

F O R W A R D P L A N

FOR THE PERIOD: 1 FEBRUARY 2026 TO 31 MAY 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 FEBRUARY 2026 TO 31 MAY 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	Children's Services Asset Master Plan - Capital Programme Report	Executive Board	12 March 2026
4	Budget 2026/27	Council	4 March 2026
5	Review of Telehealthcare Services	Executive Board	12 March 2026
6	Article 4 Confirmation	Executive Board	12 February 2026

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	Schools Capital Funding Allocations – Department for Education can be viewed at 2 nd Floor, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn WA7 2ES	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
Children's Services Asset Master Plan - Capital Programme Report	Executive Board 12 March 2026	Decision to approve the capital programme request detailed in the Children's Asset Master Plan work has been undertaken to ensure that we have a detailed understanding of our infrastructure, making sure that it is fit for purpose and aligned with the future needs of children and families across the borough. This is all part of our system reform, including our improvement journey and the Families First Partnership Programme.	N/A	<i>Children's Services Asset Master Plan – Capital Programme Report</i>	Executive Director of Children's Services zoe.fearon@halton.gov.uk

Leader's Portfolio

Budget 2026/27	Council 4 March 2026	To seek approval for the Council's revenue budget, capital programme and council tax for 2026/27.	Chamber of Commerce	None	Director of Finance Ed.dawson@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
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Adult and Social Care Portfolio

Review of Telehealthcare Services	Executive Board 12 March 2026	Executive Board to recommend an option regarding the future direction of travel for the Telehealthcare Provision.	N/A	N/A	Debbie.O'connor@halton.gov.uk
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Environment and Urban Renewal Portfolio

Article 4 Confirmation	Executive Board 12 February 2026	To confirm the making of the immediate Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights for the material change of use from Use Class C3 (dwelling houses) to C4 (HMOs), within parts of Appleton, Central & West Bank, Halebank, Mersey & Weston, Beechwood & Heath, Grange, Bridgewater, Halton Castle,	The Council undertook a consultation on the Article 4 Direction between the 24 th September 2025 to the 5 th November 2025. The Council published an advertisement in the Local Press and on the Councils website. Public notices were displayed throughout the borough and correspondence was sent to all statutory	The relevant reports and background papers can be found at: https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/planning/Article4.aspx	Andrew.Plant@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
		Halton Lea, Norton North and Norton South & Preston Brook.	consultees. The responses were formulated into a consultation statement, which will be published on the https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/planning/Article4.aspx website		

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