

F O R W A R D P L A N

FOR THE PERIOD: 1 JANUARY 2025 TO 30 APRIL 2025

What is the Forward Plan?

The Forward Plan is a list of the key decisions the Authority intends to take during a four month period. The Plan is updated monthly and is available to the public 14 days before the beginning of each month.

What is a Key Decision?

Key decisions are defined as any executive decision which is likely

- to result in expenditure or savings which are significant in the context of the budget for the service or function in question; or
- to be significant in terms of its effects on the communities living or working in two or more wards in the area.

What does the Forward Plan tell me?

The Plan gives information about:

- what key decisions are coming forward in the next four months;
- when those key decisions are likely to be made;
- who will make those decisions;
- what consultation will be given;
- who you can make representations to, and how;
- what documents will be considered; and
- who you can contact for further information.

Who takes Key Decisions?

Under the Authority's Constitution, Key Decisions are taken by the Council, the Executive Board (and its Sub-Committees/Sub-Boards) or individual officers acting under delegated powers.

Most Key Decisions are taken at public meetings of either the Council or the Executive Board. Council meets at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Runcorn and the Executive Board meets at 2.00 pm in the Municipal Building, Widnes.

How to make representations and by when

Names of contact officers are included in the Plan and can be reached via 0303 333 4300. If you are unsure, please ring Committee Services via the same number and staff there will be able to assist you.

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS FOR THE PERIOD
1 JANUARY 2025 TO 30 APRIL 2025**

	MATTER TO BE DECIDED	DECISION MAKER AND DATE	
1	High Needs Provision Capital Allocation - Proposed Expansion of Special Educational Needs & Disability Provision: Statutory Consultation Feedback	Executive Board	12 December 2024
2	School Admission Arrangements 2026	Executive Board	16 January 2025
3	School Capital Programme 2025-26	Executive Board	16 January 2025
4	Compulsory Purchase Order for Land at Sci-Tech Daresbury	Executive Board	16 January 2025
5	Full Cost Clients in Residential Care	Executive Board	16 January 2025
6	Budget 2025/26	Council	5 March 2025

Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
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Children and Young People Portfolio

High Needs Provision Capital Allocation - Proposed Expansion of Special Educational Needs & Disability Provision: Statutory Consultation Feedback	Executive Board 12 December 2024	To receive feedback from the statutory consultation on the proposal to expand Special Educational Needs provision at Ashley School in Widnes by four additional classrooms using Department for Education High Needs Provision Capital Grant funding, increasing the school's capacity from 112 places to 152 places for pupils with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder, and agree progression of the works (subject to consideration of consultation	Following agreement by the Executive Board in September 2024, a public statutory consultation has been undertaken that ran from 24 th September 2024 and closed on 21 st October 2024 and included a consultation meeting with school staff and governors, and a meeting with parents and carers and members of the public. Details of the consultation were published in the local press, online on the Council's website, and circulated to neighbouring authorities, and all school and	Department for Education (DfE) High Needs Provision Capital Allocations guidance (March 2024). Can be viewed at 2 nd Floor, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn WA7 2ES	Martin West – Head of Service: Place Planning, Policy, & Provision Martin.west@halton.gov.uk 0151-511-7386
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Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
		responses).	specialists schools in Halton. Ashley School also wrote to the parents and carers of all pupils currently on roll at the school advising them of the consultation and how to respond.		
School Admission Arrangements 2026	Executive Board 16 January 2025	To approve the Council's School Admissions Policy for the September 2026 intake for all community and voluntary controlled schools for which the Local Authority is the admission authority, and to approve the Co-ordinated Admissions Schemes for all primary and secondary schools in the Borough.	Statutory consultation is undertaken for a six week period commencing no earlier than 1 st October 2024 and must be completed by no later than 31 st January 2025. Halton is consulting from 1 st October 2024 to 12 th November 2024. Consultation is undertaken via a comprehensive consultation document on the Council's website for parents and carers to access.	A report will be submitted to the Council's Executive Board seeking approval for the proposed admissions policy and co-ordinated primary and secondary schemes. All documentation will be attached as appendices to the Executive Board report.	Martin West – Head of Service: Place Planning, Policy, & Provision Martin.west@halton.gov.uk 0151-511-7386

Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
			The consultation is also issued to all schools via email. Neighbouring local authorities, academy schools and voluntary aided schools (who are their own admission authority) and the Diocesan authorities representing voluntary aided schools in Halton are also consulted.		
School Capital Programme 2025-26	Executive Board 16 January 2025	To approve the proposed Capital Programme for works to be undertaken at a number of Halton schools/educational establishments during the 2025-26 financial year.	N/A	Schools Capital Funding Allocations – Department for Education can be viewed at 2 nd Floor, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn WA7 2ES	Martin West – Head of Service: Place Planning, Policy, & Provision Martin.west@halton.gov.uk 0151-511-7386

Environment and Urban Renewal Portfolio

Compulsory Purchase Order for Land at Sci-Tech Daresbury	Executive Board 16 January 2025	The report seeks approval of the Executive Board to	N/A	The Sci-Tech Daresbury Masterplan and	Helen Roberts Helen.roberts@halton.gov.uk
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Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
		<p>exercise the Council's powers of compulsory purchase in relation to the delivery of the Sci-Tech Daresbury masterplan.</p> <p>The report will outline the steps required for the process in legal terms and the status of negotiations with parties affected and asks for approval to update the capital programme to reflect the costs of the scheme.</p>		Statement of Reasons will both be made available and can be inspected Municipal Building (Helen Roberts)	0151 511 6921

Adult Social Care Portfolio

Full Cost Clients in Residential Care	Executive Board 16 January 2025	Executive Board approval is required to reconsider existing arrangements in relation to the Council contracting	N/A		
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Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
		with care homes on behalf of self-funders.			

Leader's Portfolio

Budget 2025/26	Council 5 March 2025	To seek approval for the Council's revenue budget, capital programme and council tax for 2025/26.	Chamber of Commerce	N/A	Director of Finance Ed.dawson@halton.gov.uk 01515117965
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NOTE

The following Members comprise the Executive Board:

Leader – Councillor Wharton

Deputy Leader – Councillor Thompson

Corporate Services Portfolio Holder – Councillor Dennett

Children and Young People Portfolio Holder – Councillor T McInerney

Adult Social Care Portfolio Holder – Councillor Ball

Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder – Councillor Wright

Community Safety Portfolio Holder – Councillor M. Lloyd Jones

Environmental and Urban Renewal Portfolio Holder – Councillor Nelson

Employment, Learning and Skills, and Community Portfolio Holder – Councillor Nolan

Climate Change Portfolio Holder – Councillor Harris