

Public Document Pack



Executive Board

Thursday, 10 December 2020 2.00 p.m.
To be held remotely, please contact
below for access

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

Chief Executive

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

PART 1

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1. MINUTES	1 - 10
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	
(A) URGENT DECISIONS	11 - 12

Please contact Ann Jones ann.jone@halton.gov.uk or 0151 511 8276 or Gill Ferguson gill.ferguson@halton.gov.uk or 0151 511 8059 for further information.

The next meeting of the Committee is on Thursday, 21 January 2021

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In accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act the Council is required to notify those attending meetings of the fire evacuation procedures. A copy has previously been circulated to Members and instructions are located in all rooms within the Civic block.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 19 November 2020 held remotely

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chair), D. Cargill, Harris, R. Hignett, S. Hill, Jones, T. McInerney, Nelson, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: D. Parr, I. Leivesley, M. Vasic, M. Reaney, E. Dawson, S. Wallace-Bonner and A. Jones

Also in attendance: L. Howarth, N. McGrath and C. Deadman from Halton Housing Trust, one member of the press and two members of the public

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

Action

The Board took part in a minute's silence in honour of Councillor Morley, who sadly passed away last week.

EXB35 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

LEADER'S PORTFOLIO

EXB36 URGENT DECISIONS

The Executive Board received a report from the Chief Executive, which provided the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Board and during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

It was noted that the Council's constitution gave authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Operational Director Finance and/or the Operational Director Legal and Democratic Services, where necessary.

A list of these decisions were provided to Members in the report and full details were published on the Council's website.

RESOLVED: That the urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of the Executive Board be noted.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING PORTFOLIO

EXB37 HALTON HOSPITAL AND WELLBEING CAMPUS STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE

The Board considered a report which provided an overview of progress to date of the plans for new hospital developments in Warrington and Halton, and sought support to continue to progress the plans for Halton Hospital site redevelopment.

The Board was advised that following the Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHSFT's publication of its Estate and Facilities Strategy 2019-2024, the need for modernisation and reconfiguration on both the Warrington and Halton sites was reiterated. This included the provision of a new hospital for Warrington and the completion of the development of a hospital and wellbeing campus on the Halton site.

It was reported that the Strategic Outline Cases (SOCs) had been developed for both and reviewed by NHSE with positive feedback received. Further, the SOCs had been approved by the Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHSFT's Board and by Warrington and Halton CCGs. In order to further progress the planning for the new hospitals to the next stage, Executive Board was asked to give their support to the programme and support in progressing to the next state of business case development.

RESOLVED: That the Board supports the development of a business case for a new hospital and wellbeing campus for Halton.

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB38 MERSEY GATEWAY

The Board considered a report presenting the outcome of a consultation held in relation to the updating of the *Road User Charging Scheme Order* for the Mersey Gateway Bridge and the Silver Jubilee Bridge (the 'Bridges').

The public consultation took place from 23 September 2020 to 14 October 2020 and a summary of the responses received were outlined in the report. Appended to the report was the updated *Road User Charging Scheme*

Order 2020 (RUCSO) and the consultation response analysis.

RESOLVED: That the Board

- 1) confirms that no further consultation is required in respect of the updated RUCSO;
- 2) confirms that no public inquiry is required to be held into the making of the updated RUCSO;
- 3) agrees to the making of the updated RUCSO in the form (or substantially the same form) as that in Appendix 1 and delegate to the Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services, the authority to make any non-material or consequential amendments as necessary to enable the updated RUCSO to be made;
- 4) agrees to the toll charges being unchanged – as specified in the updated RUCSO; and
- 5) agrees to the administration fees in relation to registering with Mersey Gateway / Merseyflow being unchanged.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB39 DISABLED PARKING SPACES POLICY

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which presented the revised Disabled Parking Spaces Policy.

It was reported that the current Policy required updating to bring Halton's approach in line with those of neighbouring authorities within the Liverpool City Region. Further, the current process required review due to changes to how mobility allowances were defined and awarded, increasing levels of on-street parking congestion, and the need to update explicit guidance and qualifying criteria in the existing Policy.

For Members information, the current application form was available at appendix A, and appendix B presented the proposed new application form, which also included the updated list of guidelines.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the revised Disabled Parking Spaces Policy.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB40 HALTON HOUSING TRUST PROGRESS REPORT

The Board considered a report on the progress of Halton Housing Trust, since the last report to the Board on 17 January 2019.

Members welcomed Neil McGrath, Liz Haworth and Clive Deadman, from Halton Housing Trust who presented the report – *Annual Report to HBC Executive Board, October 2020*, which outlined some of the key organisational achievements over the past 18 months. Highlights included the completion of an additional 134 new homes to bring the total stock since transfer to almost 1,300; the appointment of five new apprentices; and the achievement of the highest possible regulatory rating of V1 G1.

The guests' responded to Members' questions on the report and Members congratulated the Trust on its achievements, recognising the challenges they faced generally, as well as in more recent times with the onset of the Pandemic and the need to support more vulnerable customers.

RESOLVED: That the Board note the progress made as set out in the report.

EXB41 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE COUNCIL'S HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS SERVICES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Board considered a report describing changes to the eligibility criteria for accessing housing and homelessness support that were made as a result of delegated powers to the Chief Executive, during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The report explained the impact and implications of the changes in eligibility and discussed the arrangements going forward. Members agreed, taking into account the placement of Halton into Tier 3 and the subsequent national lockdown, and with the onset of winter, that Halton should adopt a similar approach as the LCR and continue with the wider eligibility of access to homelessness support, thus protecting the most vulnerable from the illness.

A review of the eligibility criteria would take place at the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: That the Board

Strategic Director
- People

- 1) notes the contents of the report; and
- 2) agrees to continue with the current approach to determining homelessness eligibility, subject to a review towards the end of the financial year.

EXB42 UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN DRAFT
SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENTS (SDPS)

The Executive Board received a report that requested the removal of the Draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) from the Halton Local Development Scheme (LDS).

It was noted that the following documents had not progressed and were now unlikely to be progressed in their current form due to the expiration of the Unitary Development Plan:

- Draft Runcorn Old Town SPD;
- Halton Lea SPD;
- West Bank SPD; and
- Halebank Regeneration Area SPD

The reasons why each SPD was not progressed were outlined in the report.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the removal of the draft Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) from the Halton Local Development Scheme (LDS), in accordance with the relevant legislation.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

EXB43 LOCAL PLAN - ADDENDUM TO STATEMENT OF
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (SCI)

The Board received a report that explained the requirement for an addendum to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) within the Local Plan and sought a resolution from the Board for formal implementation of this.

Members were advised that due to national legislative change, an addendum was required to be temporarily added to the adopted SCI, which formed part of the Halton Local Plan Framework. This was presented in Appendix A – *Addendum (Covid-19) to the adopted SCI 2019*.

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the addition of

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,

the addendum (Appendix A) to the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) for Local Plan making.

Community and Resources

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB44 2020/21 REVENUE SPENDING AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

The Board received a report from the Operational Director – Finance, advising of the Council's overall revenue net spending position as at 30 September 2020, together with a forecast outturn position.

Appendix 1 presented a summary of spending against the operational revenue budget up to 30 September 2020 and Appendix 2 provided detailed figures for each individual Department. It was reported that in overall terms the outturn forecast for the year showed that net spend would be over the approved budget by £4.752m. In comparison to the forecasted overspend of £6.951m reported at the end of June 2020, this represented a significantly improved position, but was still of great concern. Appendix 3 presented the Capital Programme as at 30 September 2020, with a number of revisions, as listed in the report.

The report also provided the Board with details of the financial impacts of Covid-19 and the Government funding made available to the Council to date. It was reported that there was a forecast shortfall in Government funding of £10.924m, this was summarised in Table A, paragraph 3.16 of the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) all spending continues to be limited to only absolutely essential items;
- 2) departments seek to implement those approved budget savings proposals which currently remain to be actioned;
- 3) Strategic Directors take urgent action to identify areas where spending could be reduced or suspended for the remainder of the current financial year; and
- 4) Council be requested to approve the revisions to the Capital Programme, as set out in paragraph 3.19.

Operational Director - Finance

EXB45 MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2021/22 to 2023/24, which took into account the potential impact of Covid-19 on the Council's finances.

The MTFS sets out a three year projection of the Council's resources and spending and was based on information that was currently available. It was noted that the impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic had resulted in delays to planned changes to Local Government finance in 2021/22. Further, there was limited financial information available for 2021/22, with the Public Sector Spending Review being the first indicator of funding resources – this would be published at the end of November 2020, covering the one financial year only.

The Board was advised that the delay and uncertainty regarding 2021/2022 financial resources meant the financial information included within the MTFS was based on a large number of assumptions and best estimates. The financial forecast would be updated as and when further information was known. Appendix 1 therefore detailed the MTFS from 2021/22 – 2023/24 using a prudent estimate of the financial conditions over the course of the next three years. Appendix 2 presented the Reserves and Balances Strategy.

Reason for the Decision

To seek approval for the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2021/22 to 2023/24.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The alternative option of not maintaining a Medium Term Financial Strategy had been considered. However, this would not follow good financial management practice, as the Medium Term Financial Strategy was a key element in informing the Council's financial planning and budget setting process.

Implementation Date

The Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021/22 will be implemented from 1 April 2021.

RESOLVED: That

Operational
Director - Finance

- 1) the Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved;
- 2) the 2021/22 base budget be prepared on the basis of the underlying assumptions set out in the Strategy;
- 3) the Reserves and Balances Strategy be approved; and
- 4) the award of Council Tax Support for 2021/22 remains at the 2020/21 level of 21.55%.

EXB46 TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20
AND HALF YEAR REPORT 2020-21

The Board considered a report from the Operational Director – Finance, which presented the Treasury Management Annual Report 2019/20 and Half Year Report 2020/21.

These reports updated Members on the activities undertaken on the money market, as required by the Treasury Management Policy.

The report provided supporting information on the economic outlook, interest rate forecast, short term borrowing rates, longer term borrowing rates, borrowing and investments, budget monitoring, new long term borrowing, policy guidelines and treasury management indicators. It was noted that no debt rescheduling had been undertaken during the quarter.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

EXB47 COUNCIL TAX SECTION 13A DISCOUNT POLICY
STATEMENT

The Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which requested approval to amend the Council Tax Section 13A Discount Policy Statement, to reduce to nil the Empty Homes Premium levied on certain residential dwellings which were being renovated to bring back in to use.

This would apply to properties that had been unoccupied and unfurnished for over two years and required significant works to render them habitable.

RESOLVED: That the amendment to the Council Tax Section 13A Discount Policy Statement to reduce to nil the amount of Empty Homes Premium payable on certain residential dwellings which are being renovated to being back in to use, be approved as follows:

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

- 1) From 1 April 2020, reduce to nil the amount of Empty Homes Premium payable on a residential dwelling which has recently been purchased or inherited and where the property was previously unoccupied and unfurnished between two and five years, for a period of three months; and
- 2) From 1 April 2020, reduce to nil the amount of Empty Homes Premium payable on a residential dwelling which has recently been purchased or inherited and where the property was previously unoccupied and unfurnished for over five years, for a period of six months.

EXB48 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

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

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A

of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraphs 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOURCES PORTFOLIO

EXB49 REPORT TO EXECUTIVE BOARD AND RESOLUTION TO USE COMPULSORY PURCHASE (CPO) POWERS. PROPOSED LEISURE SITE, MOOR LANE, WIDNES

The Executive Board considered a report from the Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources, which sought approval to exercise the Council's powers of compulsory purchase to enable delivery of the proposed Leisure Site, Moor Lane, Widnes with vacant possession.

The report outlined the steps required for this process in legal terms and the status of negotiations with third party interests.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations set out in paragraphs 2.1 to 2.5.3 of the report be approved.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

MINUTES ISSUED: 24 November 2020

CALL-IN: 1 December 2020 at 5.00 pm

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 1 December 2020.

Meeting ended at 3.10 p.m.

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	12 December 2020
REPORTING OFFICER:	Chief Executive
PORTFOLIO:	Leader
SUBJECT:	Urgent Decisions
WARDS:	Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To bring to the attention of Executive Board urgent decisions taken since the last meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 That the report is noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Council's Constitution gives authority to the Chief Executive to take urgent decisions which are required before the next formal meeting of Executive Board.

These must be made in consultation with the Leader of the Council where practicable, and with the Operational Director – Finance and/or Operational Director – Legal and Democratic Services where necessary. They must also be reported for information to the next practically available meeting of the Board.

- 3.2 More information on each can be found on the Council's website here:

<http://councillors.halton.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?bcr=1>

- 3.3 The urgent decisions taken since the last meeting of Executive Board:

Date Decision taken	Decision details
11 November 2020	Liverpool City Region Leisure and Hospitality Business Support Programme 'No Reservations' – support to taxi drivers.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none other than the constitutional requirement to report urgent decisions for information.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The report is for information, and there are no risk issues arising from it.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 None.

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

9.1 No background papers were used in the preparation of this report. Further information on the decisions taken is available from the link in Paragraph 3.2.

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	10th December 2020
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director People
POERFOLIO:	Children, Education and Social Care
SUBJECT:	The funding formula for mainstream schools and academies for 2021-22
WARDS:	Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report will outline the proposal for the Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block Funding Formula for Halton mainstream schools and academies for 2021-22.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 2.1 **The Board approve the continuation of the National Funding Formula for 2021-22.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant was split into four blocks; Schools Block, Central Schools Services Block, High Needs Block and Early Years Block from April 2018. The Schools Block supports mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies from reception to year 11. The Central Schools Services Block mainly supports the statutory functions carried out centrally on behalf of the schools and academies. The High Needs Block supports provision and central services for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities aged 0-25. The Early Years Block supports provision and central services for children aged 2 to 4 years.
- 3.2 The National Funding Formula is used by the Department for Education to calculate the Schools Block element of the Dedicated Schools Grant allocated to Halton. The NFF contains a number of factors, mainly pupil-led and each schools' budget is calculated using the cash values assigned to each factor with the data from the October school census. Until such time as the "hard" National Funding Formula is introduced, it is for each local authority to decide upon the funding formula to be adopted each financial year. This is which factors we wish to use and, where permissible, what criteria is attached to those factors.
- 3.3 After consultation with schools and Schools Forum it was decided to move Halton mainstream schools and academies to the National

Funding Formula with transitional protection for 2018-19. Transitional protection was required to ensure that the local authorities for whom funding was reducing under the National Funding Formula did not see a sudden, large drop in funding but it also meant that local authorities who were seeing an increase in funding, had that increase stepped over the years of protection. The financial year 2019-20 was the last year with transitional protection.

3.4 We are required to now make a decision on the funding formula to be adopted for 2021-22. The changes to the NFF for 2021-22 are:

- For 2021-22 there is a cash increase of 3% on key factors within the NFF.
- The Minimum Per Pupil funding level is a mandatory requirement and for 2021-22 this is set at £4,000 for primary pupils and £5,150 for secondary pupils, before the Teachers' Pay and Pension grants are added.
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee can still be used if required, local authorities in consultation with schools and School Forum have the flexibility of setting it at between +0.5% and +2.0%.
- The 2019 update to the Income Deprivations Affecting children Index has been incorporated so that deprivation funding allocated through the formulae is based on the latest data.
- Funding currently allocated through the Teachers' Pay Grant and the Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant will be incorporated into the Dedicated Schools Grant from April 2021. The funding has been added to the basic per pupil entitlement at £180 per primary pupil and £265 per secondary pupil, to the Minimum Per Pupil funding levels and to schools' baselines so that it is protected through the funding floor.

3.5 On 7th October 2020 a consultation paper was sent out to all mainstream schools and academies in the borough (see Appendix A). The deadline for responses was 20th October. At Schools Forum held on 14th October the changes to the NFF were reported along with the consultation paper. Schools Forum members agreed to be contacted by e-mail with the results of the consultation with mainstream schools and academies. This was done on 2nd November with a response deadline of 13th November.

3.6 The consultation asked mainstream schools and academies two questions for their consideration

Do you agree that we continue to adopt the NFF method, principles and rules for the funding formula to be applied to primary and secondary schools and academies?

Do you agree to Schools Forum determining the level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee and any capping or scaling at the January meeting?

- 3.7 Of the 14 responses received from schools and academies, 13 were in favour of continuing with the National Funding Formula. One school agreed in principle but stated that the LA had not provided any information to enable Head Teachers to consider any other options. The majority of schools (13) also said that they supported the proposal that School Forum make a decision on the appropriate level for the Minimum Funding Guarantee at their January meeting. One school stated that an alternative would be to share the modelling and impact of the MFG with all schools to allow all schools to contribute to the end decision. However, with the tight timescale from the receipt of pupil data and grant allocations to the Schools Forum meeting, even in a small authority such as Halton this would be extremely difficult.
- 3.8 The results of the consultation with schools and academies were e-mailed to School Forum members on 2nd November with a request for a response by 13th November. Only two responses have been received, one stating that the responses from those schools/academies that had responded to the original consultation was clear, the other in support of continuing the NFF and making the decision on the MFG at the January meeting.
- 3.9 From April 2018 the Schools Block has been ring-fenced, to be devolved to mainstream schools and academies only. Local Authorities are allowed to transfer up to 0.5% of the Schools Block allocation to High Needs to ease the budget pressures on High Needs, if this is approved following consultation with schools and academies and receives the approval of School Forum. A transfer in excess of 0.5% is possible but is also subject to approval by the Secretary of State.
- 3.10 The provisional grant allocations were announced on 27th July 2020 showed an increase of £2.1M to the High Needs Block compared to the 2020-21 allocation. We have not requested any transfer of Schools Block grant to the High Needs Block for the 2021-22 financial year, to allow us to pass through the full amount of the Schools Block allocation to mainstream primary and secondary schools and academies in Halton. This is to help with the additional costs incurred due to the pandemic that may not be covered by grants and to allow time for more inclusive practices to bed in, continuing the rationale from last year.
- 3.11 However it has been made explicitly clear that if the pressures on the High Needs Block do not ease during 2021-22, schools and academies must expect a request for a transfer of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block for 2022-23.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 If pupil numbers and cohort in each school remained the same for 2021-22, every school would see an increase in funding. However, we know that in some schools, pupil numbers are falling. For 2020-21 89.47% of Schools Block funding was allocated through pupil-led factors, with

67.65% through the basic per pupil entitlement alone. Therefore, where pupil numbers are falling schools will likely see a reduction in funding, however the two levels of safeguards – Minimum Per Pupil funding level and Minimum Funding Guarantee will ensure that on a per pupil basis schools will receive a minimum increase of 0.5% per pupil, above the increase for the Teachers' Pay and Pension Grants.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children & Young People in Halton

It is essential the funding allocated to schools ensures that they are sustainable and have the resources to invest in improving outcomes for all Halton children and young people.

5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None.

5.3 A Healthy Halton

None

5.4 A Safer Halton

None.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None.

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The High Needs Budget continues to be highly pressured due to the number of learners requiring support. The High Needs Review has been considering the changes needed in Halton to ensure that we can continue to appropriately support our children and young people with SEND whilst reducing costs.

6.2 Increased investment in schools through the National Funding Formula and promoting and developing increased inclusion in our schools and settings should reduce the need for additional support or specialist placements.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The aim of the introduction of the national funding formula to create a system that supports opportunity, is fair, efficient, delivers funding straight to schools, transparent, simple and predictable.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
National Funding Formula for schools and high needs 2021-22 (July 2020)	Ann McIntyre	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education Inclusion and Provision & Operational Director Resources
Impact of the schools NFF – EFA – (July 2020)	Ann McIntyre	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education Inclusion and Provision & Operational Director Resources
Schools Block National Funding Formula – Technical note (July 2020) High Needs Funding Operational Guide 2021-22 (September 2020) Central School Services Block National Funding Formula - Technical note - (July 2020) High Needs Funding Formula – Technical note (July 2020) School Revenue Funding 2021-22 – Operational Guide (July 2020)	DFE Website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education, Inclusion and Provision & Operational Director Resources
School Forum agenda, papers and minutes	HBC website	Ann McIntyre – Operational Director – Education Inclusion and Provision & Operational Director Resources

Consultation on the Schools Block Funding Formula**Funding Formula**

We are required to consult with schools and academies on the method, principles and rules adopted for the funding formula to be applied to primary and secondary schools and academies.

As you will be aware, for the past three years we have followed the National Funding Formula (NFF) method, principles and rules. We are recommending that we continue this. The NFF for 2021-22 is as detailed below:

<u>Factor</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Primary NFF value 21-22</u>	<u>Secondary NFF value 21- 22</u>
Basic per Pupil	A set level of funding for each pupil. For 2021-22 this includes funding previously allocated through the Teachers' Pay Grant and Teachers' Pension Employer Contribution Grant.	£3,123	£4,404 KS3 £4,963 KS4
Deprivation - FSM	Funding for pupils who are currently eligible for FSM.	£460	£460
Deprivation – FSM Ever 6	Funding for pupils who have been eligible for FSM at some point in the previous 6 years.	£575	£840
Deprivation – IDACI	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index. Funding is based on the deprivation level assigned to each pupil's home post code, banded A to G. However funding is only allowed for bands A to F. NB the 2019 update to the IDACI data is being used for 2021-22.	F £215 E £260 D £410 C £445 B £475 A £620	F £310 E £415 D £580 C £630 B £680 A £865
Low Prior Attainment	Primary – where pupils have not achieved the expected level of development at EYFSP Secondary – where pupils have not achieved the expected standard in KS2 at either reading, writing or maths.	£1,095	£1,660
English as an Additional Language	Pupils identified with a first language other than English can be funded for up to the first three years of statutory schooling. We fund for the maximum period of three years.	£550	£1,485
Pupil Mobility	Provides funding for pupils who enter a school other than at the start of Autumn Term. A minimum threshold applies of	£900	£1,290

	6% of pupil numbers. Not used in Halton due to extremely low number of schools affected.		
Sparsity	Funding for small schools located in areas where pupils would have to travel a set minimum distance to the next nearest school. No schools qualify in Halton.		
Minimum Level of Per-pupil funding	Currently under consultation to implement as a mandatory factor. <i>Combines all pupil-led factors and is not a stand-alone amount.</i>	£4,180	£5,415
Total Pupil-led factors	Each LA is required to allocate at least 80% of the delegated Schools Block funding through the above pupil-led factors.		
Lump Sum	An amount per school up to a maximum of £175,000. Can be different for primary and secondary schools.	£117,800	£117,800
Split Sites	No schools in Halton are eligible for funding under this factor.		
LA Rates	LA Rates must be funded at an estimate of the actual cost.	Estimate of actual cost	Estimate of actual cost
PFI contracts	A factor to support schools that have unavoidable premises costs due to being a PFI school. A per pupil rate uplifted by 1.56%	£203.81	£206.99
Exceptional Premises	In Halton, this is for the joint use of leisure facilities by contractual agreement with one school.		£141,919
Minimum Funding Guarantee	The MFG can be set between +0.5% and +2.0%.		

Cash values

We are not required to consult on the cash values attributed to each factor, however we can share with you the NFF values as above. The final cash values used are dependent upon the pupil data and final grant allocation which will both be released mid-December.

Minimum Funding Guarantee

The Minimum Funding Guarantee remains in place for 2021-22 but is now only allowed between plus 0.5% and plus 2.0%. The MFG is calculated to a

per pupil amount which cannot be less than the previous year per pupil amount multiplied by the MFG factor. This means that a schools' per pupil amount must increase by a minimum of 0.5% to 2.0% compared to the previous year.

It is impossible to say what MFG level we will require, or can afford at this point in time. This can only be calculated when the final grant allocation and pupil data is received in mid-December. Therefore, as in previous years, we are asking that you agree to Schools Forum approving the MFG level at the January meeting when the Schools Block indicative budgets will be presented.

Indicative Schools Block budgets

The attached spreadsheet issued by the DfE shows the impact of the updated 2021-22 NFF formula and cash values. This is not necessarily the amount of funding you will receive.

Consultation questions

1. Do you agree that we continue to adopt the NFF method, principles and rules adopted for the funding formula to be applied to primary and secondary schools and academies?

Yes/No

If no, please explain what you would prefer to use:

2. Do you

Do you Agree to Schools Forum determining the level of the Minimum Funding Guarantee at the January meeting?

Yes/No

If no, please explain how you think agreement should be reached within the timescales set by the DfE:

Please respond no later than **noon on Tuesday 20th October 2020** to ensure your feedback can be fed back to Schools Forum and subsequently to the Executive Board of the Council.

Responses to be e-mailed to anne.jones@halton.gov.uk

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 10 December 2020

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director People

PORTFOLIO: Children, Education & Social Care

SUBJECT: Parent to Parent Volunteer Family Support Programme: Request for Waiver of Standing Orders

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Request for Waiver of Standing Orders:

A request for a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 iv of part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders is sought to allow the continuation of a contract with The Venus Project to deliver, on behalf of the Council, the Parent to Parent Volunteer Family Support Programme, for a period of one year from 1 February 2021 to 31 January 2022 with the option of a further one year extension from 1 February 2022 to 31 January 2023.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That: Executive Board

- i) Note the contents of this report; and
- ii) Consider giving approval to the recommendation that the contract with The Venus Project should be extended for a further twelve months with the option to extend for a further 12 months without going through the Procurement process, in pursuance of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (non-emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000), seeking to waive part 3 of Procurement Standing Orders.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Venus Project has been commissioned to deliver the Parent to Parent Volunteer Family Support Programme since April 2015. The service recruits, trains, supervises and develops the skills of local volunteers who are parents themselves, so that they can provide support and practical assistance to families under stress. Under normal circumstances, volunteers support parents primarily through 1 to 1 home visiting programmes and also deliver family and specialist group work, direct support to children and young people,

and a range of community activities. The service also delivers the Intensive Cleaning Experience (ICE) Programme, which supports parents/carers to put in place and maintain household cleaning and decluttering routines.

Families are referred to the service through Early Help and a range of partner services, with referrals to ICE largely from Children's Social Care.

- 3.2 The service has adapted to Covid-19 and lockdown restrictions by continuing to provide daily or weekly support to families via telephone, email and video consultations. It also provides families with emergency/essential items, distributes activity resources for children and young people, and during the summer break provided food and family activities as part of Halton's Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) programme.
- 3.3 The existing contract ends in January 2021. The request for authorisation of a waiver rather than implementing a tender process is due to the following:
 - i It is proposed to include a parents/carers' interview and evaluation panel in the tender process, as this indicates the competence and approach of a potential provider in working with volunteers and families. It would not be possible to include this at present, which would reduce the effectiveness of the process for this specific service.
 - ii The current service is well known and well regarded within Halton communities and attracts a high level of interest from potential volunteers, who then go on to train and work with families. In the current situation it would be difficult for a new provider to become established, as it could not host its own events or attend those held by schools or community organisations in order to recruit volunteers. A change in provider can lead to existing volunteers leaving their role, thus disrupting the service, and have previous experience of this happening with other provision.
 - iii The Venus Project is commissioned separately to deliver support to refugee and asylum seeker families, providing an Arabic speaker from their base in Sefton. In the current circumstances there are concerns regarding the viability of this commission if another provider were to be awarded the contract for the Parent to Parent Volunteer Family Support Programme.
 - iv The Venus Project will be supporting the establishment of a social supermarket in Ditton Community Centre through the volunteer element of the service. This could be compromised should a new provider not be able to establish a strong

volunteer recruitment presence in sufficient time to offer an appropriate level of support.

- v The Venus Project brings significant additionality to its services in Halton, specifically in terms of sourcing training for volunteers and specialist skills from the provision it delivers in other areas, ensuring excellent value for money. It is also proactive in sourcing external funding to support its Halton delivery and is currently completing several substantial bids, one of which is likely to be granted in the near future. It would therefore be advantageous to its Halton services if the contract were to be extended for two years to maximise the benefits of both the existing additionality and the potential for extra funding.

3.4 The value of a contract extension for one year to 31 January 2022 is £75,000, which has been secured via the Troubled Families initiative. The option for a further contract extension of one year, to 31 January 2023, would cost a similar sum; this has not yet been secured. However, a waiver for two years would provide the flexibility to continue services without disruption should funds become available.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The stability of the service will support all aspects of Early Help with a focus upon some of the most vulnerable children, young people and families across the borough.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The funding for the first year of the waiver is within current budgets. Funding for the second year is an option that will only be utilised if funds become available.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The delivery of the service supports Halton's focus upon Early Help and the priorities within Halton's Children and Young People's Plan.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Volunteers with the service gain valuable training, skills and experience that equips them to go on to further training and/or employment

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The service supports the physical health of children and young people through helping families to attend medical appointments and access a range of activities linked to exercise and healthy lifestyles. It supports the mental health of all family members through a specific focus upon emotional wellbeing.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The service provides support to vulnerable families by helping 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.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Disruption to the service would reduce the type and level of support that can be offered to vulnerable families across the borough, together with the likely loss of additional resources and the potential to secure external grant funding in the near future.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The current proposal would not impact upon any equality and diversity issues as all relevant protected characteristics would be unaffected by the proposal.

9.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

1 February 2021.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Current contract	Rutland House	Julie Karmy

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	10 th December 2020
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, People
PORTFOLIO:	Children, Education & Social Care
SUBJECT:	Proposal to increase payment rate for Halton's Adult Placement Carers and approve minor changes to the Placement Scheme
WARDS(S)	Borough-Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present Executive Board with details of a proposal to increase the payments made to Halton's Adult Placement Service Day Carers. The report covers the rationale for the requested increase in payment and the requested change to the name of the service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

- i) The contents of the report and appendices be noted; and
- ii) The requested payment increase, change of service name, advert for carers and minor changes to the scheme are approved.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Background Information

Halton Council's Adult Placement Service, provides care for people who have been assessed as requiring support due to age, illness or disability. Adult placement offers adults an alternative and highly flexible form of accommodation and/or care or support using the Adult Placement Carer's home as a resource. The care is provided by individuals, couples or families in the local community.

- 3.2 Individuals and their Adult Placement Carers enjoy shared activities and life experiences to enable people to live an ordinary life in the community. The carers provide a unique role, which goes beyond task-based support. They open their homes, their families and their lives to people who require support. The Halton service has used Adult Placement Carers for almost 20 years. In 2019 Halton's Adult Placement Carers were awarded regional winners of the Great British Care Awards for Dementia Care.

3.3 The arrangements for Adult Placement Carers and individuals are now set up and supported by “Shared Lives Schemes” which are arranged and monitored by either a local authority or private providers and are regulated by CQC. Some local authorities use their schemes for both long term residential placements and day care services whereas some only provide day care services. The Halton Scheme currently provides day care services and short breaks.

The model and funding formula used to establish Halton’s scheme for Adult Placement Carers was based on national guidance and model recommended by Shared Lives Plus (**Please see Appendix 1**).

3.4 **HBC Current Adult Placement Service**

The Adult Placement Service is funded through the Adult Social Care Community Care Budget, The fee/payment made to Day Carers by the Adult Placement team makes was set at £33.60 to care for one individual which has remained the same, since 2011.

The service continues to support adults with learning disabilities but is now also supporting older people, people living with dementia and people with mental health conditions. At the time of writing the report there are 37 adults being cared for by 10 Carers. Many of the adults are elderly, some being cared for have dementia and 11 have a learning disability.

3.5 **Value for Money**

Evidence has consistently shown that Adult Placement arrangements are financially beneficial for local authorities saving significant amounts in comparison to the costs for day care services or residential services

The current annual cost difference of using the Adult Placement Service for the 37 adults compared to Day Services or Residential Care are as follows :

- Adult Placement Costs- £100,578 (£33.60 per day for adults)
- Day Services Costs - £126,586 (£50 per day for elderly adults)
- Day Services Costs - £240,515 (£88 per day for adults with LD)
- Residential Costs - £1,015,872 (£528 per person per week over 52 weeks).

3.6 Adult Placement Carers are self-employed and are not guaranteed any work through the service. They only receive payments when they are providing support to a person. The fact that the Adult Placement carers have not had an increase in their fees-payments since 2011 has negatively impacted on existing carers and recruitment.

It is difficult to compare the role of these carers to workers in other community adult social care sectors, as the work the support they provide is very flexible and fluid rather than task and time based work such as Day Carers supporting people in their own homes.

3.7 2019 Adult Placement Audit Report

The Adult Placement Service was audited with the subsequent report published in October 2019. The report noted as a key audit finding that *“the Adult Placement Service provides a good, cost effective alternative to traditional care. However, the service is currently underutilised due to low carer numbers. Carer numbers have declined in recent years resulting in fewer adult placement sessions being delivered. There are a number of factors that have contributed to this position, however a review of the carer payment rates and better promotion of the scheme may help to address the situation”*.

The Audit report recommended:

- “Utilising unit cost information and other local authority benchmarking findings to review carer payment rates”.
- “Developing benchmarking with other local authorities to understand the impact of carer rates”.
- “Raising awareness of the service”.

3.8 Actions from the Audit Report

As the Adult Placement Service is dependent on a pool of registered carers to operate (as well as the availability of suitable accommodation), Halton has attempted to increase the numbers of carers over the years and has recently attempted to raise awareness of the service by undertaking a substantial marketing campaign early in 2020, details of which are included in **Appendix 1**

3.9 HBC Review and Comparison with other Local Authorities

In order to review and evaluate unit costs it was important to compare like for like services. Only Halton and Warrington Councils provide Shared Lives day services in the local area so other local authorities who provided day services were identified so direct comparisons for benchmarking payments could be made. The direct comparison used was:

Caring for 1 person in Band 1 for 6 hrs per day for 5 days per week

Current Band 1 payment for 6 hrs	Band 1 converted Hourly Rate	Other Costs	Mileage
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See Appendix 3 for full comparison

3.10 Results of Benchmarking

The benchmarking exercise found that Halton’s payments made to shared lives day carers were the lowest out of the Local Authorities providing shared lives day care. (See Appendix 2)

Proposed Increase in fee payment

3.11 Based on the review, the following increases are therefore proposed for the three current day carer fee payments:

- Increase the fee for 1 person in a 6 hr placement from the current £33.60 to £40. This would equate to a new hourly rate of £ 6.67 which is an increase of 19.1%
The 19.1% increase would then be applied to the current placement fees for caring daily for 2 and 3 people as follows:
- The 6hr placement for 2 people would increase the fee from the current £56.10 to £67
- The 6hr placement fee for 3 people would increase the fee from the current £67.20 to £80.

3.12 **Annual Increase in Budget**

Appendix 3, Table 1 shows the additional costs if the proposed 19.1% increase is applied. There is no proposal to increase the respite, meetings and cancellation costs which are all similar with other local authorities. This would be an annual cost increase of £14,501. Taking into account both the payment increase minor changes, the annual increase would be £15,000. This would be funded from the Community Care Budget

3.13 There have also been increased running costs for the service itself since 2011, with additional public liability insurance costs for carers paid for by the service plus provision of equipment to support Carers with Service Users, It is therefore proposed to request an increase to the budget for the commissioning the service.

Currently the budget allocated for the running of the Adult Placement Service equates to HBC paying £27.47 (on average) per person per day. This calculation has been used to recommend the budget increase for HBC to pay £30 per person per day. This would mean a further annual increase to the budget of £23,871. This amount would also be funded from the ASC Community Care Budget. This will mean a total budget increase for both payments to carers and costs for running the service of £38,871. (**See Appendix 3**)

This increase would also help mitigate additional fees and resources that would be expected with successful recruitment over the next 12 months.

3.14 **Change of Service Name and Advertising**

For many years the Halton Adult Placement Service has often been referred to as Shared Lives and the Carers as Shared Lives Carers. Most Local Authorities have Shared Lives Services and the name has been adopted as it reflects the personal care and individual service provided. It is therefore requested to change of name of the Service from Adult Placement to Shared

Lives Service. This will ensure continuity and consistency for the service, through its future marketing, policies and procedures.

It is also proposed that a permanent job vacancy for Shared Lives Carers role should be added to the Halton Job vacancy page. This will highlight the role of Shared Lives Carers to people looking for work or additional income.

4.0 **Conclusion**

4.1 The Shared Lives Carers have not received a fee payment increase for over 10 years. With the current demand for day care placements for adults with dementia living at home high as well as the use of Direct Payments .The proposed increase should aid recruitment in to Shared Lives with the requested fee pitched closer to today's cost of living and should help move more day placements to Shared Lives Carers and prevent more admissions to care homes, helping keep more people at home.

4.2 The Service is also looking to develop further in to an alternative service for supported living and day sitting services. The increase in payments should therefore be seen as a method of investing to save. The hope is that the requested increase in conjunction with placing a new permanent job vacancy on the Halton Council Job vacancy pages will increase recruitment by 20-25 % over the next 12 months

5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

Current social care policy puts great emphasis on community-based, personalised services that are designed to give people more choice and control over their care and support. Shared Lives Carers Schemes fundamentally endorse community-based personalised services

6.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The additional budget implications would therefore be :
- An annual increase for the new fees paid to Shared Lives Carers plus mileage of £15,000.
 - An annual increase in the commissioned budget allocated for the running of the service of £23,871.

This would therefore increase the total annual costs for the Service by **£38,871 per annum**, which is still considerably less than the alternative of Day Care or Residential services. The budget and financial calculations within this report have been checked by the Resources Team and the costs will be added to the annual fee rates report so they can be monitored.

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

A Membership organisation which provides advice and guidance for establishing Shared Lives services, of which HBC is a member.

7.1 Children & Young People in Halton

A competitive shared Lives Model creates opportunities to recruit new Shared Lives carers from foster carers who are looking to move on to supporting a child(ren) as they transition in to adult social services.

7.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

A competitive Shared Lives Model creates opportunities to recruit new Shared Lives carers from people who have been made redundant, or are looking to work from home or looking for ways to supplement income.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

None identified at this time

7.4 A Safer Halton

None identified at this time

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified at this time

8.0 RISK ANALYSIS

8.1 Failing to support independent living imposes burdens on public services and unnecessary social and economic opportunity costs on individuals. By adopting and increasing a Shared Lives approach, there are longer-term benefits to be had through prevention and early intervention, through supporting different approaches to service delivery, and through lessening the predicted impacts of rising social care costs in Halton.

9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the introduction of the Shared Lives Scheme. No Negative issues were identified

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

None under the meaning of the Act

Report Item 3.3 Shared Lives Plus Funding Model

Shared Lives Plus use a model based on the Household Expenditure Survey to set a **basic fee** paid to long term carers, to ensure that people living in a Shared Lives arrangement are able to enjoy the same standard of living as anyone else. This element of payment considers the additional cost of accommodating an additional adult in terms of food, utilities etc.

There is also the Care Element to the fees paid. Shared Lives Plus provided a model assessment tool designed to ensure that relevant information is taken into account before making a judgement on 'Level of Care Banding Levels'. The tool *is not* intended to be used as initial assessment of need, but rather *after* the community care needs assessment has been carried out and Shared Lives has been identified as the best way **to meet the individual's needs** and the care and support plan has been agreed.

The proposed payment levels assigned to the 'Level of Care- Banding Levels in the 2015 SMT report were

Band	Payment (£)
Band 1	50
Band 2	85
Band 3	115

Day Carers

The HBC payments made to the day carers still use the three Levels of Care identified in Appendix 1 Banding Levels above as a guide but payments for day care were set historically against the rates of learning disability services and some other residential care services when the service was originally set up many years ago before the 2015 report set Adult Placement rates for long term carers.

Report Item 3.8 Marketing Campaign included the following:

- Chatty Chair sessions at various venues
- Stalls in the market
- Banners in libraries.
- Updated the website to include a quick contact button
- Asked our current carers to promote the service.
- Spoken to other sub regional local authorities about their efforts to recruit.
- Spoken to specialists in Universal Credit to understand how any payment we may make will affect any UC payment.
- Spoken to the job centre about advertising and providing a self- employed option (currently not available through Job Centre.)
- Consideration of a permanent job offer on the HBC website.

The above campaign was also supported by using social media via major social media accounts. There was some interest however only one person is still considering becoming a registered shared lives day carer.

Comparison with other Local Authorities for 2020 Day Carer Payments

Day Services	Band 1 for 6 hrs (1 person) unless stated	Band 1 Hourly Rate	Other Costs for meetings & Cancellations	Mileage paid per mile
Halton	£33.60	£5.60	£11.20	0.45p
Warrington	£38.88	£6.46	£8.00	0.43p
Tameside	£35.30 for 5 hrs	£7.06	Not available	0.45p
Medway	£45.00	£7.51	Not available	None
Manchester	£42.00	£7.00	Not available	0.35p

Figures used from other Local Authority 2020 published shared lives day carer rates

Other Neighbouring Local Authorities

St Helens	Provider -PSS	Not available		Not available
Knowsley	Long Term Care Only	N/A	N/A	0.33p
Lancashire	Long Term Care Only	N/A	N/A	0.45p

Halton Shared Lives Carers monthly breakdown of fees paid for 2019

Month	No of Placements	Shared Lives Day Care	Respite	Training Meetings and Cancellations	Total cost
Jan	268	£7,375	£2,794	£101	£10,270
Feb	256	£6,430	£2,354	£120	£8,904
Mar	232	£5,987	£1,625	£147	£7,759
Apr	303	£5,606	£1,569	£71	£7,246
May	241	£7,227	£1,902	£220	£9,349
Jun	241	£5,831	£1,797	£131	£7,759
Jul	245	£6,030	£1,569	£160	£7,759
Aug	251	£7,320	£1,961	£60	£9,341
Sep	286	£7,121	£1,961	£150	£9,232
Oct	241	£6,064	£1,794	£100	£7,958
Nov	235	£5,490	£1,962	£92	£7,544
Dec	179	£5,439	£2,018	£0	£7,457
Total	£2978	£75,920	£23306	£1352	£100,578

Proposed Increase: 2020– Calculated by increasing the day care costs by 19.1%

Month	No of Placements	Shared Lives Day Care Increased by 19.1%	Respite	Training, Meetings and Cancellations	Total cost
Jan	268	£8,784	£2,794	£101	£11,679
Feb	256	£7,658	£2,354	£120	£10,132
Mar	232	£7,131	£1,625	£147	£8,903
Apr	303	£6,677	£1,569	£71	£8,317
May	241	£8,607	£1,902	£220	£10,729
Jun	241	£6,945	£1,797	£131	£8,873
Jul	245	£7,182	£1,569	£160	£8,911
Aug	251	£8,718	£1,961	£60	£10,739
Sep	286	£8,481	£1,961	£150	£10,592
Oct	241	£7,222	£1,794	£100	£9,116
Nov	235	£6,539	£1,962	£92	£8,593
Dec	179	£6,478	£2,018	£0	£8,496
Total	£2978	£90,421	£23,306	£1352	£115,079

Annual increase of 19.1 % for payments as above is an increase of £14,501 plus £500 for additional mileage noted in the report is an increase of **£15,000**

Annual budget increase for commissioned service **£23,871**

The total annual budget increase required to approve all proposals is therefore

£38,871

REPORT TO:	Executive Board
DATE:	10 December 2020
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director Enterprise, Communities and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Community and Sport; Physical Environment
SUBJECT:	Lease of Recreation Club building and King George V playing fields, Dundalk Road, Widnes
WARDS:	Kingsway

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Purpose of this report is to seek approval to the granting of a lease to Widnes FC Ltd for the Recreation Club building on Dundalk Road and King George V playing fields. The Plan attached shows the extent of the area concerned.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:-

- 1) The Council enter into a lease agreement with Widnes FC Ltd.**
- 2) The Council bring forward the site for sporting development, subject to planning permission.**
- 3) the Board delegates responsibility for oversight of the development and Lease to the Operational Director Economy Enterprise and Property and the Operational Director Communities and Environment in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Physical Environment and Community and Sport.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Council holds the Freehold title to the Recreation Club on Dundalk Road, Widnes WA8 8DB, this building having also been known as Corpy Club and Halton Recreation Club.

In July 2018 the building lease was surrendered and the property returned to the Council, the building having being leased since 1990. The licensed bar and associated rooms were closed to the public. The building also provides changing facilities, managed by the Council for teams hiring the grass pitches. The changing rooms have remained in use, but are currently closed due to COVID19 restrictions.

The Council sought Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from interested parties for the lease of the Recreation Club building and King George V playing fields, Dundalk Road, the use of this site to be retained for social, sports and recreational use.

Those organisations who submitted an EOI were invited to an Open Day at the site. Following the site visit only one organisation Widnes FC Limited expressed an interest to continue with discussions.

Widnes FC Ltd presented a proposal to the Council. This proposal, in draft, will require significant investment and resources to deliver. The proposal includes enclosing part of the field around an adult grass pitch.

Detailed building drawings have not been received, but as there were significant change to the appearance of the playing fields, the Council required the consent of the National Playing Fields Association (Fields in Trust) to the plans and the Lease.

The Council is in a position to agree Heads of Terms, subject to Widnes FC Ltd firming up their proposals and submitting a planning application.

At this point it should be noted that no agreement has been entered into with Widnes FC Ltd. Officers have now got the discussions to a stage where the Council needs to consider if Widnes FC Ltd should be encouraged to invest significant time and resources in preparing a planning application. No assurances have given to Widnes FC that a planning application will be successful. Thus the heads of terms will remain in draft format until such time council approval is given.

If approval to proceed with a lease is granted, then following the applicants planning submission, the planning documentation will need to be sent to Fields in Trust for review and approval. As long as there are not any significant changes to the plans already presented then Fields in Trust do not expect to change their position/conditions of lease.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Council adopted the Halton Local Football Facilities Plan in 2019 as the go to document for investment priorities. The development Plan identified King George V playing fields as requiring investment to improve the natural grass pitches. The emerging Halton Playing Pitch Strategy will also identify the site as a significant resource for grass roots football and recommends investment in the grass pitches.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The building is in a generally tired state of repair. The building condition survey in 2019 of the changing rooms identified that mechanical and

electrical works are required to be undertaken within the next couple of years and work to internal walls due to damp.

The Council currently has the liability of the ongoing maintenance / running costs of the building and pitches. In the last financial year the costs were approximately £41,000.

If the Council were to grant the Lease, this would remove any future maintenance liability.

The Council does not have a plan to invest in the facility in the near future

Widnes FC Ltd have invested resources in preparing draft plans and pitch surveys.

In order to bring the project forward Widnes FC Ltd anticipate investing over £1million in the development of the building and playing fields.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Widnes FC Ltd, provide out of school sports activity for 250+ children and young people. The lease would give the club a base to develop and expand activities.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Sport activity provides volunteer opportunities and skill development in coaching, administration, fundraising etc. Widnes FC Ltd's proposal includes the establishment of a football education programme, supporting lifelong learning and increasing employment opportunities.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The importance of exercise and staying active is a key message delivered by Government and all partners. Being active is recognised as contributing towards everyone's health and well-being. Widnes FC Ltd is a community club engaging with players, parents, coaches and volunteers across the age range.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The connection between sport and reducing anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime is supported by key research. Sports activities and competitions, sports volunteering, sports leadership, sports training help develop individuals and communities, encourage healthier and more productive lifestyles and create inclusive communities and neighbourhoods that provide a shared identity and sense of place

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

Widnes FC Ltd are looking to invest in a facility that is in poor condition. Investment will increase the programme of activity on offer and make it attractive to Halton residents and visitors.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

Any lease poses a risk to the Council. The tenant may not comply with their obligations such as repair, or they may wish to terminate the Lease, leaving the Council with a decision of what to do. There are mitigations to reduce the risk, such as, landlords consent for any alterations. Monitoring of the building should be ongoing to ensure that the site does not fall into disrepair and that all lease conditions are being met.

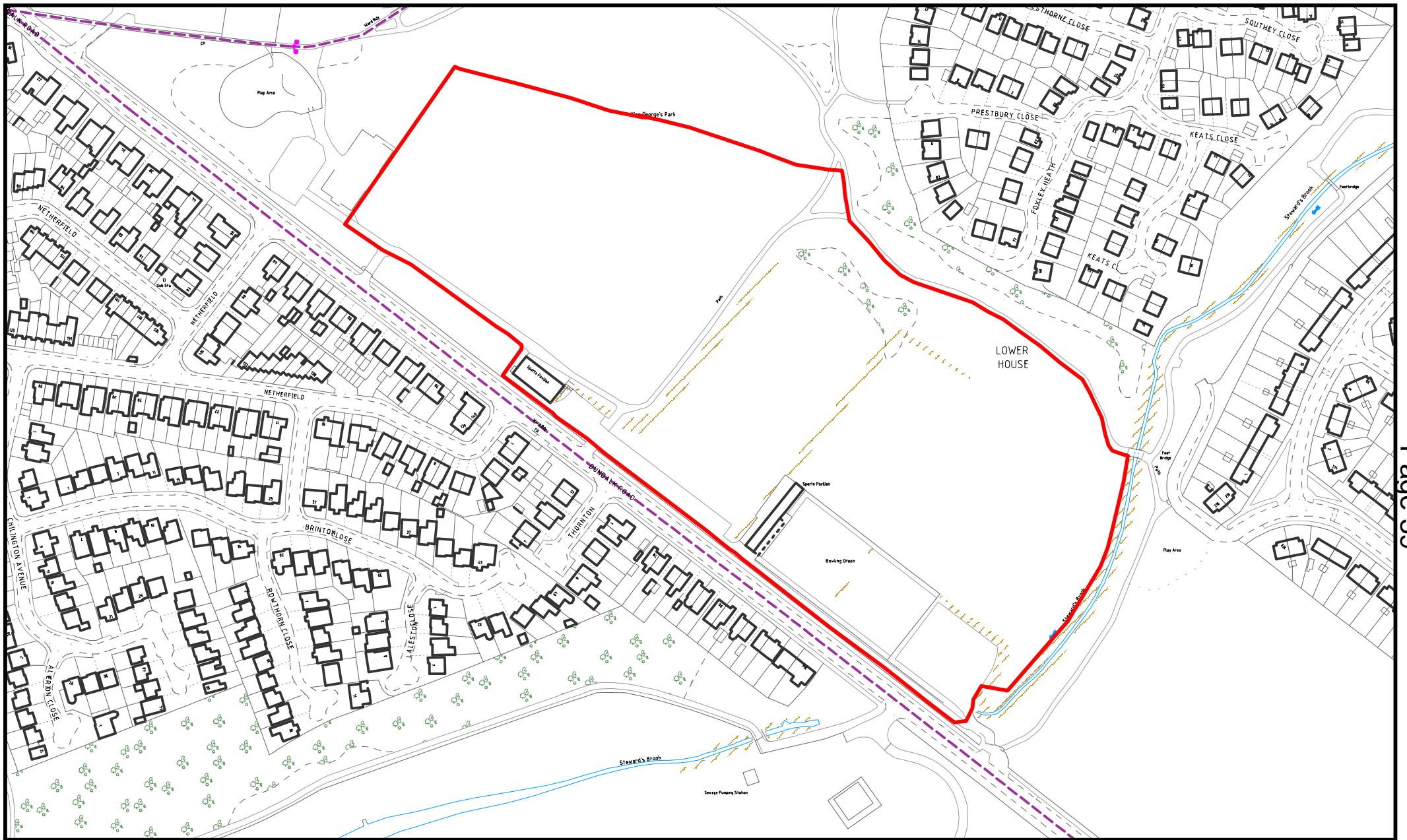
Any planning application has risks associated with uncertainty from the applicant, such as, securing funding, material availability, securing regulatory consents, ground conditions. To mitigate the risk, detailed project planning and survey work will be required by Widnes FC Ltd prior to the commencement of any works.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

The Recreation Club is not currently accessible by all; the first floor does not have any lift access. The development proposal will need to be fully accessible for all; as such, there are no equality and diversity issues

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Halton Local Football Development Plan	Public document available <u>online</u>	Sue Lowrie



DUNDALK ROAD PLAYING FIELD AND CHANGING ROOM
 FEBRUARY 2020
 1:2500 @ A4

