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EXECUTIVE BOARD

*At a meeting of the Executive Board on Thursday, 12 January 2012 in The Board Room
- Municipal Building, Widnes*

Present: Councillors Polhill (Chairman), D. Cargill, Harris, Jones, T. 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, G. Meehan, D. Parr, B. Dodd and S. Clough

Also in attendance: None

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER POWERS AND DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

EXB85 MINUTES

Action

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2011 were taken as read and signed as a correct record.

CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PORTFOLIO

EXB86 HALTON SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

The Board considered a report of the Chair of Halton Safeguarding Children and the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Halton Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2010/11.

The Board was advised that the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 set out a statutory requirement for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs), to produce and publish an Annual Report on the effectiveness of safeguarding in the local area.

The report highlighted the considerable amount of work undertaken by Halton LSCB and the developments that

had taken place over the past twelve months.

Five priority areas were identified, managed through its Business Plan. The Board noted that these were in line with the core functions of the LSCB and included:

- Maintaining structures to enable the Board to fulfil its statutory duty and respond to local and national change;
- Policies and procedures;
- Development of a safer workforce;
- Scrutiny;
- Communicating and raising awareness;
- Functions relating to child deaths; and
- Serious Case Reviews

RESOLVED: That the Halton Safeguarding Children Board Annual Report 2010/11 be endorsed.

EXB87 STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING STATEMENT FOR 14-19 EDUCATION AND TRAINING- KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, on the Strategic Commissioning Statement for 14-19 education and training.

The Board was advised that the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement would enable the authority to carry out its statutory duty under the Education Act 1996, to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in the area. The Statement provided an overview of provision and needs in the area.

The Board noted that to inform the production of the Statement, and to identify key priorities for 14-19 year olds in Halton, a detailed review had been undertaken and analysed, which resulted in the six priorities detailed in the report. These priorities had been consulted on with partners in specific task groups across the 14-19 partnership, and ratified by the 14-19 Strategic Partnership and the Children's Trust Commissioning Partnership.

Reason(s) for Decision

To ratify the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement to ensure that Halton Borough Council fulfilled its statutory duties under Sections 15ZA and 19A of the Education Act 1996 (as inserted by the ASCL Act 2009).

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

The 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement provided a strategic overview of provision and needs in the area. An alternative option would be not to have produced a 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement for the Borough. This was rejected as the Borough would not have had a strategic overview of the provision in order to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in their area.

Implementation Date

With immediate effect following the January 2012 Executive Board.

RESOLVED: That the 14-19 Strategic Commissioning Statement 2012-13 be endorsed.

EXB88 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Board considered:

- (1) whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and
- (2) whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the

meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information will be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

EXB89 INFORMATION ADVICE & GUIDANCE SERVICES (CONNEXIONS) UPDATE - KEY DECISION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise, which updated Members on the progress on procurement options for securing information, advice and guidance (IAG) services for young people for 2012/13, and the contractual implications between the six Liverpool City Region Authorities and the Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership Limited (GMCP).

The report contained details of the arrangements to secure service delivery, details of the service specification offered by GMCP and an evaluation of the offer. In addition, the Board received an update on the current position on contractual arrangements with the other five authorities within the Liverpool City Region.

Reason(s) for Decision

Local Authorities' statutory responsibilities had changed.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

Consideration was given to continuing with the current service level. This would exceed the budget available, would not represent value for money or reflect the change in Local Authorities' statutory responsibilities.

Implementation Date

The revised IAG and tracking service must be in place by April 2012.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) negotiations to secure a one year agreement with GMCP within each local authorities' available budget be noted;

Strategic Director
- Children and
Enterprise

- 2) the update on the final GMCP position at the end of December 2011, tabled alongside this report be noted;
- 3) notice be served on GMCP on 31st January 2012 if agreement cannot be reached with a majority of authorities;
- 4) the parallel procurement process be continued; and
- 5) responsibility for procuring IAG provision be delegated to the Director of Children's Services (or other designated budget holder) in consultation with the Lead Member for Children's Services.

MINUTES ISSUED: 17 January 2012

CALL-IN: 24 January 2012

Any matter decided by the Executive Board may be called in no later than 5.00pm on 24 January 2012.

Meeting ended at 2.33 p.m.