

EXECUTIVE BOARD

At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 8 September 2011 in the Marketing Suite, Municipal Building

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), D. Cargill, Harris, Jones, McInerney, Nelson, Stockton, Swain, Wharton and Wright

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: A. Scott, M. Reaney, G. Cook, I. Leivesley, D. Parr, B. Dodd, N. Moorhouse and K. Hall

Also in attendance: Councillor E Cargill

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

EXB29 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2011 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO

EXB30 SUSTAINABLE SCHOOL TRAVEL POLICY 2011- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise on the Sustainable School Travel Policy 2011.

The Board was advised that Section 508A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 placed a general duty on local authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport. The four main elements of the duty were outlined in the report.

The Sustainable School Travel Policy 2011 drew together the four required elements and supported the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan, ensuring

Action

that Halton fulfilled its statutory requirements.

Reason for Decision

The decision was required to fulfil the Council's statutory duty to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None.

Implementation Date

The Academic year 2011 and reviewed annually.

RESOLVED: That the Sustainable School Travel Policy be approved for implementation from September 2011.

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- Children and
Enterprise

(N.B.The following Councillors declared a personal interest in the following item of business: Councillors Stockton and Nelson (as Governors of The Grange School) and Councillor Nelson (as a Governor of Wade Deacon School))

EXB31 BSF - LOCAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP (LEP) STRUCTURE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which outlined the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) Local Education Partnership (LEP) Governance Structure for the membership of the Strategic Partnering Board.

The governance arrangements for the Halton BSF programme were summarised in diagrammatic form within the report. It was noted that strategic decisions regarding the direction of the Halton LEP Company were retained by the LEP Board, with appropriate powers delegated to the Strategic Partnering Board (SPB), to enable the programme to be delivered in a timely manner.

Under the terms of the Strategic Partnering Agreement, the Authority had one voting member on the LEP Board – currently Halton Borough Council's Chief Executive; there was also provision for two Local Authority Observers to attend each meeting.

Members noted that the report detailed the Board Structure and remit for the LEP and the SPB, with further

details of the activities of the both Boards attached as an appendices to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) The agreed governance arrangements of the Halton Local Education Partnership be noted; and
- 2) The following Local Authority representatives of the Strategic Partnering Board be approved: the Lead Member for Children, Young People and Families, the Operational Director Children's Organisation and Provision and the Divisional Manager, Transforming Environments.

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EXB32 HALTON AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise on the Halton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

The Board was advised that there was a statutory duty on the Local Authority (LA) to establish and convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference (the Conference) to review the agreed syllabus for Religious Education (RE) every five years. The role of the Conference was to produce and recommend an Agreed Syllabus for adoption by the LA. It was noted that the Agreed Syllabus needed to meet fully the requirements of the Education Act 1996 and be educationally sound.

The constitution of the Conference was prescribed by the Department for Education and Science. The recommended composition of the required representative committee was detailed in the report, with the number of representatives appointed to Committees A and B reflecting the proportionate strength of denominations in the area.

The Board noted the minutes of the Halton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and the Halton Agreed Syllabus Conference, held on 11 July 2011, attached at Appendix 1. It was further noted that the Borough Council had a statutory duty to ensure that the agreed RE syllabus met the needs of the diverse faiths in the Borough and adopted an inclusive approach to religious diversity in line with the Council's Equality and Diversity

Policy.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the minutes of a meeting of the Halton SACRE and the Halton Agreed Syllabus Conference on 11th July 2011 attached at Appendix 1 be received; and
- 2) the Board accept the recommendation of the Halton Agreed Syllabus Conference for Religious Education to readopt the 2006 to 2011 Syllabus as the Halton Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education from 1st September 2011 for a further five years.

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HEALTH AND ADULTS PORTFOLIO

EXB33 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF DIGNITY IN CARE

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities on the Health Policy and Performance Board Scrutiny Review of Dignity in Care.

The Board was advised that the scrutiny review was conducted through monthly meetings of the topic group, presentations by various key members of staff from the Council and Health Care Service, service user consultations and a field visit to a Productive Ward at Whiston Hospital, between October 2010 and April 2011. The report, attached at Appendix 1, had been commissioned by the Health Policy and Performance Board and contained a number of recommendations for Members' consideration.

The Board noted the review had highlighted that Dignity in Care was at the forefront in Halton and much progress had been made across all care services. As a result of the review, further improvements had been identified, which covered the wider spectrum of both health and social care and the majority of these would be progressed through the work of the Dignity in Care Co-ordinator.

Councillor Ellen Cargill attended the meeting to present the overall conclusions of the report and to answer Members' questions. The report had been presented to the Health Policy and Performance Board on 7 June 2011.

The Board welcomed the contents of the report and

thanked members of the topic group for their hard work.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the findings of the Scrutiny Review as detailed in Appendix 1 be noted; and
- 2) the Scrutiny Review and its recommendations be endorsed.

Strategic Director
- Communities

TRANSPORTATION PORTFOLIO

EXB34 MERSEY PORTS MASTER PLAN - CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources which outlined the consultation exercise undertaken by Peel Ports on the draft Mersey Ports Master Plan.

The Board was advised that the draft Master Plan for the Mersey Ports contained a twenty year strategy to develop the potential of its port assets. The consultation exercise commenced on 6 June 2011 and concluded on 5 September 2011.

The draft Master Plan strategy was broadly supported by the existing policies contained within Halton's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3), which became effective on 1 April 2011. The LTP3 was supportive of the SuperPort concept, seen as a key driver of the Liverpool City Region economy as well as delivering sustainable low carbon transport.

It was noted that Halton's consultation response had been formed from existing LTP3 policies, Halton's Sustainable Community Strategy, the needs and impact of the Mersey Gateway project, advice from the Major Projects Team within the Council and the transport policies of the Merseyside Authorities. In addition, representations received from Councillors and Moore and Daresbury Parish Councils had been incorporated into the response, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the proposals contained in the draft Mersey Ports Master Plan be welcomed; and

- 2) the comments made on the draft Master Plan be noted, in particular, that the development of the Mersey Gateway Port is seen as complementary to the Master Plan forming part of the SuperPort concept.

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Resources

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT PORTFOLIO

EXB35 PARK PAVILIONS & VISITOR CENTRES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Communities on alternative ways of opening the Council's Visitor Centres and Park pavilions to the public.

The Board was advised that the Council had a number of Visitor Centres/ Pavillions in public parks which act as information outlets, staff accommodation, venues for events, educational activities and community group meetings, a café and places for site-based security.

The report contained details of proposals identified at the following locations:

- Wigg Island
- Spike Island
- Pickerings Pature
- Runcorn Hill Park
- Phoenix Park
- Hough Green park and Rock Park; and
- Victoria Park

The Board noted that the parks themselves would remain wholly as Council facilities, managed by the Council through its Open Space Service. Buildings would also remain under the ownership of the Council. The visitor centres/ pavilions could be staffed by third party organisations, such as charitable sector organisations or established community groups, or could be let as franchise cafes. As part of any agreement, the centres would be open to the public at least during the summer months and at peak times including weekends. Groups could carry out their own activities which would be complimentary to the Council's park sites.

RESOLVED: That the Board approve

- 1) a five year agreement be drawn up with Cheshire Wildlife Trust that would allow them to operate from Wigg Island Community Park

Strategic Director
- Communities

Visitor Centre. The Trust be allowed to carry out their educational and conservation work and related activities from the centre and also operate the centre as a visitor centre for park users.

- 2) a five year agreement be drawn up with the West Bank Community Group that would allow them to operate from the Spike Island Visitor Centre. The group be allowed to carry out their community work and related activities from the centre and they also operate the centre as a visitor centre for park users.
- 3) a five year agreement be drawn up with Groundwork Merseyside that would allow them to operate from the Pickerings Pasture Visitor Centre. The group be allowed to carry out their activities from the centre and they also operate the centre as a visitor centre for park users.
- 4) to identify alternative methods of operation at Phoenix Park and Runcorn Hill Park. Franchise agreements would be let through delegated powers of the Strategic Director, Communities in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Physical Environment and the Portfolio Holder for Resources.

EXB36 APPROVAL OF PUBLICATION OF HOT FOOD TAKEAWAYS PLANNING DOCUMENT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Policy and Resources, on the publication of the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Hot Food Takeaways, for the purposes of statutory public consultation.

The Board was advised that the Local Development Scheme (LDS) for Halton set out the spatial planning policy priorities for the Council. Included within the LDS programme of works, was the production of a Hot Food Takeaway SPD. The SPD explained the Council's overall approach to hot food takeaway development and set out considerations related to:

- Proximity to Schools and Health Impact
- Over-concentration and clustering
- Highway Safety

- Protection of Residential Amenity
- Hours of Operation
- Odours and Cooking Smells
- Disposal of Waste Products
- Litter
- Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

It was noted that once the formal public consultation exercise had been conducted, responses to it would be recorded and taken into account when finalising the SPD.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD): Hot Food Takeaway SPD be approved for the purposes of statutory public consultation;
- 2) further editorial and technical amendments that do not materially affect the content of the SPD be agreed by the Operational Director – Policy, Planning and Transportation in consultation with the Executive Board Member for the Physical Environment, if necessary, before the document is published for public consultation; and
- 3) the results of the public consultation exercise and consequent recommended modifications to the draft SPD be reported back to the Executive Board for resolution to adopt as a Supplementary Planning Document.

Strategic Director
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Resources

MINUTES ISSUED: 13 September 2011

CALL-IN: 20 September 2011

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 20 September 2011.

Meeting ended at 3.40 p.m.