

APPENDIX 1

Extract of Executive Board Sub Committee Minutes Relevant to the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board

EXECUTIVE BOARD 22nd JUNE 2006

EXB009 SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive providing details in respect of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF) which was introduced for all local authorities in England in April 2005. The Fund brought together DCLG and Home Office funding streams aimed at tackling crime, anti-social behaviour and drugs, empowering communities and improving the condition of streets and public spaces. In particular, it was aimed at disadvantaged neighbourhoods where those issues often required more attention.

The Board was advised that the basis of the SSCF was that Halton received an allocation of funding and agreed to achieve a set of outcomes based on local and national priorities. Last year, an SSCF agreement for Halton was concluded with Government Office North West. The agreement detailing the funding and the outcomes was called a Mini Local Area Agreement and ran for three years covering the period 2005/06 – 2007/08.

Implications of agreements were outlined for the Board's consideration and it was noted that the Safer Halton Partnership had taken responsibility in Halton for its development and implementation. The document had been refreshed and the Government had now approved the agreement and issued a Grant Offer letter. The Offer Letter brought together several funding streams from the Home Office and the Office of the DCLG. Details of funding, together with reviewing and reporting procedures, were outlined for the Board's consideration.

It was noted that the funding was focused on the most disadvantaged areas and concerns were raised about how other pockets with difficulties would be addressed. Members were advised that work was ongoing in order to provide

sound data to support any argument put forward by the Authority in this respect.

RESOLVED: That the SSCF agreement for Halton be endorsed and the Council become Accountable Body for the Fund under the terms set out in the report.

EXB010 DRINKING IN DESIGNATED PLACES

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Corporate and Policy regarding a draft Alcohol Designation Order under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 which was undergoing the necessary consultation procedure with statutory consultees.

It was noted that the intention of this Order was to replace current bye-laws that were to lapse on 1st September 2006. The aim was to designate public places for a ban on alcohol consumption with offences occurring when a person in a designation area:

- (a) was drinking alcohol and was warned by a police officer not to do so and continued; or
- (b) was carrying a container of alcohol, whether opened or not, and ignored a request by a police officer either to place the container in an approved receptacle or hand it over to the officer.

There was a proviso concerning designation in that the local authority had to be satisfied that there was a need for such a ban because of public nuisance and disorder associated with drinking in public in those areas. A plan was attached to the report to show the public places which it was proposed should be designated.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) after consideration of comments made on the proposal for an Alcohol Designation Order, the Council be recommended to make the Order as advertised, subject to resolution number (2) below; and
- (2) authority be delegated to the Executive Board Member for Corporate Services, in consultation with the Council

Solicitor, to deal with any comments received after this meeting up to the consultation deadline of 23rd June 2006.

(NB Councillor Wharton declared a personal interest in the following item of business due to being Chairman of the Hale Park Friends Group and Treasurer of the Youth Centre.)

Council
Solicitor

EXB012 WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Environment outlining the present situation in relation to waste management, addressing concerns about the Council's ability, jointly with Warrington, to procure a waste disposal facility to replace the existing arrangements that expired in 2008.

The Board was advised that, despite previous successful joint working, there were now concerns surrounding the current partnership's ability to deliver a new waste treatment infrastructure within the necessary timeframes. However, it was reported that there was currently an opportunity for Halton to take advantage of Merseyside's short term and long term waste treatment facilities, although this decision needed to be made as a matter of urgency prior to Merseyside's Outline Business Case (OBC) being finalised. The current position of Merseyside in this respect, together with the benefits for Halton, were outlined for the Board's consideration together with proposed next steps.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Halton Borough Council submit a "Declaration of Intent" to work with the Merseyside Authorities and a formal request be made that the Council is accepted as a partner by the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority to work towards securing appropriate waste treatment and disposal services and facilities;
- (2) discussions continue with Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority to establish the potential costs, wider benefits and consequences for Halton, and a future report be presented to the Executive Board;

Strategic
Director -
Environment

- (3) a letter be sent to the Leader and Chief Executive of Warrington Borough Council confirming Halton's intention to work with Merseyside; and
- (4) a review of Halton's Waste Management Strategy be undertaken and consultation on a new draft Strategy be carried out in the summer of 2006.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 20 JULY 2006

EXB020 ALCOHOL HARM REDUCTION

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director – Health and Community which highlighted the key findings of an alcohol audit commissioned by Halton Local Strategic Partnership. In addition the Board considered the draft Halton Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, which addressed the issues identified within the audit.

It was noted that in 2004 the Government published a National Audit Harm Reduction Strategy and identified the following number of critical harms connected to alcohol misuse:

- health – up to 22,000 premature deaths per year;
- crime and antisocial behaviour – 1.2 million associated violent incidents per year;
- loss of productivity and profitability – calculated at £6.4bn per year;
- harms to family and society – between 780,000 and 1.3 million children were affected by parental alcohol problems.

The Board discussed various issues including the employment that was created through the night time economy, the accessibility of alcohol for young people and the need to focus on a wider range of people, not just young people.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Draft Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy and Action Plan be approved; and

Strategic
Director –
Health and
Community

- (2) the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board monitors the implementation of the strategy.

EXECUTIVE BOARD SUB COMMITTEE 22ND MAY 2006

ES19 DRAFT ENFORCEMENT POLICY – CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Sub-Committee considered a report which sought approval for the adoption of the Consumer Protection Service Environment Policy following business consultation and consideration by the Safer Halton Policy and Performance Board. The Policy was based around the general principles of good enforcement, the Enforcement Concordat and the Code for Crown Prosecutors, and had been updated following relevant case law.

Apart from being best practice for any enforcement body to have a documented enforcement policy, the adoption, publication and adherence to such a policy counted towards 10% of the Council's sole Trading Standards Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) score.

RESOLVED: That the Council adopts the revised Consumer Protection Enforcement Policy.