

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



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

25 February 2025

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

You are hereby summoned to attend an Ordinary Meeting of the Halton Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall on Wednesday, 5 March 2025 commencing at 6.30 p.m. for the purpose of considering and passing such resolution(s) as may be deemed necessary or desirable in respect of the matters mentioned in the Agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Young'.

Chief Executive

-AGENDA-

Item No.		Page No.
1.	COUNCIL MINUTES	SEE MINUTE BOOK
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
3.	THE MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS	
4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
5.	LEADER'S REPORT	
6.	URGENT DECISIONS	1 - 2
7.	MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD	SEE MINUTE BOOK
	a) 12 December 2024	
	b) 16 January 2025	
8.	MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD	SEE MINUTE BOOK
9.	QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8	
10.	MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION OF THE COUNCIL	
	a) Calendar of Meetings 2025-2026	3 - 6
	Executive Board considered the attached report.	
	RECOMMENDED: That Council be recommended to approve the Calendar of Meetings for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.	
	b) Budget 2025/26 - Key Decision	7 - 48
	Executive Board considered the attached report.	
	RECOMMENDED: That Council be recommended	
	1) To adopt the resolution set out in Appendix A, which includes setting the budget at £183.052m, the Council Tax requirement of £68.208m (before Parish, Police, Fire and LCR Combined Authority precepts) and the Band D Council Tax for Halton of £1,846.66;	
	2) To approve the capital programme set out in Appendix E;	
	3) To approve the Use of Capital Receipts Strategy set out in Appendix H;	

- 4) To approve the budget savings set out in Appendix G;
- 5) To approve 100% Council Tax premium being applied to properties which have been unoccupied and unfurnished for a minimum period of 12 months; and
- 6) To note that Government have given provisional approval to the Council's application for Exceptional Financial Support, as outlined in section 3.7.

c) 2024/25 Spending as at 30 November 2024

49 - 108

Executive Board considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) All spending continues to be limited to essential items only;
- 2) Executive Directors continue to identify areas where they can further reduce their directorate's spending or generate income, in order to reduce the councilwide forecast outturn overspend position;
- 3) Executive Directors continue to implement the approved savings proposals for 2024/25 and 2025/26 as detailed in Appendix 4;
- 4) The updated forecast outturn position be shared with the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government in support of the Council's application for Exceptional Financial Support;
- 5) Council be asked to approve the revisions to the capital programme set-out in paragraph 3.22 and incorporated within Appendix 3; and
- 6) This report be shared with each Policy and Performance Board, in order to ensure they have a full appreciation of the councilwide financial position, in addition to their specific areas of responsibility.

d) Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26

109 - 134

Executive Board considered the attached report.

RECOMMENDED: That Council be recommended to adopt the policies, strategies, statements, prudential and treasury indicators outlined in the report.

e) Capital Strategy

135 - 150

RECOMMENDED: That Council be recommended to approve the 2025/26 Capital Strategy, as presented in the Appendix.

f) Absence of a Member

Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, permission is sought for:

- Councillor McDonough to be granted a period of absence from attending Council meetings for a period of 6 months, concluding on 5 September 2025, due to personal circumstances.

g) Members' Allowance Scheme - Review

151 - 160

11. MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS AND THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE BOARD

SEE MINUTE BOOK

a) Children, Young People and Families

b) Health

c) Safer

d) Environment and Urban Renewal

e) Corporate Services

f) Audit & Governance Board

12. COMMITTEE MINUTES

SEE MINUTE BOOK

a) Development Management

b) Taxi Licensing Sub Committee

c) Regulatory Sub Committee

d) Appointments

13. MATTERS FOR NOTING

a) Recommendation from Mayoral Committee

The Mayoral Committee considered a Part II item making a recommendation on the appointment of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Council is requested to note the following recommendations, formal confirmation of which will be sought at Annual Council.

- 1) Councillor Martha Lloyd Jones be appointed as the Mayor; and
- 2) Councillor Pamela Wallace be appointed as the Deputy Mayor.