

F O R W A R D P L A N

FOR THE PERIOD: 1 OCTOBER 2025 TO 31 JANUARY 2026

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 OCTOBER 2025 TO 31 JANUARY 2026**

	MATTER TO BE DECIDED	DECISION MAKER AND DATE	
1	School Capital Programme 2026-27	Executive Board	15 January 2026
2	School Admission Arrangements 2027	Executive Board	15 January 2026
3	Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2029/30	Executive Board	23 October 2025
4	Determination of the Council Tax Base 2026/27	Council	4 March 2026
5	Procurement of Integrated Sexual Health Service	Executive Board	23 October 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

School Capital Programme 2026-27	Executive Board 15 January 2026	To approve the proposed Capital Programme for works to be undertaken at a number of Halton schools/educational establishments during the 2026-27 financial year, funded through Department for Education capital funding.	N/A	N/A	Martin West martin.west@halton.gov.uk
School Admission Arrangements 2027	Executive Board 15 January 2026	To approve the Council's School Admissions Policy for the September 2027 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	Statutory consultation is undertaken for a six week period commencing no earlier than 1 st October 2025 and must be completed by no later than 31 st January 2026. Halton is consulting from 1 st October 2025 to 14 th November 2025. Consultation is undertaken via a comprehensive consultation	N/A	Martin West martin.west@halton.gov.uk

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 Borough.	document on the Council's website for parents and carers to access. 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. Representations can only be made as part of the statutory consultation process and all consultees are aware of the deadline which is 14 th November 2025. Once the arrangements are determined, objections can then only be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator within the prescribed timescale.		

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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Corporate Services Portfolio

Medium Term Financial Strategy 2026/27 to 2029/30	Executive Board 23 October 2025	To seek approval for the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2026/27 to 2029/30. The Strategy sets out a four-year projection of the Council's financial resources and spending requirements	None	N/A	Director of Finance Ed.dawson@halton.gov.uk
Determination of the Council Tax Base 2026/27	Council 4 March 2026	To seek approval for the 2026/27 council tax base for the Borough, which is required in order to calculate and set the level of council tax to be charged. It is used by both the Council as billing authority and by the major precepting authorities (Cheshire Fire Authority, Cheshire Police & Crime Commissioner and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority) in the calculation of their	None	N/A	Director of Finance Ed.dawson@halton.gov.uk

Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
		council tax requirements.			

Health and Wellbeing Portfolio

Procurement of Integrated Sexual Health Service	Executive Board 23 October 2025	Approve the recommendation that the PSR route C can be taken to recommission the Integrated Sexual Health Service. The current joint contract between Warrington and Halton for the Integrated Sexual Health service expires in September 2026 with no further possible extensions. Halton has been meeting with Warrington procurement and commissioners to discuss the re-procurement of this service. Last time round Warrington led on the procurement process and are intending to be the lead commissioner again.	N/A	N/A	Julia Rosser julia.rosser@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>The service being provided by the incumbent is satisfactory and therefore both Warrington and Halton are proposing to do a direct award process (C) under the Provider Selection Regime to the current provider, Axess. There will be some amendments to the contract, but nothing that could be considered a material change.</p> <p>There are currently some issues re the estates allocation that are given to the incumbent at Warrington and Halton Hospital. Warrington and Halton Hospital are currently giving the incumbent a rolling 3 month lease.</p> <p>Discussions are still underway with Warrington and Halton Hospital regarding a</p>			

Key Decision	Decision-Maker and Date	Brief Summary of Decision to be Taken	Consultees and Consultation method	Relevant Background Reports	Lead Officer Contact Details
		permanent estate allocation.			

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 Wall

Environmental and Urban Renewal Portfolio Holder – Councillor Nolan

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

Housing and Environmental Sustainability Portfolio Holder – Councillor Harris