.

- (vii) **Policy, Planning & Transportation (£159,000 underspend):-** The Department has generated additional income during the financial year which has contributed in the main towards the underspend position. Fees in excess of budget have been as a result of an increase in the number of defect notices issued to statutory undertakers and the increase in the number of skip licences. One-off significant planning application fees have also brought in additional income during the year.

There have been additional costs during the year which have reduced the overall net underspend position, mainly due to an increase in reactive highway maintenance works required.

- (viii) **Corporate & Democracy (£2,158,000 underspend):-** There were a number of significant corporate items which took place during the year which have contributed towards the underspend position. The Council has settled on all equal pay claims brought to the employment tribunal, as a result the provision held to settle claims has been transferred back into the revenue account.

The Treasury Management function has performed well over the year and minimised the level of borrowings required for short term needs, whilst at the same time increased income has been generated from investments. This was as a result of greater flexibility in the use of counterparties with whom the Council can place investments with, approved by Members during 2014/15.

A number of one-off grants have been received during the year which has also increased income. These include Section 31 small business rate relief grant and returned new homes bonus grant.

Reserves and Balances

- 3.8 The Council's Reserves and Balances have been reviewed in accordance with the Reserves and Balances Strategy and are considered reasonable given the scale of the financial challenges facing the Council.
- 3.9 Total revenue spending for the year was £178,000 below budget (compared to £579,000 in the previous year). As a result the Council's general reserve now stands at £8,823,662.

- 3.10 Council has approved £3m of the general reserve to be used as a temporary measure in balancing the budget for 2015/16. This will reduce the general reserve to £5.8m which is the lowest level held since March 2003. Given the current economic climate and the financial challenges facing the Council, it is considered that the general reserve at £5.8m remains a reasonable level.
- 3.11 The Council holds a transformation reserve to meet the costs associated with restructuring the delivery of Council services in the light of future financial challenges. The Government has reiterated during the year that cuts to public spending will continue through to 2017/18 at least. The balance of the reserve as at 31st March 2015 is £2.3m, however, a reduction of £0.5m was approved by Council to assist with balancing the 2015/16 budget.
- 3.12 The Council holds a reserve with a balance of £1.5m as at the end of the year to support invest to save projects. A reduction of £0.5m in this reserve was approved by Council to assist with balancing the 2015/16 budget. Given the level of savings required to balance future year budgets it is essential that these funds are set aside to fund projects which will lead to savings on the revenue budget for the Council.

School Balances

- 3.13 School balances as at 31st March 2015 total £7.8m (compared to £7.5m last year-end). This is made up of £7.5m on Individual School Budgets and £0.3m of General School grants which will carry forward into 2015/16. There is also £2.4m of unspent Schools related funding held centrally which will carry forward into 2015/16.
- 3.14 The breakdown of spending for 2014/15 against Individual School Budgets (ISB) is given in the table below.

Individual School Budgets (ISB) 2014/15					
	Nursery Schools £'000	Primary Schools £'000	Secondary Schools £'000	Special Schools £'000	Total £'000
Balance b/f from 13/14	100	3,765	2,182	1,284	7,331
ISB for 2014/15	1,038	46,762	25,353	4,131	77,284
Total Budget	1,138	50,527	27,535	5,415	84,615
Actual Expenditure	1,044	45,388	25,978	4,744	77,154
Balance c/f to 15/16	94	5,139	1,557	671	7,461

Capital Spending

3.15 Appendix 2 presents details of spending against the 2014/15 Capital Programme. Capital spending totalled £32.1m, which is £11.0m below the revised capital programme of £43.1m.

3.16 This represents 75% delivery of the revised capital programme, there has been slippage on several large projects and spend will continue to be incurred on them in 2015/16. The projects with significant slippage include Castlefields Regeneration, 3MG, Widnes Waterfront, Former Crossville Depot Site and the Travellers Site at Warrington Road.

4.0 POLICY AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 There are a number of financial risks within the budget. However, the Council has internal controls and processes in place to ensure that spending remains in line with budget.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 There are none.

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

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

APPENDIX 1

2014-15 REVENUE EXPENDITURE

Summary

Department/Directorate	Annual Budget £'000	Actual Expenditure £'000	Variance (overspend) £'000
Childrens Organisation & Provision	12,058	10,836	1,222
Learning & Achievement	2,668	2,559	109
Children & Families	19,101	23,477	(4,376)
Economy, Enterprise & Property	3,495	3,431	64
Children & Enterprise Directorate	37,322	40,303	(2,981)
Prevention & Assessment	24,348	24,261	87
Commissioning & Complex Care	12,845	12,765	80
Community & Environment	26,310	26,436	(126)
Communities Directorate	63,503	63,462	41
Legal & Democratic	578	318	260
Policy, Planning & Transportation	16,219	16,060	159
Human Resources	43	-58	101
Finance	4,750	4,334	416
ICT & Support Services	106	96	10
Public Health & Public Protection	1,462	1,448	14
Policy & Resources Directorate	23,158	22,198	960
Corporate & Democracy	-15,740	-17,898	2,158
Total Revenue Expenditure	108,243	108,065	178

CHILDREN AND ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE

CHILDREN'S ORGANISATION AND PROVISION DEPARTMENT

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	3,920	3,689	231
Premises	180	174	6
Supplies & Services	2,542	2,246	296
Transport	5	6	(1)
Schools Transport	916	975	(59)
Commissioned Services	2,772	2,710	62
Agency Related Expenditure	1,790	1,774	16
Nursery Education Payments	2,833	2,833	0
Transfer to Reserves	1,213	1,213	0
Capital Financing	900	900	0
Total Expenditure	17,071	16,520	551
<u>Income</u>			
Fees & Charges	-435	-524	89
HBC Support Costs	-79	-79	0
Transfer to / from Reserves	-1,418	-1,902	484
Dedicated Schools Grant	-5,956	-5,956	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-845	-942	97
PFI Credits	-4,089	-4,089	0
Schools SLA Income	-202	-203	1
Total Income	-13,024	-13,695	671
NET OPERATIONAL BUDGET	4,047	2,825	1,222
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises Support Costs	181	181	0
Transport Support Costs	287	287	0
Central Support Service Costs	787	787	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	6,756	6,756	0
Total Recharges	8,011	8,011	0
Net Expenditure	12,058	10,836	1,222

LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT DEPARTMENT

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	3,138	3,073	65
Premises	6	6	0
Supplies & Services	765	743	22
Agency Related Expenditure	33	22	11
Independent School Fees	1,710	1,710	0
Inter Authority Recoupment	752	752	0
Capital Finance	3	0	3
Transfer to Reserves	248	248	0
Total Expenditure	6,655	6,554	101
<u>Income</u>			
Fees & Charges	-156	-159	3
Dedicated Schools Grant	-3,503	-3,503	0
Inter Authority Income	-578	-578	0
Schools SLA Income	-39	-39	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-110	-115	5
Government Grant	-424	-424	0
Transfer from Reserves	-76	-76	0
Total Income	-4,886	-4,894	8
Net Operational Budget	1,769	1,660	93
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises Support Costs	157	157	0
Central Support Service Costs	727	727	0
Transport Support Costs	15	15	0
Total Recharges	899	899	0
Net Expenditure	2,668	2,559	109

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	8,529	9,140	(611)
Premises	399	347	52
Supplies & Services	1,376	1,335	41
Transport	33	45	(12)
Commissioned Services	342	286	56
Direct Payments/Individual Budgets Out of Borough Residential Placements	2,607	4,363	(1,756)
Out of Borough Adoption	80	226	(146)
Out of Borough Fostering	502	926	(424)
In House Foster Carer Placements	1,721	1,988	(267)
Special Guardians/InHouse Adoption	722	1,478	(756)
Care Leavers	316	441	(125)
Family Support	140	235	(95)
Transfer to Reserves	80	80	0
Capital Financing	6	0	6
Total Expenditure	17,111	21,497	(4,386)
<u>Income</u>			
Fees & Charges	-147	-158	11
Adoption Placements	-43	-41	(2)
Transfer to/from Reserves	-228	-228	0
Dedicated School's Grant	-74	-74	0
Reimbursements & Other Grant Income	-726	-729	3
Adoption Reform Grant	-120	-120	0
Total Income	-1,338	-1,350	12
Net Operational Budget	15,773	20,147	(4,374)
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises Support Costs	349	349	0
Transport Support Costs	71	73	(2)
Central Support Service Costs	2,864	2,864	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	44	44	0
Total Recharges	3,328	3,330	(2)
Net Expenditure	19,101	23,477	(4,376)

ECONOMY, ENTERPRISE & PROPERTY DEPARTMENT

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	4,386	4,434	(48)
Repairs & Maintenance	2,837	2,834	3
Premises	49	48	1
Energy & Water Costs	614	591	23
NNDR	613	599	14
Rents	458	461	(3)
Marketing Programme	23	21	2
Promotions	62	64	(2)
Supplies & Services	1,555	1,508	47
Agency Related Expenditure	76	78	(2)
Grants to Non Voluntary Organisations	148	148	0
Other Expenditure	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	10,821	10,786	35
<u>Income</u>			
Fees & Charges	-544	-553	9
Rent - Markets	-759	-764	5
Rent - Industrial Estates	-691	-698	7
Rent - Commercial	-563	-557	(6)
Transfer to / from Reserves	-660	-660	0
Government Grant Income	-1,959	-1,959	0
Reimbursements & Other Income	-280	-286	6
Recharges to Capital	-297	-297	0
Schools SLA Income	-553	-561	8
Total Income	-6,306	-6,335	29
Net Operational Budget	4,515	4,451	64
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises Support Costs	1,409	1,409	0
Transport Support Costs	29	29	0
Central Support Service Costs	1,971	1,971	0
Asset Rental Support Costs	2,129	2,129	0
Repairs & Maint. Rech. Income	-2,448	-2,448	0
Accommodation Rech. Income	-2,653	-2,653	0
Central Supp. Service Rech. Income	-1,457	-1,457	0
Total Recharges	-1,020	-1,020	0
Net Expenditure	3,495	3,431	64

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE**PREVENTION & ASSESSMENT DEPARTMENT****2014/15 Revenue Expenditure**

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	6,425	6,317	108
Other Premises	115	108	7
Supplies & Services	311	308	3
Aids & Adaptations	138	208	(70)
Transport	12	21	(9)
Food Provision	28	32	(4)
Other Agency	23	24	(1)
Transfer to Reserves	1,480	1,480	0
Contribution to Complex Care Pool	17,971	17,964	7
Total Expenditure	26,503	26,462	41
<u>Income</u>			
Other Fees & Charges	-265	-306	41
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-375	-392	17
Transfer from Reserves	-2,485	-2,485	0
Capital Salaries	-91	-91	0
Government Grant Income	-356	-350	(6)
CCG Contribution to Service	-626	-626	0
Total Income	-4,198	-4,250	52
Net Operational Expenditure	22,305	22,212	93
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises Support	221	221	0
Asset Charges	210	210	0
Central Support Services	1,980	1,980	0
Internal Recharge Income	-419	-419	0
Transport Recharges	51	57	(6)
Net Total Recharges	2,043	2,049	(6)
Net Departmental Total	24,348	24,261	87

COMMISSIONING & COMPLEX CARE DEPARTMENT

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	7,386	7,289	97
Premises	304	308	(4)
Supplies & Services	1,922	1,927	(5)
Carers Breaks	602	602	0
Transport	200	206	(6)
Contracts & SLAs	160	168	(8)
Payments To Providers	3,757	3,757	0
Emergency Duty Team	103	94	9
Other Agency Costs	795	795	0
Total Expenditure	15,229	15,146	83
<u>Income</u>			
Sales & Rents Income	-284	-346	62
Fees & Charges	-173	-137	(36)
CCG Contribution To Service	-840	-808	(32)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-842	-850	8
Transfer From Reserves	-948	-948	0
Total Income	-3,087	-3,089	2
Net Operational Expenditure	12,142	12,057	85
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises Support	192	192	0
Transport	435	440	(5)
Central Support Services	1,685	1,685	0
Asset Charges	76	76	0
Internal Recharge Income	-1,685	-1,685	0
Net Total Recharges	703	708	(5)
Net Departmental Total	12,845	12,765	80

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	12,484	12,504	(20)
Other Premises	1,312	1,235	77
Supplies & Services	1,884	1,815	69
Book Fund	192	195	(3)
Promotional	9	4	5
Other Hired Services	1,473	1,448	25
Food Provisions	720	703	17
School Meals Food	2,044	2,009	35
Transport	55	35	20
Other Agency Costs	649	589	60
Waste Disposal Contracts	5,054	5,413	(359)
Leisure Management Contract	1,467	1,537	(70)
Grants To Voluntary Organisations	337	312	25
Grant To Norton Priory	222	224	(2)
Rolling Projects	154	158	(4)
Transfers To Reserves	28	28	0
Capital Financing	65	56	9
Total Spending	28,149	28,265	(116)
<u>Income</u>			
Sales Income	-2,094	-1,967	(127)
School Meals Sales	-2,314	-2,357	43
Fees & Charges Income	-2,940	-2,828	(112)
Rents Income	-187	-195	8
Government Grant Income	-52	-55	3
Reimbursements & Other Grant	-541	-561	20
Schools SLA Income	-82	-85	3
Internal Fees Income	-121	-152	31
School Meals Other Income	-2,801	-2,914	113
Meals On Wheels	-187	-169	(18)
Internal Catering Fees	-225	-142	(83)
Capital Salaries	-53	-95	42
Transfers From Reserves	-625	-656	31
Total Income	-12,222	-12,176	(46)
Net Controllable Expenditure	15,927	16,089	(162)
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises Support	2,048	2,048	0
Transport Recharges	2,394	2,358	36
Central Support Services	3,158	3,158	0
Asset Charges	3,140	3,140	0
HBC Support Costs Income	-357	-357	0
Net Total Recharges	10,383	10,347	36
Net Departmental Total	26,310	26,436	(126)

POLICY AND RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	1,930	1,791	139
Supplies & Services	375	301	74
Civic Catering & Functions	29	28	1
Mayoral Allowances	21	18	3
Legal Expenses	220	205	15
Capital Financing	0	-2	2
Total Expenditure	2,575	2,341	234
<u>Income</u>			
Land Charges	-99	-93	(6)
License Income	-251	-257	6
Schools SLA's	-49	-60	11
Other Income	-77	-92	15
Total Income	-476	-502	26
Net Operational Expenditure	2,099	1,839	260
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises Support	91	91	0
Transport Recharges	18	18	0
Central Support Recharges	481	481	0
Support Recharges Income	-2,111	-2,111	0
Net Total Recharges	-1,521	-1,521	0
Net Departmental Total	578	318	260

POLICY, PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	4,835	4,817	18
Other Premises	200	121	79
Hired & Contracted Services	393	393	0
Supplies & Services	329	354	(25)
Street Lighting	1,948	1,948	0
Highways Maintenance	2,383	2,490	(107)
Bridges	96	96	0
Fleet Transport	1,325	1,299	26
Lease Car Contracts	361	361	0
Bus Support – Halton Hopper Tickets	295	295	0
Bus Support	1,206	1,206	0
Out of Borough Transport	51	45	6
Capital Financing	142	142	0
Revenue Contribution to Reserves	395	498	(103)
Bad Debt Provision	0	-40	40
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	68	68	0
NRA Levy	58	58	0
Total Expenditure	14,085	14,151	(66)
<u>Income</u>			
Sales	-423	-483	60
Planning Fees	-506	-601	95
Building Control Fees	-186	-204	18
Other Fees & Charges	-646	-796	150
Rents	-8	0	(8)
Grants & Reimbursements	-448	-407	(41)
Government Grant Income	-665	-665	0
School SLAs	-39	-43	4
Recharge to Capital	-312	-268	(44)
Total Income	-3,233	-3,467	234
Net Controllable Expenditure	10,852	10,684	168
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises Support	534	521	13
Transport Recharges	683	713	(30)
Asset Charges	7,842	7,842	0
Central Support Recharges	1,953	1,956	(3)
Departmental Support Recharges	-432	-432	0
Support Recharges Income – Transport	-2,739	-2,750	11
Support Recharges Income – Non Transport	-2,474	-2,474	0
Net Total Recharges	5,367	5,376	(9)
Net Departmental Total	16,219	16,060	159

HUMAN RESOURCES

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	1,499	1,556	(57)
Employee Training	133	135	(2)
Supplies & Services	111	107	4
Capital Financing	0	2	(2)
Total Expenditure	1,743	1,800	(57)
<u>Income</u>			
Fees & Charges	-67	-186	119
School SLA's	-398	-437	39
Total Income	-465	-623	158
Net Operational Expenditure	1,278	1,177	101
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises Support	65	65	0
Transport Recharges	11	11	0
Central Support Recharges	301	301	0
Support Recharges Income	-1,612	-1,612	0
Net Total Recharges	-1,235	-1,235	0
Net Departmental Total	43	-58	101

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	7,265	6,837	428
Supplies & Services	484	454	30
Other Premises	82	80	2
Agency Related	1	-1	2
Insurances	1,313	1,313	0
Concessionary Travel	2,247	2,107	140
Capital Financing	0	-19	19
Rent Allowances	53,900	53,901	(1)
Non HRA Rebates	66	72	(6)
Discretionary Housing Payments	534	534	0
Discretionary Social Fund	124	124	0
Transfers to Reserves	1,132	1,532	(400)
Total Expenditure	67,148	66,934	214
<u>Income</u>			
Fees & Charges	-302	-301	(1)
SLA to Schools	-770	-730	(40)
NNDR Administration Grant	-169	-167	(2)
Hsg Ben Administration Grant	-1,094	-1,094	0
Rent Allowances	-52,840	-52,841	1
Clerical Error Recoveries	-947	-1,033	86
Non HRA Rent Rebates	-66	-73	7
Discretionary Housing Payments Grant	-387	-387	0
Discretionary Social Fund Grant	-775	-775	0
Reimbursements & Other Grants	-443	-443	0
Liability Orders	-373	-544	171
Transfer from Reserves	-504	-504	0
Total Income	-58,670	-58,892	222
Net Controllable Expenditure	8,478	8,042	436
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises	432	432	0
Transport	36	36	0
Asset Charges	19	19	0
Central Support Services	3,291	3,291	0
Support Services Income	-7,506	-7,486	(20)
Net Total Recharges	-3,728	-3,708	(20)
Net Department Total	4,750	4,334	416

ICT AND SUPPORT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	5,382	5,377	5
Supplies & Services	559	559	0
Computer Repairs & Software	543	543	0
Communications Costs	391	391	0
Other Premises	36	36	0
Capital Financing	0	-3	3
Transfers to Reserves	911	911	0
Total Expenditure	7,822	7,814	8
<u>Income</u>			
Fees & Charges	-839	-844	5
SLA to Schools	-560	-560	0
Total Income	-1,399	-1,404	5
Net Controllable Expenditure	6,423	6,410	13
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises	521	521	0
Transport	17	20	(3)
Asset Charges	1,512	1,512	0
Central Support Services	1,035	1,035	0
Support Service Income	-9,402	-9,402	0
Net Total Recharges	-6,317	-6,314	(3)
Net Department Total	106	96	10

PUBLIC HEALTH & PUBLIC PROTECTION

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employees	2,223	2,212	11
Supplies & Services	279	273	6
Other Agency	20	17	3
Contracts & SLA's	4,713	4,707	6
Transfer to Reserves	614	614	0
Total Expenditure	7,849	7,823	26
<u>Income</u>			
Other Fees & Charges	-59	-49	(10)
Sales Income	-26	-17	(9)
Reimbursements & Grant Income	-75	-82	7
Government Grant	-8,749	-8,749	0
Total Income	-8,909	-8,897	(12)
Net Operational Expenditure	-1,060	-1,074	14
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises Support	50	50	0
Central Support Services	2,447	2,447	0
Transport Recharges	25	25	0
Net Total Recharges	2,522	2,522	0
Net Departmental Total	1,462	1,448	14

CORPORATE & DEMOCRACY

2014/15 Revenue Expenditure

	Annual Budget £'000	Expenditure to Date £'000	Variance (Overspend) £'000
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Employee Related	381	-258	639
Interest Payments	3,761	3,570	191
Members Allowances	768	762	6
Supplies & Services	276	244	32
Legal Expenses	658	658	0
Other Premises	116	116	0
Precepts & Levies	176	183	(7)
Capital Financing	3,237	3,158	79
Transfers to Reserves	2,590	2,590	0
Bank Charges	79	84	(5)
Audit Fees	167	139	28
Total Expenditure	12,209	11,246	963
<u>Income</u>			
External Interest	-521	-718	197
Government Grants	-4,716	-5,415	699
Fees & Charges	-50	-74	24
Reimbursements & Other Grants	-828	-792	(36)
Transfers from Reserves	-1,893	-1,893	0
Total Income	-8,008	-8,892	884
Net Controllable Expenditure	4,201	2,354	1,847
<u>Recharges</u>			
Premises	6	7	(1)
Transport	4	4	0
Asset Charges	89	89	0
Central Support Services	2,227	2,227	0
Support Services Income	-22,267	-22,579	312
Net Total Recharges	-19,941	-20,252	311
Net Departmental Total	-15,740	-17,898	2,158

APPENDIX 2

2014/15 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Summary

Departments/Directorates	Capital Allocation £'000	Actual Expenditure £'000	Variance (overspend) £'000
<u>Children and Enterprise Directorate</u>			
Schools Related	4,269	3,075	1,194
Economy, Enterprise and Property	10,612	4,935	5,677
Total Children and Enterprise Directorate	14,881	8,010	6,871
<u>Communities Directorate</u>			
Community and Environment	4,631	3,560	1,071
Commissioning and Complex Care	1,438	904	534
Total Communities Directorate	6,069	4,464	1,605
<u>Policy and Resources Directorate</u>			
Policy, Planning and Transportation	8,069	6,768	1,301
Mersey Gateway	11,655	11,059	596
ICT and Support Services	2,100	1,482	618
Brookvale Biomass Boiler	322	289	33
Total Policy and Resources Directorate	22,146	19,598	2,548
Total Capital Expenditure	43,096	32,072	11,024

**CHILDREN AND ENTERPRISE DIRECTORATE
2014/15 Capital Expenditure**

	Capital Allocation £'000	Actual Expenditure £'000	Variance (overspend) £'000
Schools			
Asset Management (CADS)	10	8	2
Capital Repairs	1,191	928	263
Fire Compartmentation	39	2	37
Asbestos Management	25	25	0
Schools Access Initiative	100	95	5
Short Breaks for Disabled Children	2	2	0
Lunts Heath – Basic Need	36	36	0
Inglefield – Basic Need	50	38	12
Fairfield – Basic Need	983	8	975
Halebank	20	0	20
St Bedes Junior – Basic Need	36	8	28
School Modernisation Projects	683	623	60
Ashley School -ASD Provision	369	338	31
Beechwood Primary	93	93	0
Two Year Old Capital	374	192	182
Universal Infant School Meals	258	255	3
The Grange (BSF)	0	326	(326)
Wade Deacon ICT	0	1	(1)
The Grange ICT	0	97	(97)
Total Schools	4,269	3,075	1,194
Economy, Enterprise & Property Dep't			
Castlefields Regeneration	925	302	623
3MG	2,909	1,717	1,192
Widnes Waterfront	1,000	0	1,000
Johnsons Lane Infrastructure	466	16	450
Decontamination of Land	6	0	6
Daresbury SciTech	1,915	1,377	538
Queens Arms	23	11	12
Former Crossville Depot	518	0	518
Moor Lane Demolition	150	162	(12)
Moor Lane Property Purchase	160	162	(2)
Former Fairfield Site Demolition	2	2	0
Fairfield High Site - Contingency Costs	51	49	2
Peel House Lane Cemetery	20	22	(2)
Peel House Lane Roundabout & Cemetery Access	155	0	155
Widnes Town Centre Initiative	60	39	21
Travellers Site	1,658	372	1,286
Lower House Lane Depot – Upgrade	444	406	38
Disability Discrimination Act/Disabled Access	150	298	(148)
Total Economy, Enterprise & Property Dep't	10,612	4,935	5,677
Total Capital	12,381	9,857	2,524

COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE

2014/15 Capital Expenditure

Schemes	Capital Allocation £'000	Actual Expenditure £'000	Variance (overspend) £'000
Community & Environment			
Stadium Minor Works	80	75	5
Children's Playground Equipment	79	6	73
Upton Improvements	63	50	13
Norton Priory	339	203	136
Playground Third Party Funding	340	17	323
Cremators Widnes Crematorium	396	287	109
Crow Wood Park	13	0	13
Open Spaces Scheme	189	171	18
Runcorn Cemetery Extension	9	0	9
Runcorn Hill Park	311	681	(370)
Litter Bins	20	19	1
Widnes Recreation Site	2,792	2,051	741
Total Community & Environment	4,631	3,560	1,071
Commissioning & Complex Care			
ALD Bungalows	100	0	100
Disabled Facilities Grant	500	446	54
Stair Lifts (Adaptations Initiative)	250	242	8
RSL Adaptations	200	200	0
Lifeline Telecare Upgrade	100	0	100
Halton Carer's Centre	50	16	34
Halton Brew	16	0	16
Section 256 Grant	56	0	56
Community Capacity Grant	166	0	166
Total Commissioning & Complex Care	1,438	904	534
Total Capital	6,069	4,464	1,605

POLICY & RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

2014/15 Capital Expenditure

	Capital Allocation £'000	Actual Expenditure £'000	Variance (overspend) £'000
<u>Local Transport Plan</u>			
Bridge Assessment, Strengthening & Maintenance	1,114	1,114	0
Road Maintenance	1,647	1,647	0
Integrated Transport	1,020	1,020	0
Total Local Transport Plan	3,781	3,781	0
<u>Halton Borough Council</u>			
Early Land Acquisition Mersey Gateway	6,386	6,639	(253)
Development Costs Mersey Gateway	3,289	2,427	862
Loan Interest During MG Construction Period	1,980	1,993	(13)
Street lighting – Structural Maintenance	200	200	0
Risk Management	120	120	0
Fleet Replacement	1,121	879	242
IT Rolling Programme	2,100	1,482	618
Brookvale Biomass Boiler	322	289	33
Total Halton Borough Council	15,518	14,029	1,489
<u>Grant Funded</u>			
Surface Water Management Grant	195	33	162
Mid Mersey Local Sustainable Transport	399	15	384
Total Grant Funded	594	48	546
<u>Local Pinch Point Fund</u>			
A558 Access Road Improvements	2,253	1,740	513
Total Capital	22,146	19,598	2,548

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 2 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director - Finance

SUBJECT: 2015/16 to 2017/18 Capital Programme

WARD(S): Borough-wide

PORTFOLIO: Resources

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 Council approved an updated capital programme for 2015/16 on 04 March 2015. Since then other reports covering planned capital expenditure for 2015/16 and future years have been reported. In addition new capital grant allocations have been received and slippage to capital projects for 2014/15 has been rolled forward to 2015/16. The purpose of this report is to bring all the separate elements together and report on the Council's total forecast capital programme expenditure and associated funding over the next three years.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That Council be recommended to

- 1) approve the updated capital programme for 2015-18, including forecast spend and funding, as set out in Table 1 and Table 2; and**
- 2) the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources in consultation with the Portfolio holder Transportation, be delegated to agree a detailed implementation programme of Highways and Transportation schemes to be delivered in 2015/16.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The capital strategy covering the period 2015/16 to 2017/18 was approved on 20 November 2014, as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy. It summarised the expected capital spend over the medium term and the sources of funding available.
- 3.2 The overall capital programme for 2015/16 to 2017/18 was approved by Council on 04 March 2015. Estimates of capital allocations at that time were known to be subject to variations. This report updates the latest position, which includes confirmed and indicative capital grant allocations for 2015/16 and future years.

- 3.3 The capital programme is subject to regular review and monitoring reports are presented on a quarterly basis. Information is presented to show the actual spend incurred to date and how this compares to the capital allocation for the year. A forecast is provided to indicate if the capital programme will be utilised in full during the year or if there is any expected slippage to capital schemes.

Planned Capital Programme Expenditure

- 3.4 Table 1 below presents the planned Capital Programme for 2015/16 onwards based on current information for approved schemes, funding available and slippage of scheme expenditure from 2014/15. The capital programme is subject to continuous change as new resources and projects are identified, and will be updated throughout the year as revisions are approved by Council.

Table 1 - Planned Capital Programme Expenditure 2015/16-2017/18

	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	Total £'000
Children & Enterprise Directorate				
Asset Management Data	5	0	0	5
Fire Compartmentation	62	0	0	62
Capital Repairs	1,015	0	0	1,015
Asbestos Management	20	0	0	20
Inglefield	12	0	0	12
Schools Access Initiative	75	0	0	75
Education Programme (General)	70	0	0	70
Basic Need Projects	0	936	71	1,007
School Modernisation Projects	460	0	0	460
St Bedes Junior School	28	0	0	28
Ashley School	31	0	0	31
Early Education for 2 Year Olds	183	0	0	183
Universal Infant Free School Meals	2	0	0	2
Halebank Primary School	40	0	0	40
Responsible Bodies Bids – Capital Improvement Works	475	0	0	475
St Edwards Catholic Primary	35	0	0	35
Fairfield Primary School	1,898	243	0	2,141
Castlefields Regeneration	635	0	0	635
3MG	3,493	0	0	3,493
Widnes Waterfront (including Bayer)	1,000	0	0	1,000
Johnsons Lane Infrastructure	450	0	0	450
Decontamination of Land	6	0	0	6
SciTech Daresbury – Tech Space	10,965	0	0	10,965
Former Crosville Depot	518	0	0	518
Former Fairfield High Site – Contingency Costs	27	0	0	27
Former Fairfield High Site – Highways	810	106	0	916
Former Fairfield High Site – Cemetery	900	50	50	1,000
John Briggs House / Police Station	350	0	0	350
Travellers Site Warrington Road	1,286	0	0	1,286
Widnes Town Centre Initiative	21	0	0	21
Lowerhouse Lane Depot - Upgrade	38	0	0	38
Equality Act Improvement Works	250	300	300	850
Directorate Total	25,160	1,635	421	27,216

Policy & Resources Directorate				
ICT Rolling Programme	1,719	1,100	1,100	3,919
LTP – Highways Maintenance	2,228	2,043	1,981	6,252
LTP – Integrated Transport	908	908	908	2,724
STEP – Mersey Corridor Business Hubs	327	0	0	327
STEP – Sustainable ‘Sci-Tech’ Links	207	0	0	207
STEP – Silver Jubilee Corridor Business Hubs	0	171	0	171
STEP – Widnes Connect	0	369	0	369
Section 106 Schemes	384	0	0	384
Street Lighting	4,900	200	200	5,300
Risk Management	120	120	120	360
Fleet Replacements	2,134	1,940	624	4,698
Early Land Acquisition – Mersey Gateway	10,125	1,461	567	12,153
Mersey Gateway Crossings Board	2,843	2,858	2,153	7,854
Mersey Gateway – Contribution to Construction Costs	0	70,000	32,500	102,500
Mersey Gateway – Loan Interest During Construction	3,587	3,989	356	7,932
Mersey Gateway – Liquidity Fund	0	0	10,000	10,000
Directorate Total	29,482	85,159	50,509	165,150
Communities Directorate				
Stadium Minor Works	42	30	30	102
Frank Myler Sports & Recreation Centre	741	0	0	741
Norton Priory	3,426	151	190	3,767
Norton Priory Biomass Boiler	140	0	0	140
Children’s Playground Equipment	138	65	65	268
Crow Wood Play Area	13	0	0	13
Runcorn Hill Park	250	0	0	250
Open Spaces Schemes	18	0	0	18
Runcorn Cemetery Extension	9	0	0	9
Cremators Widnes Crematorium	109	0	0	109
Landfill Tax Credit Schemes	340	340	340	1,020
Upton Improvements	13	0	0	13
Litter Bins	20	20	20	60
Disabled Facilities Grant	500	0	0	500
RSL Adaptations	200	0	0	200
Stair Lifts	250	0	0	250
ALD Bungalows	300	100	0	400
Grangeway Court	400	0	0	400
Social Care Capital Grant	356	0	0	356
Halton Carers Centre Refurbishment	34	0	0	34
Lifeline Telecare Upgrade	100	0	0	100

Community Meals	10	0	0	10
Section 256 Grant	57	0	0	57
The Halton Brew	16	0	0	16
Directorate Total	7,482	706	645	8,833
Total Capital Programme	62,124	87,500	51,575	201,199

3.5 The Council receives two principal sources of formula based capital funding from Government to improve local transport conditions, namely Integrated Transport Block (ITB) used to fund small transport improvements and Highways Maintenance Block (HM) used to maintain the highway, associated structures and covering works such as resurfacing, bridge maintenance and street lighting.

3.6 The way in which the ITB allocations are granted changed in 2015/16 as a result of the formation of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. ITB funding is paid direct to LCRCA, as the co-ordinating body for the funding. For 2015/16 funding is redistributed from LCRCA to the 6 local highway authorities in line with DfT indicative allocations, future years are to be agreed, for consistency it is assumed within the capital programme that allocations for the final 2 years are in line with 2015/16.

3.7 In 2014 DfT consulted on proposed changes to the way highway maintenance funding is allocated. The major part of the allocation continues to be based upon a needs based formula, in addition a new incentive element has been introduced, the proportion of which increases year on year. Whilst overall the amount allocated nationally to highway maintenance remains constant, the amount allocated by way of the needs based formula reduces due to the incentive element. Highway authorities will have to demonstrate they are making progress to embrace and adopt good practice in respect to efficiencies and asset management to qualify for the incentive element. The needs based element has been set for the three years from 2015 to 2018 by DfT and is included within the capital programme.

3.8 In May 2015, the Council received confirmation of funding for 4 Sustainable Transport Improvement Schemes (STEP) as part of the approved LCR Combined Authority STEP programme. The schemes will be delivered using Growth Deal funding over a two year period with a match contribution from ITB and Section 106 budgets.

Funding the Programme

3.9 Table 2 below summarises how the capital programme will be funded.

Table 2 Capital Programme Funding 2015/16 to 2017/18

	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000	Total £'000
Specific & General Grants	14,717	8,641	3,316	26,674
External Contributions	6,395	457	496	7,348
Borrowing	30,518	76,259	45,844	152,621
Revenue Contributions	1,268	0	0	1,268
Capital Receipts	9,226	2,143	1,919	13,288
Total Funding	62,124	87,500	51,575	201,199

3.10 The Council will continue to seek and secure further additional external resources to reduce on-going revenue implications and enhance the capital programme. For example, through Section 106 agreements.

3.11 Revenue contributions have been set aside to fund capital repairs for schools and to assist with funding the rolling ICT Rolling Programme.

3.12 Borrowings undertaken to support the capital programme are undertaken in line with the Prudential Code and Council's Treasury Management Strategy. This ensures that external borrowings are affordable and within prudent and sustainable levels. Borrowings to fund the capital programme over the three years will be repayable in future years from either Government grant, forecast capital receipts or funded from future revenue streams.

3.13 Repayments and interest costs for borrowings of £102.5m which will be used to fund Council's contribution to Mersey Gateway construction costs in 2016/17 and 2017/18 will be re-paid through future toll revenue.

3.14 Prudential borrowing remains an option to fund future capital schemes, but the financing costs as a result of the borrowing will need to be found from savings within the revenue budget.

Capital Receipts

3.15 Available capital receipts are used to fund the capital programme. Sales from the disposal of surplus land and buildings may only be used to fund capital expenditure. These funds cannot be used to fund revenue expenditure, with the exception of up to 4% of the proceeds of the sale of capital assets being allowable to fund the revenue cost of disposing of an asset.

- 3.16 Estimates of capital receipts over the medium term are based on forecast land and building sales. Although there is some optimism in the property market seeing a upturn in fortunes, the cautious approach the Council has adopted over the past number of years needs to be continued and as such there are no funds available for new capital starts unless external funding is generated to finance the cost.
- 3.17 Table 3 below shows the expected balance of capital receipts over the next three years. The Council attempts to maintain a minimum value of £3m of retained receipts towards funding the capital programme. However, the table shows that the balance of capital receipts for year 2015/16 and 2016/17 of the programme is forecast to fall below this level, although in 2017/18 the balance increases to £3.4m. The reason for the discrepancy is due to the timing of cash required for capital projects compared to the expected capital receipt being received; this is particularly evident with regards to the new cemetery and associated highway works and the 3MG project.
- 3.18 The shortfall in capital receipts for 2015/16 and 2016/17 will be managed by the Treasury Management function to ensure that costs relating to financing the short term cashflow needs of the schemes are kept to a minimum.

Table 3 Capital Receipts

	2015/16 £'000	2016/17 £'000	2017/18 £'000
Balance B/F	3,390	-2,714	471
In-Year Anticipated Receipts	3,122	5,328	4,893
Receipts Utilised	-9,226	-2,143	-1,919
Balance C/F	-2,714	471	3,445

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The capital programme supports the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 6.1 There is a risk that slippage to the capital programme, could result in increases to the cost of delivering schemes. Additional revenue costs could be incurred if the schemes are not delivered in time.

- 6.2 Many grants which fund capital expenditure come with conditions to how funding can be used and outcome targets for when the asset is brought into use. Deviation against these conditions may result in requests for clawback to the funding from approving bodies.
- 6.3 The capital programme is heavily funded from prudential borrowing, of total capital expenditure, £152.6m or 76% will come from future and existing borrowings. Risks exist in schemes funded from prudential borrowing. It is important to recognise on undertaking borrowing that a clear plan exists which identifies how the principal and interest will be re-paid on the borrowing end date.
- 6.4 The current economic climate poses a risk to the availability of capital receipts from forecast land and building sales. There is a cashflow risk to capital schemes funded from future capital receipts, the cost to the Council of the short to medium term cashflow impact needs to be recognised at the start of each scheme.
- 6.5 Regular monitoring and reporting of spending against the capital programme will seek to mitigate the above risks.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 7.1 There are no equality and diversity issues.

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

- 8.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 2 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Finance

PORTFOLIO: Resources

TITLE: Treasury Management 2014/15
Quarter Ending 31st March 2015

WARDS: All Wards

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Board about activities undertaken on the money market as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) **the report be noted; and**
- 2) **information included be taken into account when approving Treasury Management Strategies in future years.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Supporting information has been provided by Capita Asset Services, the Council's treasury management advisors

3.2 During the quarter ended 31st March:

- 3.2.1 The economic recovery maintained a decent pace
- 3.2.2 Households began to spend the proceeds of their windfall from lower energy prices
- 3.2.3 The labour market tightened further, but wage growth only picked up slowly
- 3.2.4 CPI inflation fell all the way to zero in March, with negative inflation imminent
- 3.2.5 The chances of a first increase in Bank Rate this year diminished
- 3.2.6 The Budget confirmed that the fiscal squeeze is set to re-intensify next year
- 3.2.7 The European Central Bank (ECB) finally launched its own programme of quantitative easing.

- 3.3 After strong UK GDP growth in 2013 at an annual rate of 2.7%, and then growth in 2014 of 0.6% in Q1, 0.8% Q2, 0.6% Q3 and 0.6% Q4 (annual rate for 2014 of 2.8% - the strongest rate since 2006), there are good grounds for optimism that the growth rate will increase further during 2015 as the positive effects from the fall in the price of oil feeds through to consumers and other parts of the economy. In its February quarterly Inflation Report, the Bank of England maintained its GDP forecast for 2015 at 2.9%, but revised up its forecasts for 2016 and 2017 to 2.9% and 2.7% respectively, from 2.6% in both years. The main source of upward revisions came from higher consumption growth, which is now expected to accelerate to 3.75% in 2015 due primarily to a 3.5% rise in real post-tax household income growth. Income growth is also supported by solid employment growth and a pick-up in average weekly pay growth of 3.5% in 2014 and 4.0% in 2016 and 2017. Unit labour cost growth is consequently forecast to be 2.0% in 2015 and 2.75% in 2016 which then pushes up the inflation forecast slightly in two years' time to 1.96%, while in three years' time it is forecast at 2.15%.
- 3.4 The American economy is well on track to making a full recovery from the financial crash. GDP quarterly growth rates (annualised) for Q2, Q3 and Q4 of 4.6%, 5.0% and 2.2%, (2.4% for 2014 as a whole), hold great promise for strong growth going forward and for further falls in unemployment. It is therefore confidently predicted that the Federal Open Market Committee will start on the first increase in the Fed funds rate during 2015 and is likely to be ahead of the UK in being the first major western country to raise rates.
- 3.5 As for the Eurozone, on 21 January 2015 the ECB fired its big bazooka in unleashing a massive €1.1 trillion programme of quantitative easing to buy up high credit quality government and other debt of selected EZ countries. This programme of €60bn of monthly purchases started in March 2015 and it is currently intended to run initially to September 2016. However, it remains to be seen whether this will have a significant enough effect in terms of boosting growth and employment, though the fall in the price of oil will provide additional support.

3.6 Interest Rate Forecast

The following forecast has been provided by Capita Asset Services::

	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Mar-16	Jun-16	Sep-16	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17	Mar-18
Bank rate	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%	0.75%	1.00%	1.25%	1.25%	1.50%	1.50%	1.75%	2.00%
5yr PWLB rate	2.20%	2.30%	2.50%	2.60%	2.70%	2.80%	3.00%	3.10%	3.20%	3.30%	3.40%	3.50%
10yr PWLB rate	2.80%	3.00%	3.10%	3.20%	3.40%	3.50%	3.60%	3.70%	3.80%	3.90%	4.00%	4.10%
25yr PWLB rate	3.40%	3.60%	3.80%	3.90%	4.00%	4.20%	4.30%	4.40%	4.50%	4.60%	4.60%	4.70%
50yr PWLB rate	3.40%	3.60%	3.80%	3.90%	4.00%	4.20%	4.30%	4.40%	4.50%	4.60%	4.60%	4.70%

3.7 Short Term Borrowing Rates

The bank base rate remained at 0.50% throughout the quarter.

	Start	Jan		Feb		Mar	
		Mid	End	Mid	End	Mid	End
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Call Money (Market)	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48
1 Month (Market)	0.51	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.51	0.51	0.50
3 Month (Market)	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.57

3.8 Longer Term Borrowing Rates

	Start	Jan		Feb		Mar	
		Mid	End	Mid	End	Mid	End
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
1 Year (Market)	0.98	0.96	0.96	0.96	0.98	0.98	0.97
10 Year (PWLB)	2.67	2.42	2.27	2.58	2.66	2.61	2.49
25 Year (PWLB)	3.33	3.05	2.90	3.22	3.28	3.30	3.12

Market rates are based on LIBOR rates published at the middle and end of each month. PWLB rates are for new loans based on principal repayable at maturity.

3.9 Borrowing/Investments

Turnover during period

	No of deals	Turnover £m
Short Term Borrowing	-	-
Short Term Investments	11	83

Position during period

	Jan £m	Feb £m	Mar £m
Total Borrowing	183	183	183
Total Investments	183	188	188
Call Account Balance	22	19	22

Investment Benchmarking

Benchmark	Benchmark Return %	Performance %	Investment Interest Earned £000
7 day	0.36	0.44	22
1 month	0.38	0.42	2
3 month	0.44	0.49	24
6 month	0.56	0.62	84
12 month	0.84	0.78	193
Total			325

This shows that the council has over achieved the benchmark for most maturities. Due to the Council's strict treasury management guidelines only Counterparties with a very high credit score can be used for 12 months investments. For this reason the returns are not as high as the benchmark return shown.

The above figures reflect investment income over the last three months only.

3.10 Budget Monitoring

Net Interest at 31st March 2015				
	Budget Year to Date £000	Actual Year to Date £000	Variance (o/spend) £000	Actual inc M Gateway £000
Investment	(400)	(597)	197	(1,030)
Borrowing	1,808	1,617	191	3,030
Total	1,408	1,020	388	2,000

As the borrowing and investments in relation to the Mersey Gateway scheme are to be capitalised they will have no effect on the revenue budget and have therefore been excluded from the budget monitoring figures above.

The above figures exclude interest costs relating to lease arrangements and The Grange School PFI scheme.

3.11 New Long Term Borrowing

No new loans have been taken in this quarter.

3.12 Policy Guidelines

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2014/15, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 5th March 2014 with an updated Annual Investment Strategy being approved by the Council on 16th July 2014. It sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:

- Security of capital;
- Liquidity; and
- Yield

The Council will also aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate and the heightened credit concerns it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term with a maximum duration of 12 months in accordance with Sector's credit rating methodology.

To enable the Council to take advantage of low interest rates given by the PWLB, a special council meeting was held on 15th September 2014 to increase the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for 2014/15. This enabled the Council to borrow the funds for its contribution towards the Mersey Gateway project.

3.13 Treasury Management Indicators

It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. The Council's approved Treasury and Prudential Indicators are included in the approved Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

4.0 DEBT RESCHEDULING

4.1 No debt rescheduling was undertaken during the quarter.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 There are no direct implications, however, the revenue budget and capital programme support the delivery and achievement of all the Council's priorities.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

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

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 There are no issues under this heading.

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

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

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 2nd July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Chief Executive

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Disabled Go – Accessibility and Equality Services

WARDS: Borough-Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To progress the suspension of contract procurement standing orders 4.1 to 4.2 to enable the Council to enter into a contract with Disabled Go to develop an Access Service in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That: -

- 2.1 In light of the exceptional circumstances set out below, Procurement Standing Orders 4.1 to 4.2 be waived on this occasion in order to enter into a contract with Disabled Go for the provision of an Access Service in Halton.**
- 2.2 The Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Resources be authorised to negotiate terms and enter into a contract for Access Services in Halton with Disabled Go.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Disabled Go Service is the UK's leading provider of accessibility and equality services. It is unique as it seeks to provide personally assessed, pan disability rather than access information which enables people to make informed, confident choices about the places they like to access. The Service covers all types of venue, regardless of how accessible they are, recognising that people will need to know what is not accessible to them as much as what is. It also appreciates that how accessible somewhere is to someone will be very different depending on their access requirements. The Service seeks to give people the information to make an informed choice, not to make these choices on someone's behalf. There is no other similar provider of the service.

- 3.2 The organisation was set up in 2000 as a result of founder, Gregory Burke's, experiences and frustrations trying to access his local community as a wheelchair user. Disabled Go is an SME and is a not for profit social enterprise.
- 3.3 Disabled Go works with more than 250 public and private sector organisation on its unique Access Guide Service. This includes 90 local authorities, where the project helps achieve objectives across multiple service areas far beyond access and equality.
- 3.4 Disabled Go work with a diverse range of Councils overseeing everything from large cities to rural counties, key tourist destinations and areas of significant economic regeneration.
- 3.5 The information collected by Disabled Go surveyors has been developed in constant consultation with disability organisations to ensure that it meets the needs of people with a wide variety of impairment. The research template is reviewed by 100+ consultation groups a year to ensure it develops and evolves with user requirements. Surveyors use a bespoke online tool which ensures the quality and consistency of data not just across an area but the UK as whole. To date Disabled Go has personally assessed, published and maintained access information to over 125,000 venues.
- 3.6 Disabled Go has worked with many Councils to integrate their accessibility information into area specific websites, information portals and directories. By doing this accessibility is embedded in the offer to residents and visitors rather than being a separate resource enhancing engagement inclusion. Disabled Go has worked with areas which wish to attract an increased number of visitors and improve the information on offer to existing visitors. Disabled Go is committed to engaging and working in partnership with local disability and community organisations. The organisation tailors projects depending on how involved local organisations would like to be.
- 3.7 **Benefits**
- 3.8 The Disabled Go Services strongly links to Equality Act obligations, tackling the barriers faced by disabled people to access their community and promoting equality of opportunity. The project involves disabled people, older people and carers as well as assisting authorities promoting equality across their area. However, the benefits of the project extend beyond this assisting in the delivery of key priorities across Council department and local partners.
- 3.9 The provision of comprehensive access information enables people to confidently access venues and services, building personal resilience and independence. This in turn leads to disabled people accessing and contributing to their communities and being in a position to improve their own health and wellbeing. Disabled Go is working with a range of authorities to integrate accessible information into directories being developed as part of the Care Act and local SEND offer provision to enable both children and adults to face less barriers to fulfil their potential.

- 3.10 Disabled Go is equally working with a wide variety of authorities to enable them to promote equality, social inclusion and access to cultural and leisure opportunities whether that be to a resident or visitor. The Disabled Go Service would add value and enhance existing information and be fully integrated into Halton's current resources.
- 3.11 An Access Guide is just not about enabling people to be part of their community but also ensuring they are able to contribute to it as consumers and employees. With 1 in 4 households having a link to disability and disabled people being accountable for an £200+ billion annual spend in the UK alone promoting accessibility and facilities should be viewed as an essential part of building a vibrant economy and prosperous borough.
- 3.12 From a tourism perspective Disabled Go can assess and publish information to the majority of cultural and leisure venues across the borough. This information can easily be integrated within the Council's website. By integrating this information more thoroughly resources to the borough would immediately be more inclusive and welcoming to individuals with access requirements. This would encourage disabled people and their families to visit attractions in the borough with confidence, being fully informed of facilities and Halton's commitment to inclusion. The Guide can also include information and accessibility of the borough's hotels which would enable disabled people to confidently plan a stay, converting someone's day trip to an overnight or multi night stay. The need and economic benefit of providing this depth of information is increasingly being recognised by private organisations. Disabled Go recently completed a project for Whitbread to profile all 600+ Premier Inn Hotels and these hotels now display a link to their Access Guide.
- 3.13 In developing the Access Service the Council would seek to work with the following local partners initially:
- Clinically Commissioning Group
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Halton Disability Partnership
 - Local SEND
 - Voluntary/Faith/Community sector

4.0 POLICY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Council through its Corporate Plan is committed to promote the equality of opportunity, promoting good relations celebrating and valuing diversity eliminating unlawful discrimination. This includes promoting equality for disabled people and progressively making Council buildings accessible to all and encouraging partner/external organisations to do the same where possible.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council would need to finalise a contract fee with Disabled Go. Based on previous contracts negotiated it is estimated 1,000 buildings can be surveyed for approximately £35,000. Given the size of the borough the Council may consider a smaller number of buildings which would be surveyed. This could be in the region of 500 buildings so the cost would be significantly lower. There would also be a small revenue cost after 3 years to update the Information. Funding for the access survey can be found from the Contingency Budget but the Clinical Commissioning Group have been asked to make a contribution. Liverpool City Council already have an arrangement in place with Disabled Go and other Councils in the city region have expressed an interest in the service so there remains the opportunity to commission the service on a wider city region basis which may reduce costs further.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Service would provide a confidence in access information to enable children and young people to confidently access venues and services, build personal resilience and independence. The integrated accessibility information would feed into the local SEND offer provision.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Council provides a wider range of sporting and recreational opportunities to residents from participation grass roots level to that of regional and national level to enable individuals to realise their full potential. By improving access information to sports and recreational venues they will encourage greater take up of activities.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The Access Service will progressively make Council buildings, partner buildings and private sector buildings accessible to all and in encouraging partner organisations will encourage other partners and private sector operators to do the same where possible.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 None

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The Access Service is consistent with the Council's commitment to promote quality of opportunity valuing diversity and promoting good relations.

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

9.1 None.

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 2 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment

SUBJECT: Charges for New Traveller Site

WARD(S): Daresbury

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for the setting of pitch and water/sewerage charges at the new Traveller site in Warrington Road, Astmoor, Runcorn.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board approve

- 1) **The initial pitch rent for the new permanent Traveller site at Warrington Road, Astmoor be set at £75.00 per week and the water/sewerage charge at £11.60;**
- 2) **Future increases of the pitch rent be calculated in line with the Homes and Communities Agency 'Affordable Rent' regime; and**
- 3) **Future increases of the water/sewerage charge be set on a cost recovery basis.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Construction of the new Traveller site at Warrington Road, Astmoor is nearing completion and it is now necessary to establish the charges that will be applied.

3.2 Construction of the site has in large part been funded by the Homes and Communities Agency and it is a requirement of the funding that pitch rents are set under the 'Affordable Rents' regime which permits them to be set at up to 80% of market rents.

3.3 There is little published information on Traveller sites from which to calculate this but Property Services have undertaken some comparative analysis of caravan and Traveller sites in neighbouring authorities. This suggests a rent of around £75 per week would equate to 80% of the typical market rent. It is therefore proposed to set the charge at this level.

3.4 Future annual rent increases will be restricted to CPI + 0.5%, with the rent for subsequent tenants having to be reassessed each time a new

letting takes place. This is to ensure the rent continues to reflect no more than 80% of the market rent.

3.5 The weekly charge for water and sewerage is to be set on a cost recovery basis. It is proposed to set the initial charge at £11.60 per week which is the current charge at the Riverview site in Widnes. The charge will then be varied in future years to reflect actual costs incurred in the preceding year.

3.6 The combined rent and water charge for the new site at £86.60 is comparable to the weekly charge for the adjacent Transit site which is £86.80. This will enable the site to be self-financing.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 A draft budget has been prepared which suggests operation of the site will be cost neutral assuming a 95% occupancy level is maintained.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The provision of an affordable site offering a permanent place for Travellers to stay should improve access to and engagement with educational services.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Travellers have a reduced life expectancy compared to the settled community. The provision of a permanent place to stay will afford Travellers the opportunity to access health and social care services more readily.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Roadside encampments are inherently unsafe, and reducing their occurrence through the provision of this new site will reduce those risks.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Proactively managing the problem of unlawful Traveller encampments will lessen the concerns of businesses in the area, particularly those on the industrial estates that historically have seen most encampments, and help to persuade them to remain and develop in Halton.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The main financial risk is that the site will not be self-funding if occupancy levels are not maintained at 95%. Given the known demand for the pitches this is unlikely but cannot be guaranteed.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The provision of a well managed, safe, sanitary site to accommodate Travellers is consistent with the Councils equality and diversity policy.

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

None.

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 2 July 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director - Policy & Resources

PORTFOLIO: Transportation

SUBJECT: Liverpool City Region Major
Maintenance bid for the SJB Complex

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek approval to submit a Major Maintenance bid to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA) for the Silver Jubilee Bridge Complex, utilising prudential borrowing to provide the necessary partial match funding.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1) The Silver Jubilee Bridge Complex Major Maintenance bid to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for an element of the Regional Growth Fund, be approved; and**
- 2) Council be asked to approve the inclusion of £330,000 in the capital programme to provide the partial match funding required for the Major Maintenance bid.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB) was given Grade II listed status by English Heritage in 1988 (scheduled as the Runcorn Widnes Road Bridge). The steel structure when opened was the largest steel arch bridge in Europe. The bridge is a landmark feature in the North West and remains the seventh largest bridge of its type in the world.
- 3.2 The Silver Jubilee Bridge Complex (SJBC) includes the Silver Jubilee Bridge (SJB), its three approach viaducts, eighteen other major highway bridges, eighteen retaining walls and two sign gantries, with all 41 structures forming part of the strategically important River Mersey and Manchester Ship Canal crossing.
- 3.3 The availability of this strategic link within the regional road network is dependent on the condition and serviceability of all structures forming the SJB Complex.

- 3.4 Due to the age of the SJB Complex and the historical under investment in lifecycle maintenance prior to the formation of Halton Unitary Authority in 1998, the complex requires a continual programme of structural and maintenance works to maintain it in a steady state condition and hence available for use.
- 3.5 In 2006, having identified the poor condition of much of the SJB Complex, Halton developed a long term maintenance strategy. This set out a number of interventions necessary to allow the structure to continue to perform and carry the excessive traffic load that it does today. In 2009, the Department for Transport (DfT) approved a major maintenance scheme and £38 million of funding to remove a significant amount of maintenance backlog to the structures forming the SJB Complex including significant structural works. This scheme was subsequently delivered between 2010 and 2014. As part of the business case for this major capital intervention, it was also established that in order to maintain a steady state of maintenance long-term and to retain the value of the major capital investment, it would be necessary to continue to undertake between £1.6 and £2.2 million of maintenance works each and every year, on average. While this position was accepted it was also noted that Halton's funding under the Formula Funding regime would never provide sufficient funds to cover the on-going maintenance at the necessary level. The result of ignoring this aspect would ultimately be to devalue the investment made in removing the backlog and eventually create the same maintenance deficit situation again.
- 3.6 Halton's Bridges team and its Consultants have examined a number of options with regard to the SJB Complex for its on-going maintenance and remain convinced that timely and appropriate investment in maintenance is the right way forward. This is also the only way of safeguarding the previous capital investment and to continue to remove the longstanding maintenance deficit carried over from the pre-Unitary days.
- 3.7 The proposed scheme includes a programme of maintenance works with particular focus on the Silver Jubilee Bridge and approach viaducts. The intention is to carry out the programme of works over a three year period from April 2016 through to March 2019. Halton is seeking a contribution from the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Growth Fund towards the capital elements of the scheme.
- 3.8 To that end, a Major Maintenance Bid is being submitted to the Liverpool City Region essentially to provide gap-funding for capital maintenance works otherwise unfunded by the Formula Funding system.
- 3.9 One of the requirements of the bid process is that the proposed LCR contribution is partially matched funded, which in this instance would total £330,000. Whilst the Structures element of the Highways Block Grant is circa £1M, using this to provide the match funding would lead to

a disproportionate spend in the SJB Complex to the detriment of the other 213 structures that the Council is responsible for maintaining.

- 3.10 It is therefore proposed that the partial match funding required of £330,000 over three years for each of the three years is funded from prudential borrowing, with the revenue borrowing costs of approximately £25,000 per annum being met from the Council's contingency budget.
- 3.11 It is also worth noting that whilst the Department for Transport has announced the Highways Maintenance Block Grant that Halton is entitled to for the next two years and indicatively for a further three years, this is subject to the LCR CA distributing the monies back to Halton. It was a requirement of the CA's Transport Protocol that distribution of this funding be reviewed to determine whether it should continue to be allocated to highway authorities according to the current formulaic basis or whether it should be distributed according to prioritised need. Work on this issue is currently underway and no conclusions have been reached to date. It could be the case in forthcoming years that the anticipated allocations are not fully received by HBC and are used somewhere else within the City Region. Consequently, there is still uncertainty around the size of the actual Block Grant that will be received in future years.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is proposed that the partial match funding required of £330,000 over the three years, will be provided from prudential borrowing, with the revenue borrowing costs of approximately £25,000 per annum being met from the Council's contingency budget.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Children and Young People in Halton' priority

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton' priority

6.3 A Healthy Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Healthy Halton' priority

6.4 A Safer Halton

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'A Safer Halton' priority

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

There are no direct implications on the Council's 'Urban Renewal' priority

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 A full risk assessment is not required for this proposal.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no direct equality and diversity issues associated with this report

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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